

# LAUNCH OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE COURT IN THE WESTERN CAPE



## **Khayelitsha Magistrate's Office Launches Indigenous Language Court on 2 March 2009**

Internal Stakeholders endorsing the Launch of the Khayelitsha Indigenous Language Court

From left : Mr Makasi (Area Court Manager, Khayelitsha, Mr Gusha (Senior Prosecutor), Adv H Mohamed (Regional Head) and Ms Nyanga (Magistrate, Khayelitsha Court "4")

The Department of Justice & Constitutional Development identified as one of the priorities to meet its obligation in providing "Access to Justice for All" in respect of services in courts, the conducting of court proceedings in indigenous languages.

The use of Indigenous Language is part of the Review of the Criminal Justice System. The Project will provide people who cannot speak English or Afrikaans the opportunity to exercise their right to equal justice.

The objective of the Pilot is to ensure that at least one court per region conducts court proceedings in indigenous language/s. Since isiXhosa is one of the indigenous languages used in the region it was decided to pilot the project at the **Khayelitsha Magistrate Court.**

The indigenous Language Court conducts its proceedings in the dominant language of the local area which in this

case is isiXhosa and it is envisaged to enhance service delivery and accelerate access to justice. The project will further minimise the possibility of human error during translation of court proceedings; prevent delays resulting from the unavailability of interpreters and enhance caseflow management.

The court recording will be captured in the indigenous language. Translation will be provided for each case transcribed in the indigenous language utilized. All official languages will be encouraged to be utilized nationally in the pilot phase to lay a solid basis for the Indigenous Language Court Model for the future.

**The Indigenous Language Court at Khayelitsha Magistrate Court (Court 4) was launched isiXhosa on 2 March 2009 at Khayelitsha Magistrate Court.**



Khayelitsha Court "4" in session



**the doj & cd**

Department:  
Justice and Constitutional Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA