



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOMESTICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PROJECT 148) – WITBANK WORKSHOP

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) issued a media statement on 11 December 2025 inviting stakeholders to attend various virtual and in-person workshops in Gauteng, Limpopo, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Pietermaritzburg for consultative discussions on Project 148 and Discussion Paper 163. <https://www.justice.gov.za/salrc/media/20251211-ms-Project148-PWD-Portrait.pdf>

Since then, the SALRC has successfully conducted workshops in the listed provinces and, in an effort to ensure full national coverage, included Mpumalanga in the current round of consultations. Regrettably, the workshop scheduled in Witbank (Banquet Hall), Mpumalanga for 05 March 2026 had to be cancelled due to a failure by the contracted catering service provider to deliver services as required.

The SALRC recognises that this disruption compromised our commitment to providing an inclusive and supportive environment for participants, particularly persons with disabilities, for whom consistent access to meals is often essential for health and medication routines. The SALRC views this incident as serious and unacceptable

Due to the expedited nature of the Mpumalanga visit, the SALRC did not issue a prior media statement and instead relied on direct engagement with local stakeholders. The SALRC extends its sincere apologies to the Emalahleni Local Municipality, Provincial Government partners, and all disability sector organisations who assisted with venue arrangements, mobilisation, and coordination. Their efforts were undermined by the failure of a private service provider, and the SALRC deeply regrets the inconvenience caused.

The SALRC is taking immediate remedial steps, including ensuring vendor accountability, issuing direct apologies to all affected participants, and arranging a follow-up session. The SALRC will also implement strengthened contingency measures, including securing backup catering arrangements to prevent any recurrence. The new workshop date will be communicated once logistics are finalised.

The SALRC unreservedly apologises for the postponement of the workshop. We remain committed to ensuring that all forthcoming provincial consultations uphold the dignity of participants and continue to reflect our mandate to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The perspectives and inputs of the disability community in Mpumalanga are crucial in informing the proposals of the draft Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities Bill.

**ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION,
CENTURION**

06 MARCH 2026