

Upapasho lwePanSALB ngosuku lwamalungelo eelwimi ngomhla wama20 kweyoKwindla ngowama2024

Linguistic Rights are Human Rights

Amalungelo olwimi ngamalungelo oluntu

South Africa observes the month of March as Human Rights Month, and this year's commemoration is being held under the theme "Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights". The country's Constitution guarantees its citizens several rights, including the right to use their preferred language. Unfortunately, this right is often ignored, despite its importance in shaping political and socio-economic power. Language has historically been used as a tool of oppression, particularly during the colonial and apartheid era. Even now, debates about language rights cannot be held without considering its political and socio-economic significance. These rights must be promoted and fiercely guarded to ensure that all languages are given equal respect and recognition.

UMzantsi Afrika uqwalasela inyanga yoKwindla njengeNyanga yamaLungelo oLuntu, kwaye esi sikhumbuzo salo nyaka sibanjwa phantsi komxholo othi "ImiNyaka engamaShumi amaThathu yokuHlonipha nokuPhakanyiswa kwamaLungelo oLuntu". UMaqosiseko welizwe uqinisekisa abemi balo ngamalungelo aliqela, kuquba nelungelo lokusebenzisa ulwimi abalukhethayo. Ngelishwa, eli lungelo lisoloko lingahoywa, ngaphandle kokubaluleka kwalo ekumbeni amandla ezopolitiko nawezentlalo noqoqosho. Ulwimi ngokwembali belusetyenziswa njengesixhobo sengcinezelo, ingakumbi ngexesha lobukoloniyali kunye nocalucalulo. Nangoku, iingxompikiswano malunga namalungelo olwimi azinakubanjwa ngaphandle kokuqwalasela ukubaluleka kwezopolitiko nezentlalo noqoqosho. La malungelo kufuneka akhuthazwe kwaye alondolozwe ngokuqatha ukuqinisekisa ukuba zonke iilwimi zinikwa intlonipho kunye nokwamkeleka kwamkelo okulinganayo.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 provides for the recognition of the principle of multilingualism. An improvement in the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person is prescribed in its Preamble. Recognising the previous marginalisation of indigenous languages and their speakers, it stipulates that the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate not just the status of these languages but advance their use for governmental purposes. Thus, the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) was established in 1995 as a constitutional body of the Republic of South Africa to create conditions for the development and promotion of all official languages. The institution was established to ensure adequate protection, respect, and furtherance of those official languages which in the past did not enjoy full recognition and to promote the full and equitable enjoyment of all official South African languages.

UMaqosiseko weRiphabliki yoMzantsi Afrika, ka1996 ubonelela ngokuqondwa komgaqo wokusetyenziswa kweelwimi ezininzi. Ukuphuculwa komgangatho wobomi babo bonke abemi kunye nokukhulula amandla omntu ngamnye kuchaziwe kwiNtshayelelo yaWoye. Ithathela ingqalelo ukujongelwa phantsi kwangaphambili kweelwimi zesintu kunye nezithethi zazo, imisela ukuba urhulumente kufuneka athathe amanyathelo asebenzayo nalungileyo ukuphakamisa hayi nje iwonga lezi lwimi kodwa ukuqhubela phambili ukusetyenziswa kwazo kwiinjongo zikarhulumente. Ngoko ke, iBhodi yeelwimi Zonke zoMzantsi Afrika (iPanSALB) yasekwa ngo1995 njengebhodjombutho ywomaqosiseko weRiphabliki yoMzantsi Afrika ukudala iimeko zophuhliso nokukhuthazwa kwazo zonke iilwimi ezisemthethweni. Eli ziko lasekwa ukuze kuqinisekise ukhuseleko olululo, intlonipho, kunye nokuqhubeka phambili kweelwimi ezisemthethweni ebezikade zingananzwanga ngokupheleleyo nokukhuthaza ukonwabela zonke iilwimi ezisemthethweni zaseMzantsi Afrika.

South Africa is unique in having 12 official languages recognised by its Constitution. Despite this recognition, both public and private sectors often conform to non-progressive language policies that perpetuate English hegemony. Until recently, indigenous languages were often relegated to cultural preservation and not utilised in higher register domains. However, the Department of Basic Education's implementation of Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education (MTBBE) is a significant step in promoting indigenous languages. This initiative not only improves education but also contributes to safeguarding linguistic human rights by ensuring that every citizen has equal access to education in their preferred language. The next step must be the effective implementation of the Language Policy Framework for Institutions of Higher Learning by universities to create a multilingual environment and support the growth of indigenous languages as languages of teaching, learning, and assessment in academia. In so doing,

universities will be leading the decolonisation project where other epistemes are mainstreamed as sources of alternative ways of thinking.

UMzantsi Afrika wohlukile ngokuba neelwimi ezili12 ezisemthethweni ezivunyiweyo nguMgaqo-siseko wawo. Ngaphandle kolu qwalaselo, omabini amacandelo karhulumente nawabucala ahlala ehambelana nemigaqo-nkqubo yolwimi engaqhubekiyo ekhuthaza ubunganga besiNgesi. Ukuza kuthi ga kutsha nje, iilwimi zesintu bezisoloko zithotyelwa kulondolozo lwenkcubeko kwaye zingasetyenziswa kwiindawo zobhaliso eziphezulu. Nakuba kunjalo, ukuphunyezwa kweSebe leMfundo esiSiseko kwiMfundo eSekelelwe kuLwimi lweNkobe oluSekelwe kwiilwimi ezimbini (MTBBE) linyathelo elibalulekileyo lokukhuthaza iilwimi zesintu. Eli phulo aliphuculi nje imfundo kuphela kodwa likwanegalelo ekukhuseleni amalungelo oluntu ngokweelwimi ngokuqinisekisa ukuba wonke ummi ufikelela ngokulinganayo kwimfundo ngolwimi alukhethayo. Inyathelo elilandelayo kufuneka ibe kukuphunyezwa ngempumelelo kweNkqubo, -sikhokelo yoMgaqonkqubo weelwimi kumaZiko eMfundo ePhakamileyo kwiyunivesithi ukuze kudaleke imeko yokusetyenziswa kweelwimi ezininzi nokuxhasa ukukhula kweelwimi zesintu njengeelwimi zokufundisa, zokufunda nokuhlola kumaziko emfundo ephakamileyo. Ngokwenza njalo, iyunivesithi ziya kukhokela iprojekthi yokususa ubukholoniyali apho [eminye imithombo volwaziezinye iiepistemes zithathwa njengemithombo njengezinye iindlela zokucinga.](#)

While significant progress has been made in the country, such as the officialisation of South African Sign Language, there is still much to do to ensure the protection of every South African's linguistic rights. The PanSALB Act enables the institution to investigate, mediate, and make recommendations on any language-related matter in the country. PanSALB can resolve alleged violations of linguistic human rights through mediation, conciliation, or by referring disputes to appropriate forums, including the court. The legal framework provides for any person acting on his or her own behalf, or any person, institution, language group, or organ of state to lodge with the Board a complaint concerning any alleged violation or threatened violation of a language right, language policy, or language practice.

Nangona sele kwenziwe inkqubela ebonakalayo kweli lizwe, efana nokumiselwa ngokusemthethweni koLwimi lokuThetha ngeZandla loMzantsi Afrika, kusekuninzi ekufuneka kwenziwe ukuqinisekisa ukukhuselwa kwamalungelo olwimi [lommi walwaseMzantsi Afrika](#) ngamnye. UMthetho wePanSALB uvumela iziko ukuba liphande, lilamle, kwaye lenze izindululo kuwo nawuphi na umcimbi onxulumene nolwimi kweli lizwe. IPanSALB inokusombulula izityholo zokunyhashwa kwamalungelo oluntu ngolamlo, uxolelwaniso, okanye ngokuthumela iimbambano kumaqonga afanelekileyo, kubandakanywa nenkundla. Ubume bomthetho buvumela nawuphi na umntu omele isiqu sakhe, okanye nawuphi na umntu, iziko, iqela leelwimi, okanye iziko likarhulumente ukuba afake isikalazo kwiBhodi malunga nakuphi na ukunyhashwa okanye ukoyikiswa kokwaphulwa kwamalungelo olwimi, umgaqo-nkqubo wolwimi, okanye ukuziqhelanisa nolwimi.

The institution is responsible for addressing linguistic human rights violations and has successfully resolved several linguistic human rights violation cases. One of the most recent cases involved individuals who were compelled to participate in assessment interviews in a language that was not their preferred language, which was resolved amicably. The organisation is currently investigating a case brought by Deaf students who were being taught by teachers unfamiliar with South African Sign Language. Unfortunately, this is an all-too-common issue in Deaf schools, and it detrimentally impacts the academic progress of Deaf students. After an integrated approach and intervention from PanSALB, one Deaf school showed significant improvement, increasing their matric pass rate from 0% in 2022 to 66% in 2023. Therefore, the significance of safeguarding language rights and promoting inclusive language policies and practices that are in line with the multilingual provisions enshrined in the *Constitution* cannot be understated. The far-reaching implications of violating language rights underscore the need to protect the language rights of all South African citizens.

Iziko linoxanduva lokujongana nokunyhashwa kwamalungelo oluntu ngokweelwimi kwaye lizisombulule ngempumelelo amatyala amaninzi okunyhashwa kwamalungelo oluntu. Elinye lawona matyala akutsha nje abandakanya abantu abanyanzeliswa ukuba bathathe inxaxheba kudliwano-ndlebe lovavanyo ngolwimi olwalungelolwimi ababelukhetha, olwaye lwasonjululwa ngoxolo. Kungoku nje lo mbutho uphanda ityala elivulwe ngabafundi abaziziThulu abebefundiswa ngootishala abangalwaziyo ulwimi lwezandla loMzantsi Afrika. Ngelishwa, lo ngumba oxhaphake kakhulu kwizikolo [zezeziziziThulu](#), kwaye unefuthe elibi kwinkqubela phambili yezifundo zabafundi abaziziThulu. Emva kwenkqubo ehlanganisiweyo kunye nongenelelo oluvela kwiPanSALB, esinye isikolo [seesiziziThulu](#) sibonise ukuphucuka okumandla, sinyusa izinga lokuphumelela imatriki ukusuka ku0% ngowama2022 ukuya kuma66% ngo2023. ngokungqinelana nemigaqo yeelwimi ezininzi ebhalwe kuMgaqo-siseko

ayinakujongelwa phantsi. Iziphumo ezithe kratya zokunyhashwa kwamalungelo olwimi zigxininisa imfuneko yokukhusela amalungelo olwimi abo bonke abemi boMzantsi Afrika.

~~To further promote and protect linguistic human rights, PanSALB has planned various activities to be undertaken throughout Human Rights Month. These activities are aimed at raising awareness about the importance of linguistic diversity and the need to protect linguistic rights.~~

Ukuqhubela phambili nokukhuthaza nokukhusela amalungelo oluntu eelwimi, iPanSALB icwangcise imisebenzi eyahlukene eza kwenziwa kuyo yonke iNyanga yamaLungelo oLuntu. Le misebenzi ijolise ekwaziseni ngokubaluleka kweyantlukwano yeelwimi nemfuneko yokukhusela amalungelo olwimi.

LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS (LHR) COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

INKQUBO YEZIKHALAZO YAMALUNGelo OLuntu NGOLWIMI (LHR).

WHO CAN LODGE A COMPLAINT ON AN ALLEGED LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

- ~~Any person acting on his or her own behalf or any person acting on behalf of another.~~
- ~~Juristic persons or any institution acting on behalf of its members.~~
- ~~Members of a language group.~~
- ~~Any organ of state.~~

NGUBANI ONOKUFAKA ISIKHALAZO NGESITYHOELO ~~ESOTYWAYO~~ ~~SLONYHASTHWA~~ ~~KE~~WAMALUNGelo OLuntu NGEELWIMI.

- Nawuphi na umntu omele isiqu sakhe okanye nawuphi na umntu omele omnye.
- Abantu abasemthethweni okanye naliphi na iziko elimele amalungu alo.
- Amalungu eqela lolwimi.
- Naliphi na iziko likarhulumente.

HOW TO LODGE A COMPLAINT

- ~~By sending a completed complaint form by email to lhr@pansalb.org~~
- ~~By completing a complaint form on the PanSALB website (www.pansalb.org)~~
- ~~By walking in at any of PanSALB's offices and requesting assistance with completing a complaint form.~~

INDLELA YOKUFAKA ISIKHALAZO

- Ngokuthumela ifomu yesikhalazo egcwalisiweyo nge-imeyile [ku lhr@pansalb.org](mailto:lhr@pansalb.org)
- Ngokugcwalisa ifomu yesikhalazo kwiwebhusayithi yePanSALB (www.pansalb.org)
- Ngokungena kuyo nayiphi na iofisi yePanSALB kwaye ucele uncedo ngokugcwalisa ifomu yesikhalazo.

WHERE TO LODGE A COMPLAINT

- ~~At any of the PanSALB provincial offices throughout the country.~~
- ~~At PanSALB Head Office in Pretoria.~~

USIFAKA PHI ISIKHALAZO

- Kuyo nayiphi na iofisi yephondo yePanSALB kwilizwe lonke.
- KuNdlunkulu wePanSALB ePitoli.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Right: 0 cm, Line spacing: single, Tab stops: Not at 1.02 cm

Formatted: Font color: Text 1

Formatted: Font color: Text 1

Formatted: Font color: Text 1

Formatted: Font color: Text 1