



FW de Klerk
FOUNDATION

www.fwdeklerk.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

ELITA DE KLERK

As we mark thirty years since the adoption of South Africa's Constitution, I find myself once again reflecting on the extraordinary journey our country has travelled and on the enduring values that continue to guide our democracy.

The Constitution remains one of South Africa's greatest achievements. It stands not only as a legal document, but as a living expression of our shared commitment to dignity, freedom, equality, accountability and peaceful coexistence in a diverse society. It reminds us that our future is strongest when it is built on dialogue, respect, fairness, and a common sense of purpose.

During the past year, the FW de Klerk Foundation continued its work with dedication and conviction. Through our constitutional programmes, engagements, outreach, research, and legislative submissions, we continued to contribute positively and constructively to the national conversation about South Africa's future. We remained committed to promoting constitutional values, encouraging responsible leadership, and supporting efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and social cohesion.

One of the themes that emerged strongly was the importance of local government and community resilience. As South Africans prepare for local government elections, the Foundation encouraged thoughtful discussion around accountability, service delivery, and how municipalities can better serve their communities. We also expanded our focus on social justice initiatives aimed at restoring hope, dignity and opportunity in vulnerable communities affected by hardship and inequality.

At the same time, we continued to champion the protection of human rights, cultural and linguistic diversity, and the independence of institutions that safeguard constitutional democracy. Our Human Rights and Cultural Rights Report Cards highlighted both progress and areas requiring renewed attention. Importantly, they also reminded us that meaningful change is possible when government, civil society, business and communities work together in good faith.

Our youth outreach initiatives remain especially encouraging. Meeting young South Africans who are thoughtful and eager to contribute strengthens my confidence in our country's future. Their energy reminds us that every generation must help shape a better South Africa for those who follow.

The Foundation also continued to preserve and promote the values of constitutionalism, reconciliation, and peaceful negotiation that shaped South Africa's democratic transition



and the extraordinary contributions of all who helped make that transition possible. Through the FW de Klerk Memorial Lecture and our educational work, we seek not merely to remember, but to ensure its lessons remain relevant and applicable in a changing world. The belief that South Africans are capable of overcoming division through courage, reason, and mutual respect remains as important as ever.

In addition, our charitable support for organisations caring for children and persons with disabilities once again demonstrated the compassion within our society. I remain deeply grateful to all our donors and partners who make this work possible and to all who continue to walk this journey with us.

As Chairperson, I continue to be inspired by the commitment and dedication of our Board, Vice Chairperson, Executive Director, staff, interns and supporters. Their dedication often takes place quietly, yet it contributes vitally to strengthening constitutional democracy in South Africa.

As you read through this Annual Report, I hope you will sense the commitment, care and spirit that continue to guide the work of the Foundation. The initiatives reflected here are made possible through the efforts of many who share a common mission and vision for constitutional democracy, dialogue, reconciliation and service to our country.

To all our friends and supporters in South Africa and abroad - thank you for your trust, encouragement, and continued partnership. Your support allows the Foundation to continue building bridges, promoting dialogue, and contributing toward an even more inclusive, stable and inspiring future for all who call South Africa home and for the many friends of our country across the world who hold South Africa dear.

OVERVIEW BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHRISTO VAN DER RHEEDE

The year 2026 marks a pivotal juncture in the history of the FW de Klerk Foundation and the broader South African constitutional project. This period, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the Constitutional Assembly on 8 May 1996, necessitated a rigorous reflection on the distance between the transformative ideals of the post-apartheid settlement and the lived realities of contemporary South Africans.

Throughout the reporting cycle the Foundation operated as a vigilant monitor of state power, a facilitator of national dialogue, and a champion for the vulnerable, particularly children with disabilities. Under the leadership of the Board and the operational guidance of the leadership and staff, the Foundation expanded its advocacy to address the failures and stability of local government ahead of the 2026 elections.



Institutional Architecture and Strategic Mandate

The FW de Klerk Foundation's mission is fundamentally linked to the preservation of the constitutional transformation process initiated by President FW de Klerk. Its strategic mandate is structured around three core pillars: supporting the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the rule of law; promoting national unity through reconciliation and the accommodation of diversity; and preserving the historical legacy of the transition to a non-racial democracy.

The operational backbone of the Foundation is its constitutional programmes, which serve as nonpartisan monitoring programmes and are guided by the principle that South Africa's future freedom and economic prosperity depend directly on the integrity of the carefully negotiated 1996 Constitution.

Strategic Objectives for the 2025-2026 Financial Year

The Foundation's activities during this cycle were characterised by an evolution from passive monitoring to proactive policy proposal. This is most evident in the development of multi-generational strategies to reclaim communities from criminal governance, indicating a recognition that constitutional sovereignty cannot exist in a vacuum of state absence or municipal collapse.

Constitutional Sovereignty and Legislative Oversight

The theme of the 30th anniversary of the Constitution permeated the Foundation's advocacy throughout the year. On 8 May 2026, the Foundation issued a comprehensive statement reminding the nation that the Constitution was not a mere political compromise but the fruit of extensive public consultation and the rejection of domination in favour of dignity, equality, and freedom. However, this celebratory milestone was tempered by the Foundation's persistent critique of the "culture of impunity" and the erosion of statecraft.

Analysis of "The Constitution and The Cabinet" Report

In December 2025, the Foundation released a significant analytical document titled "The Constitution and The Cabinet Report". This report addressed a fundamental constitutional question: whether the 77 members of the national executive—comprising the President, Deputy President, 32 Ministers, and 43 Deputy Ministers—were effectively fulfilling the Preamble's promise to "improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person".

The Foundation's analysis highlighted that an oversized executive often leads to fragmented accountability and the dilution of political responsibility. The report argued that the constitutional requirement for an efficient, accountable, and transparent public administration is frequently undermined by political considerations that prioritise cabinet size over functional efficacy. This critique is particularly relevant in the context of the Government of National Unity (GNU) formed in 2024, where the Foundation monitored whether the multi-party coalition could move beyond political survival toward genuine constitutional service delivery.

Parliamentary Submissions and Regulatory Interventions

The 2025-2026 period saw the Foundation engage in a record number of legislative submissions, focusing on bills that threatened to centralise power or undermine the independence of oversight bodies.

Water Infrastructure and Service Delivery

The Foundation's position supported the objective of improving accountability in the sector but raised serious concerns regarding the proposed creation of a single state-owned entity to manage bulk water infrastructure. The submission argued that without stringent safeguards, such an entity could become vulnerable to the same patterns of state capture seen in other state-owned enterprises.

The Foundation specifically highlighted the "water tanker mafia"—criminal syndicates that sabotage municipal pipes to secure lucrative delivery contracts—as a "new face of state capture" that requires a robust constitutional response rather than just technical administrative changes.

Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID)

In January 2026, the Foundation submitted comments on the Draft IPID Regulations of 2025. The core of the Foundation's argument was that the proposed regulations threatened the directorate's institutional independence. Drawing on established Constitutional Court jurisprudence (such as the *McBride* and *Glenister* cases), the Foundation emphasised that an investigative body tasked with monitoring police conduct must be structurally and operationally shielded from executive interference to be constitutionally compliant.

Electoral Reform and Multi-party Democracy

Leading up to the 2029 national elections and the 2026 local elections, the Foundation issued an urgent request in February 2026 for the processing of the Electoral Reform Consultation Panel (ERCP) consolidated report. The Foundation maintained that the current electoral system fails to provide the necessary level of accountability between voters and representatives, which is a cornerstone of the constitutional values of "openness, responsiveness, and accountability".

The Human Rights Landscape: 2025-2026 Review

The Foundation's "Human Rights Report Card" remains the definitive annual audit of the Bill of Rights' application in South Africa. The 2025-2026 Report Card, launched on 18 March 2026, utilised a data-driven approach to assess the degree to which rights are enjoyed "in practice" rather than just "on paper".

Socio-Economic Rights and Deterioration

The 2025-2026 audit revealed a stark regression in the enjoyment of socio-economic rights, specifically those protected under Sections 26 and 27 of the Constitution. The Foundation noted that while the South African Human Rights Commission and the courts remain robust, the "lived reality" is one of unmistakable decline. The report presented over 30 recommendations to the government, emphasizing that "practical fixes" to infrastructure and the protection of the civil service from political interference are essential to prevent the total collapse of socio-economic rights.

RIGHT (SECTION)	2025-2026 RATING	TREND/OBSERVATION
Access to Water (27)	Very Poor	Deteriorating due to infrastructure sabotage and "tanker mafias".
Health Care (27)	Poor	Systemic failures in public hospitals and NHI-related uncertainty.
Social Security (27)	Very Poor	Strain on the fiscus and administrative delays in grant processing.
Education (29)	Stable/Poor	Gains in access offset by low literacy outcomes and unsafe infrastructure.
Healthy Environment (24)	Threatened	Ranked as the 8th most threatened right due to municipal sanitation collapse.

The Right to Safety and the “Constitutional Emergency”

A significant portion of the Foundation’s advocacy in early 2026 focused on the escalating violence against legal professionals. On 26 March 2026, the Foundation declared a “constitutional emergency” following the targeted killings of lawyers and advocates involved in high-profile corruption and organised crime cases. The Foundation argued that the assassination of legal practitioners is an attack on the rule of law itself, as it intimidates the very people tasked with defending the Constitution. This “culture of impunity” was identified as the greatest threat to South Africa’s democratic stability during the reporting period.

Promoting Unity in Diversity and Linguistic Rights

The Constitutional Rights Programme focuses on the “heart” of the South African settlement: the recognition that “South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity”. The 2025 Cultural, Religious and Linguistic (CRL) Rights Report Card, released in September 2025, provided a nuanced view of the country’s progress in protecting minority and communal rights.

The 2025 CRL Report Card Analysis

The CRL Report Card gauges the effectiveness of institutions like the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) and the CRL Rights Commission. The 2025 findings suggested that while cultural rights remain relatively stable, linguistic rights are the most vulnerable area of the constitutional framework.

The Foundation observed that between September 2024 and September 2025, five rights regressed, four improved, and two remained unchanged. The regression in language rights is primarily attributed to the state’s failure to implement multilingualism in provincial and local government administrations. For example, while provinces like the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal have provincial language laws, their practical application in official communication remains inconsistent.

The Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

A notable insight from the 2025 CRL Report Card was the identification of AI as a transformative tool for linguistic rights. The Foundation highlighted the launch of “IRIS”, an AI-powered teaching robot capable of delivering lessons in all 11 official languages, as a breakthrough for multilingual education. This technological advancement is seen as a way to bypass the historical resource constraints that have hindered the development of indigenous languages in the classroom.

Religious Freedom and Regulatory Threats

The Foundation also raised concerns regarding renewed threats to religious freedom. Proposed regulations aimed at “curbing” religious extremism or financial abuse within churches were scrutinised for their potential to overreach and violate the right to freedom of conscience and belief. The Foundation maintains that diversity strengthens the nation and that any regulation of religious bodies must be narrowly tailored and constitutionally compliant.

Local Government: The Frontier of Democracy

As South Africa prepares for the 2026 Local Government Elections, the Foundation dedicated its 2026 Annual Conference to the theme “Local Government Elections 2026 – Chances & Challenges for Municipalities to Fulfil their Constitutional Mandate”. Held on 3 February 2026, the conference served as a platform for critical engagement between the state, the Auditor-General, and civil society.

Institutional Operations and Internship Program

The Foundation’s ability to produce high-level research and advocacy is supported by its annual Internship Programme. Each year, the Foundation hosts interns from South Africa and abroad, offering them exposure to constitutional law advocacy.

During the 2025-2026 cycle, interns were integrated into the core team responsible for the Human Rights Report Card. Their duties included researching academic publications, monitoring media for constitutional developments, and attending Parliamentary Portfolio Committee meetings. This program not only builds the capacity of the next generation of legal practitioners but also ensures that the Foundation’s output is informed by rigorous, ongoing data collection.

The 2026 Annual Conference Resolutions

The conference was opened by Mrs Elita de Klerk, Chairperson of the Foundation, who emphasised that local government is where citizens most directly engage with democracy. The dialogue focused on the failure of municipalities to serve as “service delivery vehicles” for the nation.

KEY SPEAKER	PERSPECTIVE/INSIGHT	RESOLUTION
Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa (CoGTA)	Municipalities struggle with skills gaps and political interference.	Choose leaders based on competence, not party affiliation.
AG Tsakani Maluleke	Persistent challenges in financial control and accountability.	Strengthen oversight to restore public trust and documentation practices.
Dr Ruben Richards	Practitioner’s view on the constraints of municipal governance.	Promote private-public partnerships and community engagement.

The Foundation utilised the conference to advocate for a “fast-acting prosecution team” focused exclusively on the cases identified in the Auditor-General’s reports. The rationale is that “culture follows enforcement”, and until municipal officials face real consequences for financial misconduct, the collapse of local government will continue to threaten the broader constitutional order.

Youth outreach

The FW de Klerk Foundation also hosted the 67th Netwerk24 and Die Burger Youth Leadership Conference, themed “Sparks for Change: Youth Leadership in a Changing World”. A group of 50 youth leaders met to discuss the sub-theme, “Digital Pioneers – Technology and Innovation as Tools for Good Leadership”.

International Relations and Diplomatic Commentary

The Foundation also monitored South Africa’s position in the global landscape. Following the 2025 Annual Conference theme “South Africa’s Position in the World Today”, the Foundation provided ongoing analysis of the nation’s diplomatic trajectory.

In April 2026, the Foundation issued a statement regarding the appointment of Roelf Meyer as the South African Ambassador to the United States. The Foundation viewed this appointment as a signal for the “restoration of constitutional statecraft” during a period of strained bilateral relations. Furthermore, the Foundation analysed the economic impact of international conflicts, such as the war in the Middle East, noting how oil shocks transmit into the South African economy, further burdening the impoverished.

The FW de Klerk Goodwill Award

The FW de Klerk Goodwill Award recognises individuals and organisations that unite South Africans behind a common cause.

2025 Award: Posthumously awarded to Dr Franklin Sonn for his lifelong commitment to reconciliation and good governance.

Synthesising the 2025-2026 Reporting Period

The past financial year has seen the FW de Klerk Foundation transition into a more assertive role as a “constitutional guardian” in a climate of escalating crisis. The 30th anniversary of the Constitution in May 2026 served as a reminder that the democratic promise is “patiently built and preserved deliberately”.

As the nation enters the 2026-2027 cycle, the Foundation’s focus remains clear: the restoration of the state’s monopoly on power in service of the Constitution, the protection of linguistic and cultural diversity, and the continued support for the most vulnerable members of society. The legacy of the 1996 settlement depends on the ability of institutions like the FW de Klerk Foundation to demand accountability and offer viable solutions to the “triple threat” of inequality, unemployment, and the culture of impunity.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

Making our constitutional democracy a reality for all South Africans!

"I believe the new political order will and must contain the following elements: a democratic constitution, universal suffrage, no domination, equality before an independent judiciary, the protection of minorities and individual rights, freedom of religion, a healthy economy based on proven economic principles and private initiative, and a dynamic programme for better education, health services, housing and social conditions for all... I am not talking of a rosy and tranquil future, but I believe the broad mainstream of South Africans will gradually build up South Africa into a society that will be worth living and working in."

- FW de Klerk on a post-apartheid society



Mission

The Foundation's vision is to be a self-sustaining organisation that promotes - and that will, in the long term, continue to promote –

- the South African Constitution;
- national unity, reconciliation and the accommodation of diversity; and
- the legacy of President FW de Klerk and the South African constitutional transformation process.



LEGACY PROGRAMME

The Legacy of FW de Klerk

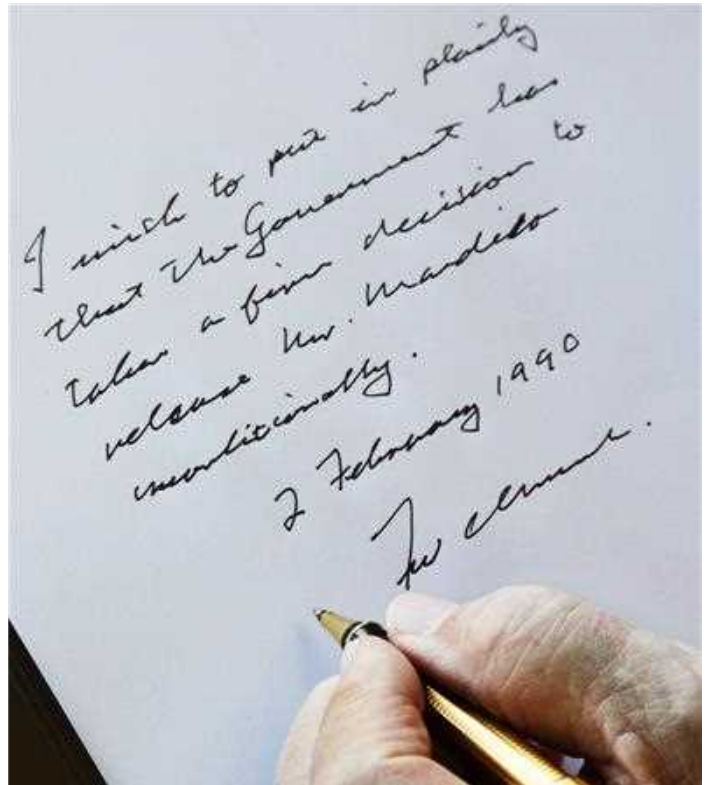
The Foundation commemorates and celebrates the legacy of its founder, President FW de Klerk, by

- providing information on his life and career;
- instituting an annual conference in commemoration of the anniversary of the speech by FW de Klerk on 2 February 1990 that initiated South Africa's constitutional transformation process.
- instituting the annual FW de Klerk Memorial Lecture on 11 November; and
- establishing the FW de Klerk Archive and Library.

Fourth FW de Klerk Memorial Lecture, 11 November 2025

Every year on the anniversary of the passing of FW de Klerk, on 11 November, the FW de Klerk Foundation honours him by commemorating his legacy with the FW de Klerk Memorial Lecture. In 2025, the Foundation had the great pleasure and privilege of having Mr Jonathan Granoff, President of the Global Security Institute, as the guest speaker. He made his address on the topic, *"FW de Klerk's Commitment to Justice: Transformation, Constitutionalism and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons"*.

In his lecture, Mr Granoff highlighted that Mr De Klerk remains the only world leader to have initiated and presided over the total dismantling of a nuclear weapons program. The address emphasised that the same spirit of dialogue and negotiation that ended apartheid is required to address modern global threats. Granoff argued that nations must treat other nations as they want to be treated—a "golden rule for the 21st century"—and that humans have a new responsibility to future generations that did not exist before the era of nuclear weapons and climate change.



WATCH THE LECTURE HIGHLIGHT VIDEO
WATCH THE LECTURE RECORDING

READ MR GRANOFF'S ADDRESS
VIEW THE LECTURE GALLERY



I have no doubt that we will succeed. There is a growing awareness among all South Africans of our interdependence - of the fact that none of us can flourish if we do not work together - that all of us will fail if we try to pursue narrow sectional interests

- FW de Klerk, Nobel Prize acceptance speech, 10 December 1993

The Centre for the Constitutional Transformation of South Africa

The Centre for the Constitutional Transformation of South Africa (CCTSA) offers guests a deeper understanding of South Africa's constitutional journey. We are telling the story of South Africa's transformation process objectively through 34 panels and 5 short videos. Facts have been checked by independent historians and the exhibition is replicated on the website [CCTSA – Centre for the Constitutional Transformation of South Africa](https://cctsa.org.za/). Over the last year we have hosted more than 300 visitors. The Foundation also hosted briefing meetings for various Chambers of Commerce and business as well as the tourism industry.



On 9 December, the FW de Klerk Foundation hosted the 67th *Netwerk24* and *Die Burger* Youth Leadership Conference attendees at the ("CCTSA"). During the visit, the 48 young leaders were taken on a tour of the CCTSA by Brenda Steyn, the Foundation's Legacy Programme Manager. After the tour, a group of 16 young leaders made presentations on a sub-theme for the Conference: *"Digital Pioneers - Technology and Innovation as Instruments for Good Leadership"*. Christo van der Rheede, the Foundation's Executive Director, then walked the students through human history—from the Stone Age and the discovery of fire by *Homo habilis* to the Industrial Revolution and the modern AI era. Van der Rheede demonstrated how he uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) in his daily life to increase creativity and productivity, even using it to generate illustrations for his presentation. He noted that throughout history, innovation has consistently driven large-scale economic growth that benefits society.

The core message was a call to action for future leaders. Van der Rheede emphasised that while technology like AI is a powerful tool, it must be managed within ethical and legal frameworks. He urged the youth to consider how to help people gain new skills, so they remain employable as technology replaces certain traditional jobs in future.



READ THE REPORT



The exhibition is open to **Webticket** ticket holders, as well as bookings by tour operators. The CCTSA has been added as a Cape Town City Pass attraction on the City sightseeing safari route. <https://capetown.citypass.co.za/attraction/centre-for-constitutional-transformation-of-south-africa/>





FW de Klerk Foundation Annual Conference

The FW de Klerk Foundation Annual Conference was held on 3 February 2026 in commemoration of the 36th anniversary of the speech by FW de Klerk on 2 February 1990 that initiated South Africa's constitutional transformation process. The Foundation co-hosted the half-day conference at the Radisson Collection Hotel with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). The annual conference is the flagship conference of the FW de Klerk Foundation, attracting delegates from across politics, academia, business, civil society, the diplomatic corps and the media. *The conference was attended by around 150 guests.* This year's theme was: *"Local Government Elections 2026 – Chances & Challenges for Municipalities to Fulfil their Constitutional Mandate"*.

Gregor Jaecke, Resident Representative of KAS, and Elita de Klerk welcomed the guests. It was followed by esteemed guest speakers [Mr Velenkosini Hlabisa](#) (Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and President of the IFP), [Ms Tsakani Maluleke](#) (Auditor General of South Africa) and [Dr Ruben Richards](#) (Executive Deputy Mayor of the Cederberg Municipality), and ended with a Q&A session moderated by Dr Lucky Mathebula, Board Member of the FW de Klerk Foundation.

Delegates at the event were impressed by the line-up of speakers. The networking opportunities during breaks facilitated meaningful discussions and the feedback was very positive. Media coverage was very good and the event was followed via livestreaming, extending the event's impact beyond the attendees.

The FW de Klerk Foundation's Annual Conference continues to be a vital platform for discussing issues relevant to South Africa's evolving constitutional democracy. The Foundation remains committed to promoting national dialogue and attracting high-level speakers.

THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation



THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE
"LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2026 –
CHANCES & CHALLENGES FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO
FULFIL THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE"



WATCH THE HIGHLIGHT VIDEO
WATCH THE LIVESTREAM RECORDING
VIEW THE GALLERY
VIEW ALL THE EVENT ASSETS



The 2025 FW de Klerk Goodwill Award to the Late Dr Franklin Sonn, awarded posthumously

The FW de Klerk Goodwill Award recognises individuals and organisations that have made exceptional contributions to promoting goodwill, reconciliation and unity among South Africans. The FW de Klerk Foundation Board of Trustees had already selected Dr Sonn before his passing, in recognition of his lifelong service and outstanding contribution to fostering reconciliation and transformation across South Africa's political, business and educational spheres. His brave leadership, moral authority and unwavering commitment to constitutional values and the common good have left a profound and enduring legacy.

The FW de Klerk Foundation is dedicated to helping build a just, peaceful and prosperous nation founded on constitutional democracy and the values enshrined in South Africa's Constitution. Dr Sonn's life and work strongly resonate with these principles and with the Foundation's mission.

Dr Sonn's family accepted the award on his behalf at the FW de Klerk Foundation Annual Conference on 3 February 2026.

Support for Charities

Thanks to the generosity of the Nedbank South African Charity Golf Day, the FW de Klerk Foundation supports various charitable organisations making a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities and youth from disadvantaged communities. From the donation we received from the 2025 event we support the following organisations. We are also in the process of strengthening our relationship with these organisations and plan to collaborate with them on projects.

• The National Institute of the Deaf

On 20 November, Cobus van Deventer, Executive Director of the National Institute for the Deaf (“NID”), and Irene de Bod, Chief Development Officer at the NID, met with Christina Teichmann, the Foundation’s Deputy Chairperson, and Brenda Steyn, Manager of the Legacy Programme. During the meeting, Mr Van Deventer explained how the Foundation’s contributions, as a result of the financial support of the Nedbank South African Charity Golf Day, were used to develop the official digital South African Sign Language (“SASL”) dictionary. The Foundation thanked the NID for contributing to a more inclusive and just South Africa.

Promoting a More Inclusive Society in South Africa
LEARN MORE



• The Cape Town Society for the Blind

The Cape Town Society for the Blind (CTSB) is a charity which aims to offer the blind and visually impaired training and employment opportunities within a secure and supportive environment. The CTSB, founded in 1929, not only provides support to the visually impaired and their families, but they also provide a platform for the blind to be active participants in the economy through innovative training, access to assistive resources and career development programmes.

• Life Choices

Life Choices is a social enterprise that aims to tackle inequality in the Cape Flats by focusing on youth development and training. Life Choices aims to assist the youth in reaching their potential and developing skills to enter the job market by walking alongside them every step of the way and approaching upskilling in a holistic way. Practical training in the solar yard, CV-writing and interview preparations provide marketable skills, sharpen their professional profiles and build confidence in those who make their way through the Life Choices programmes. In its Leaders’ Quest programme, operating in high schools across the Cape Flats in Cape Town, Life Choices provides aspirant high school learners with personal development tools and life skills to prepare them for the future.

The leadership of Life Choices visited the Foundation and its CCTSA on 11 June 2025 to discuss opportunities for collaboration around civic engagement and constitutional literacy.

• Iris House

Iris House is a children’s hospice taking care of special needs children, “offering care, comfort and dignity to those who need it most – whether it is through in hospice support, outreach programmes or emotional assistance for families navigating incredibly difficult journeys.” They provide free, high quality respite care services to life-limiting and/or life-threatening special needs children and young adults. The majority of the families come from disadvantaged communities and for many of them Iris House is not only a care provider, but a lifeline and a pillar of hope.

• Ladles of Love

Ladles of Love provides nutritious and wholesome food to vulnerable people, most of whom are small children. They support urban farmers grow natural wholesome food in an economical and sustainable way, empower food entrepreneurs to grow businesses that create jobs and adds to the economy of our country.

• Elim Home

Elim Home is a special care facility in the historical Moravian mission station town of Elim, just outside Gansbaai. The home is dedicated to providing optimal care for children and young adults with severe intellectual and physical disabilities that range from Down’s Syndrome to severe Autism. For the majority of the residents, this is the only home they will ever know.

The FW de Klerk Archive

Establishing of the FW de Klerk Archive is an ongoing project.
The Digital Archive is in the process to be finalised by Africa Media Online.



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME

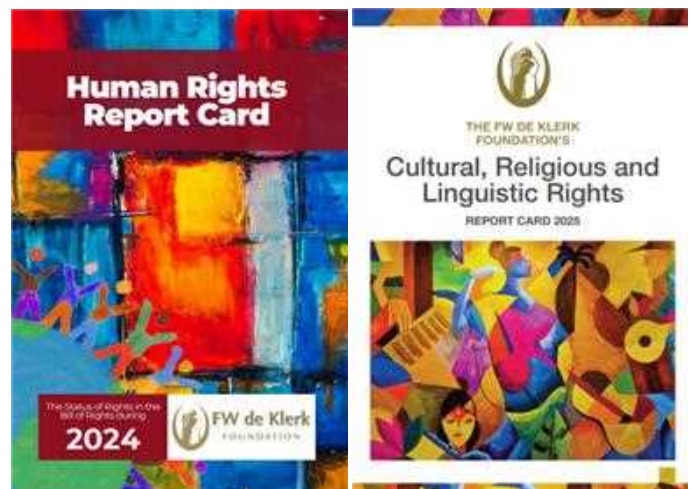
The FW de Klerk Foundation's Constitutional Rights Programme advances the protection and promotion of the Constitution through a combination of research, advocacy, public education and, where necessary, legal action. The Programme monitors proposed legislation, court judgments and developments in the political arena that may affect constitutional governance and rights. It contributes to national debate through the publication of articles and podcasts, the convening of conferences and seminars, and the release of its annual Human Rights Report Card. In addition, the Programme prepares legal submissions to Parliament and state institutions on legislation and policy of constitutional concern, supports the drafting of legislative reforms to address unconstitutional laws or conduct, participates in campaigns opposing measures that undermine the constitutional order, and, where appropriate, initiates litigation to challenge unconstitutional actions and policies.

PROACTIVE PROJECTS

Report Cards

In 2025 and early 2026, the Programme continued to play a pivotal role in advancing constitutional democracy through rigorous research: Two flagship initiatives - the Human Rights Report Card and the Cultural, Linguistic and Religious Rights Report Card – served to educate the public (and media) empowering them with knowledge grounded in the Constitution. The Programme used these flagship initiatives to raise the Foundation's national profile, strategically advocate and hold government to account.

The Programme released the FW de Klerk Foundation's 2024 Human Rights Report Card on 17 March 2025 in honour of Human Rights Day. The report assessed the extent to which constitutional rights and freedoms were enjoyed in practice. The [in-person launch](#) took place at the Centre for the Constitutional Transformation of South Africa ("CCTSA") and was accompanied by talks delivered by [Daniela Ellerbeck](#), [Shanees Nkandu](#) and [Sonia Twongyeirwe](#), reflecting a team-based constitutional education and public-engagement effort. The report offered a comprehensive assessment of the state of each right in the Bill of Rights, highlighting areas of both progress and regression. With an [executive summary](#) and [full report](#) available to the public, the report served as a resource allowing citizens and media to engage critical conversations about the health of human rights in South Africa.



The launch and report card were covered in the [national evening news on TV](#) as well as in regional and national print media: [Cape Argus](#), [News24](#) and [Netwerk24](#). The launch was also accompanied by the Foundation's Human Rights Day release, [FW de Klerk Foundation Releases 2024 Human Rights Report Card, Aims to Ignite Nationwide Discussion on Constitutional Rights & Freedoms](#). Subsequent articles and videos also aimed to disseminate the report card's findings in bite-size, issue-based topics.

The Programme's second major initiative was the [Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights Report Card](#), launched at an in-person event in the CCTSA on [17 September 2025](#) as part





of the Foundation's Heritage Month work. The report's launch outputs were expressly delivered by [Daniela Ellerbeck](#) and [Lusanda Mahkuntsu](#), who respectively dealt with religion/culture and language rights. The launch materials emphasised that, while some progress was noted, **language rights remained the weakest-performing component** of the constitutional cultural, religious and linguistic rights framework.

Through these flagship initiatives, the Programme reflected the Foundation's unwavering dedication to making the Constitution a lived reality for all South Africans.

Events

SYNOPSIS

During the reporting period, the Programme's proactive constitutional literacy, public accountability and the protection of fundamental rights work was supported by several public-facing events and event outputs, including report launches, conference participation and conference-linked publication activity:

- **17 March 2025 – Human Rights Report Card Launch.** The Programme organised the launch and used it to invite South Africans to examine the degree to which rights and freedoms in the Bill of Rights are being enjoyed in practice.
- **10–11 April 2025 – Electoral Reform Consultation Panel Conference.** The Programme attended the conference and used the occasion to reinforce the Foundation's

longstanding electoral reform work.

- **25 July 2025 – Annual Constitutional Rights Conference.** (See below).
- **17 September 2025 – Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights Report Card Launch.** The Programme organised the launch and used it to foreground cultural freedom, religious freedom and especially language rights as lived constitutional issues.

ANNUAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

On 24 July 2025, the Programme held its annual Constitutional Rights Conference in Johannesburg. The conference focused on *"Achieving an Inclusive Economy"*, bringing together thought leaders on growth, jobs and meaningful economic participation as constitutional questions:

- [Moeletsi Mbeki](#) (Deputy Chairperson of the South African Institute of International Affairs) defined the roots of South Africa's economic stagnation and how to overcome them.
- [Deputy Finance Minister Ashor Sarupen](#) discussed challenges to address income inequality, including infrastructure, national budget allocations, public debt and the G20's inclusive economy priorities.
- [Dr Celeste Campher](#) (University of the Free State Economics and Finance Lecturer) outlined the opportunities to unlock inclusive economic growth in South Africa.
- [Ismail Joosub](#) (Manager of Constitutional Advancement at the FW de Klerk Foundation) provided the audience with an overview of the current legal landscape governing an inclusive economy.



- **Prof William Gumede** (University of the Witwatersrand Associate Professor) evaluated the limitations of existing inclusive economy policies and propose alternatives.

The theme was informed by the Foundation's steadfastness to make the Constitution a lived reality for all South Africans in a context where South Africa's economy is faltering and the realisation of fundamental rights becoming increasingly fragile. The conference focused on bold, innovative policies to unlock growth, create jobs and enable meaningful participation in the economy. The resulting [compendium](#) captures the fresh ideas and courageous proposals shared by thought leaders. It is the Foundation's hope that these insights can now be utilised by civil society organisations, citizens and the media to influence national thinking, narratives and assist with policy recommendations that promote economic growth and constitutional rights.



SEE THE HIGHLIGHT VIDEO HERE



Podcasts

To broaden public understanding of constitutional issues, the Programme has produced podcasts available on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). During the reporting period, the Constitutional Rights Programme produced 12 podcast episodes that advanced public dialogue on key constitutional, political and economic issues. These included the ongoing Constitution@Work series on electoral reform, as well as discussions on the 2025 Budget, coalition government, inclusive economic growth, US tariffs, and the impact of corruption on constitutional democracy. Featuring a range of respected guests and commentators, the podcast series provided an accessible platform for public education, critical reflection and informed engagement on matters of national importance.

Full list of podcasts:

NO.	DATE	TOPIC 
1.	03/03/2025	The Constitution@Work Presents: Electoral Reform Podcast #3
2.	22/05/2025	The Constitution@Work Presents: Die 2025 Begroting 3.0
3.	08/07/2025	The Constitution@Work Presents: Electoral Reform Podcast #4 with Dave Steward
4.	09/07/2025	Coalition Government Podcast #1 with Prof William Gumede
5.	15/07/2025	Achieving an Inclusive Economy #2 with Ismail Joosub
6.	17/07/2025	A Closer Look at US Tariffs
7.	17/10/2025	Inclusive Economy Podcast #1 with Christo
8.	17/10/2025	Coalition Government Podcast # 2 with Tony Leon
9.	23/10/2025	Corruption - Constitution 21st A/B Podcast with Adv Glynnis Breytenbach & Adv Paul Hoffman SC
10.	13/01/2026	The Constitution@Work Presents: Electoral Reform Podcast #5
11.	01/12/2025	The Constitution@Work Presents: Electoral Reform Podcast #6
12.	18/02/2026	The Constitution@Work Presents: Electoral Reform Podcast #7

REACTIVE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

Between 1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026, the Foundation carried out the following work in support of the Constitution as a response to external events:

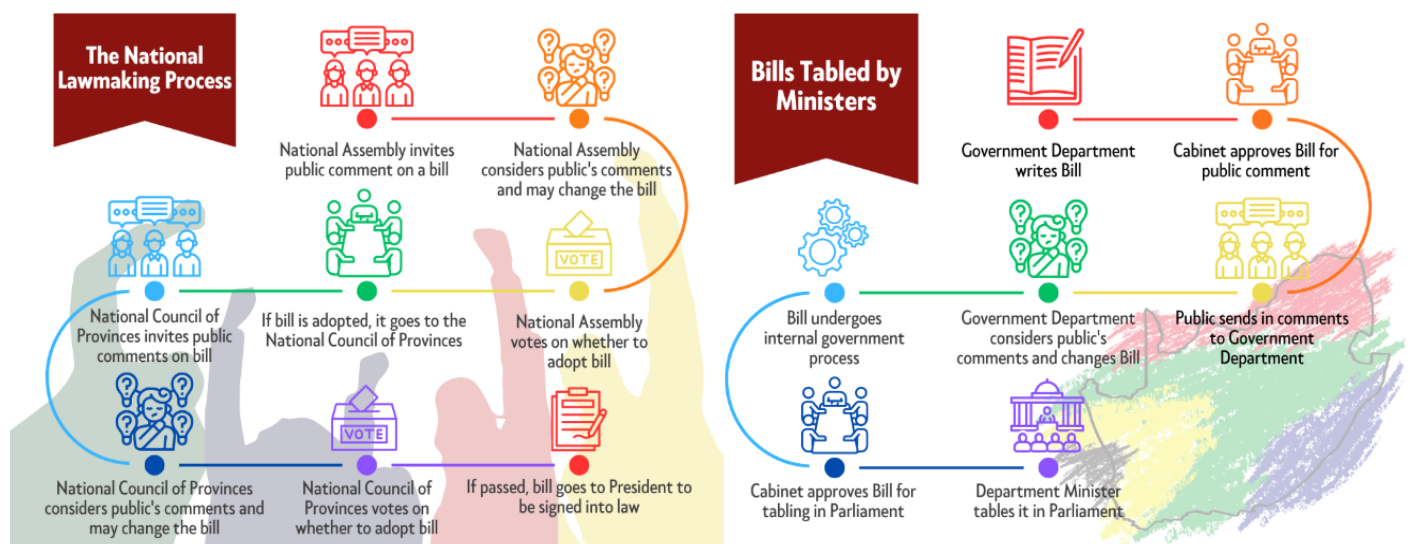
Submissions

During the reporting period, the Constitutional Rights Programme prepared 10 legal submissions to state institutions and Parliament on legislative and policy proposals with significant constitutional implications. Through these interventions, the Programme advanced the FW de Klerk Foundation's work to promote, protect and uphold the Constitution, the rule of law, and a non-racial, rights-based democracy. The submissions addressed matters such as economic transformation policy, NHI governance, local government reform, land nationalisation, coalition governance, freedom of expression, anti-corruption reform, police oversight, municipal accountability, and water services regulation. Across all of these, the Programme consistently advocated for constitutional compliance, accountable governance, institutional independence, and practical reforms that strengthen democratic institutions and improve service delivery.

NO	DATE	BILL / POLICY SUBMISSION MADE ON	CONCERN	RECOMMENDATIONS MADE
1	28 May 2025	Draft Transformation Fund Concept Document	Companies to give portion of profits to transformation fund - potential unfair discrimination based on race, harmful economic policies, corruption are all concerns.	Non-racial, needs-based empowerment model prioritizing poverty, education, and socio-economic indicators.
2	6 June 2025	NHI Fund: Proposed Governance Regulations	Minister acted <i>ultra vires</i> in publishing regulations outlining how the NHI Fund's Board and its Chief Executive Officer will be appointed.	Minister to withdraw draft NHI Regulations; re-gazetting said regulations only after Cabinet approval and Board consultation
3	30 June 2025	COGTA's Discussion Document on the Review of the White Paper on Local Government	Input on policy reforms to ensure local government (i.e. municipalities) are stabilised and effectively governed.	Apply existing law: strengthen municipal audits, enforce MFMA/PRECCA, prosecute and sue officials for misconduct. Ensure coalition stability by requiring two-thirds removal vote and making agreements public and binding
5	29 August 2025	Constitution Twenty-Second Amendment Bill – a Private Member's Bill by Honourable Adv Breytenbach (DA MP)	Amending Constitution to broaden the categories of citizens who are ineligible for membership of the different legislative bodies.	Clarify impeachment vs no-confidence; consider subsidiary law for coalitions instead of constitutional amendment.
6	23 September 2025	Draft White Paper on Audio and Audio Visual Media Services and Online Safety	Freedom of expression concerns with the regulation of online speech.	Policies must reflect anti-censorship history, align with section 16(2), and promote media literacy



NO	DATE	BILL / POLICY SUBMISSION MADE ON	CONCERN	RECOMMENDATIONS MADE
7	12 November 2025	Draft National Corruption Risk and Prevention Framework	Focus on preventing corruption, without solving problems of constitutional non-compliance and fragmented system architecture.	Parliament must create constitutionally-compliance anti-corruption body.
8	22 December 2025	Draft Independent Police Investigative Directorate Regulations 2025	Draft Regulations create pressure points through which political influence could penetrate IPID.	Concerns about independence and oversight and accountability mechanisms.
9	30 January 2026	Draft Amendments to the Local Government: Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations	Leave out key constitutional values and duties which should anchor any performance system and would allow Minister to publish key performance indicators by issuing a simple notice in the Government Gazette, without either parliamentary oversight or public input.	KPIs Must Be Built on Constitutional Values. Use KPIs That Communities Can See and Test. Municipalities Must Have Clear Lines of Responsibility. Community Verification of Municipal Claims.
10	24 February 2026	Water Services Amendment Bill	Introduction of a national licensing system for water service providers and stronger enforcement powers where services collapse	Calls for clear licensing criteria, fair appeal and review mechanisms, transparent enforcement processes and structured national and provincial support for municipalities that lack capacity





ARTICLES

The Programme published 30 articles that advanced the FW de Klerk Foundation's mission to promote, protect and uphold the Constitution, the rule of law, and the rights and freedoms of all who live in South Africa. Through accessible legal and policy analysis, the articles examined a wide range of constitutional issues, including electoral reform, expropriation, citizenship, dignity, environmental rights, access to information, education, local government, anti-corruption reform, cultural and language rights, and key Constitutional Court judgments. Collectively, these publications strengthened public understanding of constitutional democracy, encouraged informed civic participation, and reinforced the Foundation's role as a principled voice in defending constitutionalism, accountability, and non-racial democracy.

Full list of articles:



NO.	DATE	TOPIC 
1.	01/04/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION OPEN LETTER TO BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGARDING SCHOOL PIT TOILET ERADICATION
2.	02/04/2025	2024 IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR PART 1 – KEY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SHIFTS THAT IMPACTED OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM
3.	13/05/2025	SOUTH AFRICANS' RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
4.	15/05/2025	PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA RETURNS RICA AMENDMENT BILL TO PARLIAMENT OVER CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERNS
5.	16/05/2025	ASSESSING THE RIGHT TO DIGNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA: PROGRESS AND PERSISTENT CHALLENGES
6.	21/05/2025	SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT: REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2024 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CARD
7.	21/05/2025	THE FULL AND EQUAL ENJOYMENT OF ALL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS: THOUGHTS FROM THE 2024 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CARD
8.	21/05/2025	2024 IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR PART 2 – KEY BUDGETARY & SOCIAL CHANGES THAT IMPACTED OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM
9.	26/05/2025	THE RIGHT TO LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA
10.	20/06/2025	THE NHI REGULATIONS – MINISTER IN DANGER OF ACTING ULTRA VIRES
11.	24/06/2025	POLITICAL RIGHTS: REFLECTIONS ON THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION AND CURRENT NEED FOR ELECTORAL REFORM
12.	26/06/2025	BALANCING TRANSPARENCY AND SECURITY - SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCESS TO INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM
13.	11/07/2025	RESTORING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION'S CALL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
14.	11/07/2025	FREEDOM OF TRADE AND LABOUR IN 2024: PROGRESS, PITFALLS AND POLICY SHIFTS
15.	11/07/2025	THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT: A CONSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE
16.	11/07/2025	A YEAR OF CONTRASTS: ADVANCEMENTS AND SETBACKS IN SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION
17.	18/08/2025	MPs OPEN KEY CONSTITUTIONAL BILLS OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
18.	08/10/2025	YOUR RIGHT TO LIVE OUT YOUR CULTURE



NO.	DATE	TOPIC
19.	09/10/2025	YOUR RIGHT TO LIVE OUT YOUR BELIEFS IN PUBLIC
20.	11/10/2025	TAALREGTE IN SUID-AFRIKA
21.	21/10/2025	SOUTH AFRICA'S LAWMAKING PROCESS
22.	17/11/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION CALLS ON PARLIAMENT TO CREATE CONSTITUTIONALLY COMPLIANT ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY
23.	12/12/2025	SOCIALIST AGENDA OF DISPOSSESSED AFRICANS v MINISTER OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS [2025] ZACC 26
24.	12/12/2025	JACOB GEDLEYIHLEKISA ZUMA AND ANOTHER V PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND OTHERS [2025] ZACC 21
25.	12/12/2025	STRENGTHENING SOUTH AFRICA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION FRAMEWORK: THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION CALLS FOR THE CREATION OF A CONSTITUTIONALLY COMPLIANT ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY
26.	12/12/2025	PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA V SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY [2025] ZACC 12
27.	20/01/2026	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION SUBMITS COMMENTS ON IPID DRAFT REGULATIONS
28.	06/02/2026	URGENT REQUEST BY THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION FOR PROCESSING OF ERCP CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON ELECTORAL REFORM AHEAD OF 2029 ELECTIONS
29.	12/02/2026	WHY MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE MATTERS – AND HOW BETTER RULES COULD FIX LOCAL GOVERNMENT
30.	12/02/2026	CUSTOMARY MARRIAGES, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL EQUALITY: WHY VVC V JRM MATTERS TO SOUTH AFRICANS

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Leadership

FW de Klerk Foundation urges creation of a constitutionally independent anti-corruption body

The FW de Klerk Foundation warns that South Africa remains in breach of the Constitution by failing to create a truly independent anti-corruption body.

Editor BizNews

Published on: 14 Nov 2025, 11:35 am

Annual Report 2025-2026



PRESS STATEMENTS

During the reporting period, the Constitutional Rights Programme used its press statements as a strategic advocacy tool to respond quickly to developments affecting South Africa's constitutional order. By speaking out on issues such as electoral reform, education, judicial independence, anti-corruption, municipal governance, property rights, and public participation in the legislative process, the Programme ensured that the FW de Klerk Foundation remained visible, relevant and responsive in national debates. These statements not only communicated the Foundation's constitutional position on urgent matters, but also helped to raise public awareness, encourage accountability, and affirm the Foundation's commitment to democratic values, lawful governance and the protection of fundamental rights.

Full list of press statements:

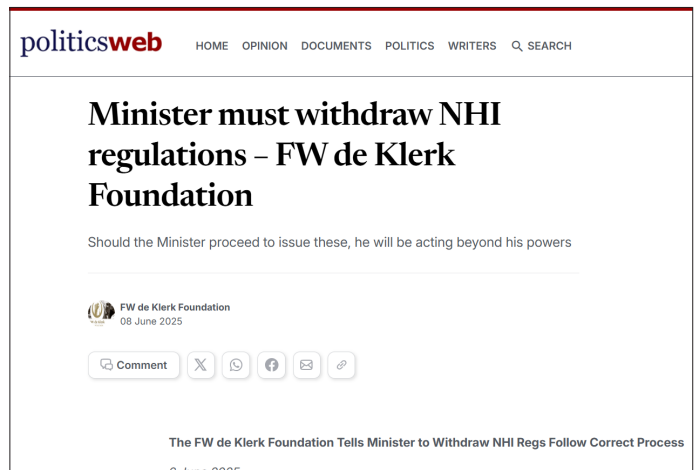
NO.	DATE	TOPIC 
1.	12/03/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION COMMENDS BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON PIT TOILET ERADICATION EFFORTS
2.	17/03/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION RELEASES 2024 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CARD, AIMS TO IGNITE NATIONWIDE DISCUSSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS & FREEDOMS
3.	01/04/2025	VERSION OF GILAB SIGNED INTO LAW - A SUCCESS STORY OF THE POWER OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
4.	04/04/2025	THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION WELCOMES CONSTITUTIONAL COURT REFUSAL OF ZUMA'S LEAVE TO APPEAL
5.	10/04/2025	THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION ATTENDS ELECTORAL REFORM CONSULTATION PANEL'S CONFERENCE
6.	10/04/2025	ELECTORAL REFORM CONSULTATION PANEL MAKES PUBLIC PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS, THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION ASKS FOR MORE SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES (SMCs)
7.	14/04/2025	THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION CALLS FOR COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF SCHOOL PIT TOILETS
8.	07/05/2024	PARLIAMENT HEARS LEGAL OPINION ON PRESIDENT'S RESERVATIONS ON THE SECRECY BILL
9.	03/06/2025	THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION WELCOMES COURT RULING DISQUALIFYING HLOPHE FROM SERVING ON THE JSC
10.	06/06/2025	THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION TELLS MINISTER TO WITHDRAW NHI REGS, FOLLOW CORRECT PROCESS
11.	20/06/2025	THE FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
12.	27/06/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION WELCOMES RULING ON UNLAWFUL PPE CONTRACTS
13.	01/07/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION TO RESTORE INTEGRITY AND STABILITY IN MUNICIPALITIES
14.	12/08/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION ADDRESSES G20 INTERFAITH FORUM ON THE CHALLENGES OF INEQUALITY
15.	18/08/2025	MPs INVITE PUBLIC COMMENT ON KEY CONSTITUTIONAL BILLS
16.	12/08/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION ADDRESSES G20 INTERFAITH FORUM ON THE CHALLENGES OF INEQUALITY
17.	18/08/2025	MPs INVITE PUBLIC COMMENT ON KEY CONSTITUTIONAL BILLS
18.	12/09/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION WELCOMES SPECIAL TRIBUNAL RULING ON UNLAWFUL R167,9 MILLION TENDER AWARD
19.	17/09/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION LAUNCHES 2025 REPORT CARD ON CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS
20.	30/09/2025	BILL THREATENING PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

NO.	DATE	TOPIC 
21.	17/10/2025	DRAFT NATIONAL CORRUPTION RISK AND PREVENTION FRAMEWORK OPENS FOR COMMENT – CLOSING NEXT WEEK
22.	20/10/2025	FOUNDATION NOTES PRESIDENT'S ADMISSIONS IN EXPROPRIATION ACT CASE - WARNS OF DEEPER CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS
23.	17/11/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION CALLS ON PARLIAMENT TO CREATE CONSTITUTIONALLY COMPLIANT ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY
24.	15/12/2025	HIGH COURT RULING PLACES CLEAR DUTIES ON THE WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT AHEAD OF 2026 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS
25.	20/01/2025	FW DE KLERK FOUNDATION RAISES CONCERNS ON IPID DRAFT REGULATIONS
26.	13/02/2026	SONA SILENT ON ELECTORAL REFORM; CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS TIME BOUND ACTION BEFORE 2029

AUDIO CLIPS AND VIDEO SHORTS SENT TO MEDIA

Building on the success of the Programme's podcast series, which has grown to an audience of more than 2 500 subscribers, the Constitutional Rights Programme recently introduced concise weekly audio updates in both English and Afrikaans.

SEE THIS EXAMPLE 



These updates provide timely constitutional commentary on breaking developments and are shared with media outlets for incorporation into their broadcasts, thereby extending the Foundation's reach and broadening public engagement with constitutional issues. In addition, the Foundation produces short YouTube videos ("shorts") on topical issues, offering accessible and easily shareable content that helps bring constitutional analysis to wider and more diverse audiences.



WE MAKE SOUTH AFRICA MAKE SENSE.

NEWSLETTERS SIGN IN SUBSCRIBE

FW de Klerk Foundation Warns of Deeper Constitutional Flaws in Expropriation Act

Politics Desk — October 22, 2025 3 min read

The FW de Klerk Foundation has expressed: "grave concern" following President Cyril Ramaphosa's admission that parts of the Expropriation Act are unconstitutional.

CONSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMME



The Constitutional Advancement Programme ("CAP") of the FW de Klerk Foundation has moved through a period of significant consolidation, growth and public impact during the second half of 2025 and the first half of 2026. This reporting period is marked by a clear strategic shift in that CAP has expanded from being primarily a constitutional education and youth engagement programme into a broader constitutional accountability platform. The central theme for 2026 is local government - the arena in which the Constitution is most immediately experienced by citizens through water, electricity, service delivery, responsive councillors and accountable municipalities.

THE FIVE-MODULE CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The five-module programme remains the backbone of CAP's youth literacy work. It translates constitutional principles into accessible, real-life learning for learners, students and young leaders. The modules cover the Bill of Rights, first and second generation rights, economic rights, the Constitution in practice and the future of democracy and youth engagement. Critically, the programme is no longer merely a curriculum concept - it is a living engagement tool deployed across schools, universities, colleges and youth spaces.

In 2026, CAP visited **Stellenbosch University's Simonsberg Men's Residence**, **Leeds College** in Johannesburg, **St Aquinas School**, **Bishops Diocesan College** and **Christel House** in Cape Town. These engagements reached approximately 500 learners, while the broader programme has now cumulatively engaged cumulatively nearly 1 500 young





people across 15 institutions. Workshops were interactive, connecting constitutional rights to access to education, water, public safety, accountability and the importance of voting. [Social media posts](#) throughout FW de Klerk Foundation channels documents images of our interactions.

SUCSESSES

The five-module model remains adaptable across audiences, from secondary school learners to first-year university students. Learner feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with visible mindset shifts and strong enthusiasm evident across engagements.

CHALLENGES

Scale remains the central challenge. The programme requires additional funding, travel capacity, printed and digital learning materials and formalised feedback mechanisms to convert once-off workshops into a sustained national civic education campaign.

1. Local Government: The 2026 Theme

South Africa approaches the 2026 Local Government Elections at a moment of deep municipal distress. Across the country, [citizens experience the failure](#) of constitutional promises most directly through broken local services. CAP has therefore positioned local government as the central site of constitutional renewal - helping young people understand municipal responsibilities, ward boundaries, how councils function and how to hold elected representatives accountable.



A significant new initiative is **CAP's partnership with the University of the Free State, Sunday World and Radio KC** on a joint survey of young people's knowledge of local government. The findings will inform roundtable discussions and a broader youth civic education and advocacy campaign ahead of the 2026 elections. **CAP has also partnered with Project Youth SA on a Digital Local Government Elections Handbook** - a practical, youth-accessible guide to the 2026 elections covering voter registration, ward boundaries, the role of councillors, municipal duties and post-election accountability.



SUCSESSES

CAP has successfully identified local government as the practical bridge between constitutional rights and lived experience. The programme is well-positioned to lead credible, youth-focused civic education ahead of the 2026 elections.

CHALLENGES

Local government work demands both constitutional literacy and technical knowledge of municipal systems, budgets and audits. Strong research support and reliable institutional partnerships are essential.

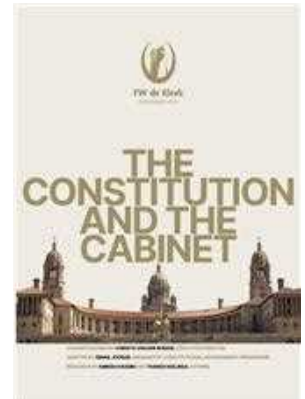
2. The Constitution and the Cabinet Report Card

One of CAP's milestone achievements during this reporting period was the release of **The Constitution and the Cabinet** - a comprehensive, evidence-based constitutional performance assessment of all 77 members of the national executive, including the President, Deputy President, all Ministers and Deputy Ministers. The report used an evidence-based rubric measuring leadership, execution, integrity, accountability, use of public resources and advancement of constitutional rights. It drew exclusively on publicly available evidence and was peer-reviewed within the research team.

The report received considerable media attention and generated invitations for CAP to appear across multiple public platforms. **It was recognised by Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, former Health Ombud and Deputy Chairperson of the National Planning Commission**, who described the Foundation's assessment as:

"Independent, non-partisan, merit-based, outcome-driven, evidence-based on verifiable data and peer-reviewed. The FW de Klerk Foundation adds value and a different perspective to the already established assessment systems."

- Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, Former Deputy Chairperson, National Planning Commission



Building on this success, CAP is now developing a **Local Government Report Card** that will assess major municipalities and metros against the same constitutional performance model, timed for publication ahead of the 2026 elections.

SUCSESSES

The report positioned CAP as a thought leader in constitutional performance assessment, demonstrating that the Foundation can produce serious accountability tools that are accessible to the public and relevant to policymakers.

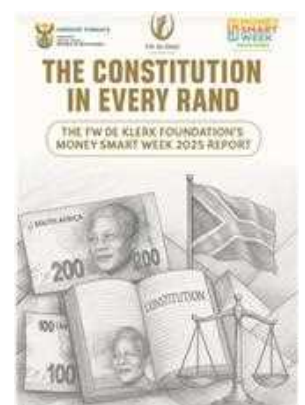
CHALLENGES

Reports of this nature require significant research time, verification and design support. Future editions require a dedicated research calendar and external peer review to maintain credibility.

3. Water, Money Smart Week and Economic Constitutional Literacy

Water governance has been one of CAP's most sustained and impactful advocacy campaigns of the reporting period - comparable in depth to the **BBBEE** and **Employment Equity** work of the previous year. CAP treated the water crisis not as a technical infrastructure problem but as a constitutional governance failure under section 27. This work included **submissions to Parliament on the Water Services Amendment Bill** and the **National Water Infrastructure Agency Amendment Bill**, op-eds on the **water tanker mafia** as a form of state capture, **analysis of SONA 2026** water promises and **video content with Thando Malinga on water inaccessibility**. The campaign connected law, economics, corruption, infrastructure and human dignity in language accessible to the public.

In parallel, **CAP continued its Money Smart Week partnership with National Treasury**, publishing the report **The Constitution in Every Rand** and hosting public engagements linking fiscal transparency, social justice and constitutional duty to practical financial literacy. For Money Smart Week 2026, CAP has been reinvited and plans to produce a new report, expand partnerships with banks and financial institutions and host an online and in-person youth campaign.



SUCSESSES

CAP elevated water as a major constitutional rights issue and connected economic literacy to constitutional empowerment - demonstrating the breadth of constitutional relevance beyond courts and elections.

CHALLENGES

Scaling financial literacy work requires stronger institutional partnerships, improved campaign infrastructure and dedicated design and distribution support.

4. The National Dialogue, NYDI and Youth Empowerment

As Co-Chairperson of the Public Mobilisation Subcommittee, CAP played a central role in mobilising nearly 900 to 1 000 individuals and organisations for participation in the National Dialogue. A major highlight was the [Johannesburg Stock Exchange engagement](#) in the latter half of 2025, which gave the Foundation strong strategic exposure. However, **the Legacy Foundations withdrew from the August 2025 National Convention** over concerns about transparency, rushed timelines and procedural integrity. This was not a withdrawal from dialogue itself, but a principled stand for citizen-led, constitutionally grounded process. **The Legacy Foundations are now rebuilding a dual-track model of sectoral and community dialogues under the guidance of the Eminent Persons Group.**



The National Youth Debate Initiative ("NYDI"), co-founded with the Chief Albert Luthuli Foundation and supported by Elevate Africa, the South African Schools Debating Board and the South African Community Radio Organisation, **hosted a pilot event in March 2026** for NEET (not in education, employment or training) youth. This represented an important step in bringing debate, public speaking and constitutional education to young South Africans who are most excluded from formal civic platforms.

SUCSESSES

CAP played a major public mobilisation role in the National Dialogue and contributed to developing foundational dialogue infrastructure. The NYDI pilot demonstrated a credible, practical model for youth civic empowerment.

CHALLENGES

The Dialogue process exposed risks of unclear governance, funding confusion and insufficient transparency. The NYDI requires logistical support and sustained partner commitment to reach youth outside major urban centres.

5. Media, Publications, Podcasts and Strategic Partnerships



CAP maintained a prolific publications output, producing a combined 37 national op-eds press statements across [BusinessLIVE](#), [Mail and Guardian](#), [Politicsweb](#), [IOL](#), [Business Day](#) and the Foundation's own platforms. Media appearances spanned [eNCA](#), [Newzroom Afrika](#), [KykNET](#), [SABC News](#), [Channel Africa](#), [UNISA Radio](#), [TUT FM](#), [Radio UKZN](#), [Moneyweb with Jeremy Maggs](#) and [State of the Nation with Mike Sham](#) (40 000+ views). Thematic work covered local government, water governance, electoral reform, constitutional accountability, anti-corruption, foreign policy, digital access, education and parliamentary oversight.

A significant development was the transition to a professional in-studio podcast format from the second half of 2025, enabling full-length video productions with high-profile guests, such as Chinese-South Africa Business Chamber Representative, Faeza Lok, and [former Tshwane Mayor Cilliers Brink](#). CAP also hosted a Women's Month roundtable in 2025, an Africa Day roundtable in 2026 and participated in public engagements including the Wits Career Day and the [Elevate Africa Public Speaking Competition](#). Strategic partnerships deepened with Project Youth SA, National Treasury, the University of the Free State, Sunday World and Radio KC. **CAP was invited to the Paarl Knowledge Sharing Festival** in 2026 and 2027 and is **developing a partnership with Starlink/SpaceX** to advocate for internet and AI connectivity as a constitutional access issue.



SUCSESSES

CAP is now a consistent, credible constitutional voice in South African public discourse. The move to studio-based podcasting has elevated production quality and broadened digital reach significantly.

CHALLENGES

Media and publication output is demanding at this pace. CAP requires dedicated communications, production and research support to sustain quality and grow audience reach.

IMPACT DASHBOARD: KEY INDICATORS 2025-2026

1 500+Learners reached
(schools and universities)**15+**Schools and
institutions visited**2**Provinces reached
(Gauteng, Western Cape)**37+**Op-eds, articles and
statements published**15+**Media platforms
featured on**8+**Podcast episodes
produced**5+**Webinars and
roundtables hosted**15+**Civil society and
institutional partners
engaged**50 000+**Social media / digital reach
(estimated)
(State of the Nation podcast alone)**3**Major reports and publications produced
(Cabinet Report Card, LGE Assessment, The
Constitution in Every Rand.) The Local Government
Digital Handbook and Local Government Report
Card are in production for 2026.**900-1 000**National Dialogue participants mobilised
(Note, this was during the 2025 period
and the Foundations have subsequently
restructured their participation in the process.)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2026

PRIORITY	PURPOSE / RATIONALE
Publish the Local Government Report Card	Constitutional accountability tool timed for the 2026 elections.
Release the Digital LGE Handbook	Youth voter education ahead of the 2026 local government elections.
Money Smart Week 2026 campaign	New report, bank partnerships, online and in-person youth engagement.
UFS / Sunday World / Radio KC youth survey	Evidence-based youth advocacy on local government knowledge.
Scale constitutional education nationally	Target 90 schools and 4 500 learners across all nine provinces (contingent on funding).
Expand studio-based podcast series	Grow audience reach and digital visibility of CAP's work.
Starlink digital access advocacy campaign	Frame internet and AI connectivity as a constitutional rights issue.
Formalise M&E and feedback systems	Strengthen evidence base for reporting, fundraising and impact
Secure funding for national CAP rollout	Enable sustainable scale across all four programme pillars.

The 2025-2026 reporting period has been a defining stage in the development of the Constitutional Advancement Programme. CAP has grown from a promising constitutional education platform into a broader civic and constitutional accountability engine within the FW de Klerk Foundation. Through school visits, the five-module education programme, the Constitution and the Cabinet Report Card, Money Smart Week, water governance advocacy, local government work, podcasts, roundtables, publications, youth debates and strategic partnerships, CAP has demonstrated that constitutional advancement is not a theoretical exercise. It is practical, urgent and deeply connected to the lives of ordinary South Africans.

The Constitution lives only when people understand it, claim it and use it to hold power accountable. Through education, dialogue, advocacy and innovation, CAP continues to turn constitutional knowledge into civic action - empowering a generation to live the Constitution and to become architects of South Africa's democratic renewal.

“Constitutional advancement is not only relevant, but essential for South Africa's present and future. CAP's task is to ensure that the Constitution lives not only in courts and Parliament, but in classrooms, communities, municipalities, media platforms and the minds of young South Africans.”

- Ismail Joosub, Manager: Constitutional Advancement Programme



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INTERNS



**Lusanda
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