



## Human and Social Sciences: HSSC4

### LESSON No: 4

#### Unit Standard: 115477

### INTRODUCTION

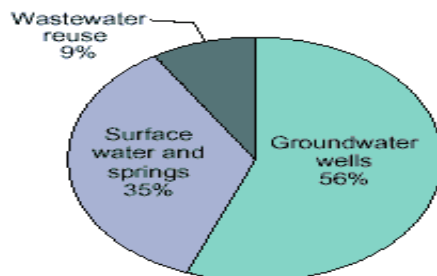
Welcome again to our next series of lessons 4 to 5. Now that you did a lot of reading on the content, you will now have to pause (stop) for a while to work on some activities. These activities will help you to test yourself. Anyway, there is no learning without assessment. Our last lesson was on week ending No: 14. Let us go back to it by trying these activities first.

#### Activity 1

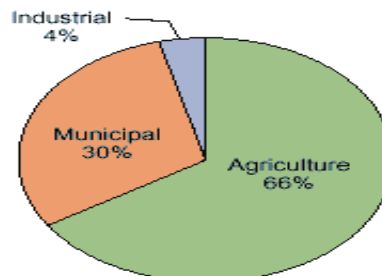


- 1.1 Name the negative attitude that some South Africans show towards foreigners.
- 1.2 What does it mean "to victimise foreign nationals"?
- 1.3 Why are most South Africans unable to accept foreign nationals?
- 1.4 Give five ways in which the municipality can help end xenophobic attacks in our townships.
- 1.5 What are the disadvantages of xenophobic attacks? Mention 5.

Water use by source



Water use by category



#### Activity 2

- 1.1 Provide two possible reasons for each of the following:
  - (A) Wastewater re-use of 9% as indicated on the pie graph.
  - (B) Water use by Agriculture as at 65% on the pie graph.
- 1.2 State two sustainable uses of water as indicated on the pie graphs.
- 1.3. Is water renewable or unrenewable? Explain the difference between the two.



## Prior knowledge.

In the previous term on 115477 SO1, the concepts of Social Justice and Human Rights were explained. You should remember that the wrongs of the past (Past injustices of apartheid) have created inequalities (people not being the same). If people are oppressed (treated harsh and as inferior), they will never live in dignity and they will never be productive (unable to have good results in whatever they do). All people must be treated the same (with equality). They must get fair treatment so that they are able to benefit from all what the country is offering.

**Social Justice** is the idea that all people must get fair treatment and equal share of advantages that the society offers (e.g., equal education, health etc.). It will be possible for people to get social justice if the historical inequalities are removed. This means that people must be able to get their basic needs such as clean drinking water, housing, sanitation (toilet and bathrooms), employment and access(able to get) health and educational facilities.

Under apartheid, South Africa had the worst record of human rights in the world. The **Bill of Rights** was included in our constitution. The constitution is the supreme (highest) law of the country. This means that no other government can change it. So our human rights are safe in our constitution. Human Rights are basic rights and freedoms that belong to all human beings. You will notice that democracy is closely related to social justice and human rights.

Many democratic governments protect human rights. In this way, each individual is valued as a member of the society. Some of the rights that are protected by our constitution include: The right to life, the right to education, the right to join any religion, the right of movement, the right to information, the right of association, right to freedom of speech, right to equality before the law, right to participate in the economy, etc.

*NB: Include other rights and make sure that you understand what they mean.*

### Activity 3

3.1 Use your own words to explain each of the following Principles :

#### **Principles of Social Justice :**

Human dignity, dignity of work and rights of workers, Community and common Good, Solidarity, Rights and responsibilities, Stewardship, Priority of the poor and vulnerable, Governance, participation, promotion of peace.

#### **3.2 Principles of democracy:**

Equality, Citizen participation, political tolerance, accountability and Transparency, elections, multiparty system, economic freedom, human rights, rule of law, control of the abuse of power.

3.3 Name any five violations (go against) of human rights.

Anybody who takes part or has interest in something is called a **stakeholder**. We are all stakeholders of democracy, human rights and social justice. Let us look at the following



stakeholders that also want to see democracy, human rights and social justice working for all of us.

- **Public sector:** The national, provincial and local departments work to ensure that all citizens, according to the Bill of Rights, get their basic rights such as housing, sanitation, proper education and health care.
- **Private sector:** Includes all organisations that are not part of government but are interested in making sure that people get the fair deal of life. They usually focus on specific issues ( to stop gender abuse or to provide legal aid)
- **Non-governmental organisations:** These include non-profit making organisations. They often get funds from donations. They are usually concerned with one specific need. E.g. The Action Treatment Campaign which was fighting for the rights of people living with HIV.
- **Business:** Many businesses such as ABSA often participate in projects of helping the poor.
- **Community based organisations:** These organisations are non-profit making (do not gain money) but depend largely on volunteers.

This leads us to the end of week ending 9 and 10 of the previous term (115477 SO1)

.We can now get into week ending 15 of (115477 SO2)

**Theme: Structures of Social Justice, human rights and democracy.**

**Topic: Structures supporting democracy**

The word **structure** is used here to include all departments, committees, parastatals organisations and agencies that carry the work of the state. **Parastatals** perform the work of government but are partially (half) or indirectly under the control of the government. These structures also work to ensure that people's rights are protected. These structures may be in the form of a **department** (like South African Revenue Service SARS – that pays pension funds and make sure that dangerous goods do not come into the country.)

They may also be in the form of a **Commission**, which is a group of people appointed to perform a particular work to make sure that the rights of people are safeguarded (safe).

Let us have a look at some of these commissions and what they do.



### **The Public Protector.**

- Protects people from unfair treatment by the state and its officials. This may include abuse of power, unfair behaviour, undue delay, violation of human rights.
- Protects people from poor administration and dishonesty over public money. This includes corruption activities such as stealing government money or making self-favours.
- Can also investigate corporations (companies) or organisations on whether their businesses protect rights of the public or not. Statutory councils such as Human Sciences and Research Council (HSRC) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) can also be investigated.
- The Public Protector can investigate government at any level.
- The Public Protector can summon(call) people to give evidence under oath(legal promise to tell the truth)

### **The South African Human Rights Commission. (SAHRC)**

- This commission is responsible for promoting respect for human rights by all South Africans.
- It protects and monitors (check) human rights in South Africa.
- It receives and investigates human rights abuses.
- It checks if the government is giving rights its citizens.

### **The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)**

- This focusses on equality between men and women. However, it is more interested with the protection of women than men because they are the most abused.
- It monitors government and private organisations to make sure that they promote and protect gender equality.
- It educates the public on gender equality.
- It checks on the laws of government to make sure that they promote gender equality.

### **Auditor General (AG)**

- Checks on the accounts and financial statements of government at all levels including parastatals.
- It makes sure that taxes in the country are used correctly.
- It helps to fight corruption.

### **Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).**

- This is the commission that manages elections at all levels of government.
- It ensures that all elections are free and fair.

### **The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.**

- This Commission ensures that communities in South Africa are able to practice their cultural, religious and rights in accordance with the constitution.



## Independent Authority to regulate Broadcasting (IAB)

- This commission ensures that radio and television broadcasts are fair and they represent the views of the South African society.
- It makes sure that broadcasters give balanced and impartial coverage.

We can still say that these commissions are the “watchdog” to make sure that democracy, human rights and social justice work fairly to the benefit of all people. They are able to do this work because they are not controlled by the government even though they work with the government. They work outside the government.

Let us look at those structures that are in the government. Remember that the government works at three levels. These are, National, Provincial and local levels.

### National level

- In South Africa, people vote for the party of their choice. The number of votes is counted for each party. Seats will be given according to the number of votes received by each party. The party with highest number of seats is the ruling party, which means that they were voted into power by many people.
- The ruling party selects people to fill in certain positions in the National Government. The National Government is responsible for making the laws of the country. The President is the head of the state and will appoint ministers who will form a cabinet. The cabinet ministers form the Executive. These Executive ministers are in charge of their departments (Dept. of Health, Dept. of Basic Education etc.). They develop and make policies and laws for their departments.
- Ministers account to the National Assembly for their actions and report on what their departments are doing.
- The members of the other parties according to their seats, meet with those of the ruling party to form the legislature. The legislature discusses suggestions or Bills that are given to them. They also pass the laws.
- So, in simple terms, the Executive forms the cabinet and the Legislature forms the Parliament (to legislate means to make the law). The Judiciary makes sure that the laws are followed. It makes sure that people who do not obey the laws of the country are punished. This structure is made up of all the courts with magistrates/ Judges. This structure is not part of government. It is independent.
- The President, Deputy President and Ministers form the Executive / cabinet.

### Provincial Level.

- Provinces operate the same as the national government.



- The head of the executive at the province is the Premier who is elected by the Provincial Legislature.
- The Premier is the head of the majority party in the province.
- The Premier appoints Members of the Executive Council (MEC) and is responsible for their departments.

### **Local Level**

- Municipal structures are responsible for service delivery such as water, electricity, housing etc.
- Local Government can pass By-Laws within which you live and work.
- The Major is the head of local government. Councillors are responsible for small sections of the community. They are responsible for service delivery where people live.

By now you know which structures are there for you to get justice. You need to take your complain to the relevant commission. However, you need to make sure that you start at local level and try to go through all other structures locally before you take your complain to the commission.

I hope you have been able to follow this content with ease.

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3. Google, pictures.