

**Human Rights Commission Application Covering  
Letter for Dr Palo Agnes Mafaesa**

3/12/2026

1) Name and Surname: Palo Agnes Mafaesa

2) Contact Details: [REDACTED]

I believe that I will be of immense value to the Human Rights Commission as I have been in the full time professional practice of promoting social justice and advocating for human rights.

I have been a practicing social worker for sixteen (16) years and I have been in the social services profession for nineteen (19) years.

In my nineteen (19) years of experience in the social services sector, I have advocated for human rights of people from disadvantaged backgrounds, persons with disabilities to have equal access to resources and be included into broader society.

I have also been in the service of lobbying for the human rights of the abused, neglected, abandoned and exploited children to be protected and placed in proper places of care, safety and optimal welfare for them.

I bring the expertise of integrating years of experience in public service and optimum academic training as I hold a doctor of social work degree.

**Yours Sincerely:  
Dr PA Mafaesa**



# Palo Agnes Mafaesa



## Personal details

 Palo Agnes Mafaesa

## Skills

- Kind
- Innovative
- Committed
- Determined
- Self-reliant
- Hard working

## Languages

- English
- Afrikaans

## Education

**Grade 12 (International General Certificate of Education: Higher international Secondary Certificate of Education and AS Levels)** 2003

Klerksdorp International School/Klerksdorp Christian Academy

- Subjects: Economics, English, Biology, History, Sociology, Afrikaans and Maths

**Bachelor of Arts in Social Work** 2010  
University of South Africa (Unisa)

- Duration of course: Four years

**Master of Social Work** 2016  
University of South Africa (Unisa)

- Duration of course: 2 Years

**Doctor of Social Work** 2024  
University of South Africa (Unisa)

- Duration of course: 2020 until now

## Employment

**Social Auxiliary Worker** Oct 2007 - Apr 2010  
North West Mental Health

- Rendering services to psychiatrically and intellectually challenged people.
- Counselling people with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities on their daily challenges
- Monitoring access of clients to medication
- Capacity building with clients, empowering them to deal with the adversities of their conditions
- Information sharing with clients, stakeholders and the community on improve the status of people with different types of disabilities
- Campaigns, including talks, newspaper articles and interviews to create awareness about the experiences of people intellectual and psychiatric disabilities
- Grant administration of people with disabilities to prevent financial abuse and exploitation
- Monitoring and strengthen of day care and residential care facilities for people with disabilities
- Co-ordinating and organising events to enhance rendered services and relationships with all sectors of societies.
- Crisis intervention with clients
- Group work therapy with stressed adolescents
- Group work therapy with people living with disabilities

**Level 7, Social Worker** May 2010 - Present  
Department of Social Development

- Rendering services to vulnerable, abused, exploited and abandoned children as well families experiencing conflict, challenges and trauma.
- Conflict mediation with families
- Counselling to individuals
- Placement of abandoned, abused and neglected children in safe care and

foster care

- Statutory work relating to abused, neglected, abandoned and exploited children
- Facilitating the creation of better living conditions for disgruntled children and families
- Intervening in social crises by providing social relief
- Engaging with stakeholders to resolve social problems
- Supervising auxiliary social workers
- Compilation and presentation of statutory reports
- Conducting investigations for statutory purposes
- Facilitation of the adoption of children on the adoption register
- Referral of clients to specialist services within the community
- Assessment of client s circumstances and functioning

**Founder and Project Manager**

**Feb 2015 - Jan 2016**

Rainbow Visions

- Community development services
- Facilitation of life skills and career development workshops
- Support to start-up companies
- Support to unemployed young women
- Producing and compiling content for life skills and career development classes
- Recruiting organisations, interns and new graduates to participate in the workshop classes
- Facilitating access to further education and work experiences to unemployed young women
- Identifying the operational needs of start-up companies
- Linking start-up companies with the needed resources

**Contributing feature writer**

**Sep 2015 - Jan 2016**

Moja magazine

- Research and writing
- Writing regular articles on social and gender issues

**Independent Academic Marker**

**Nov 2021 - Oct 2022**

UNISA

- Academics
- Reading student's assignments
- Marking and grading the assignments
- Assessing and providing feedback on the assignments
- Compiling an evaluation report on the marked and graded assignments

## Registration

---

**Council for Social Services Professionals  
Registration**

Registration number 10-30075

## Abstracts

---

### **Is Creative Arts Education being utilized to facilitate learning for learners with special needs?**

Accepted abstract in book Voices of Creative Education

## Accolades

---

### **North West Mental Health, Social Worker of the year**

2009

Awarded in 2009

## Articles Published

---

### **Non-Academic articles**

Multiple online publications

<https://www.calameo.com/books/001563237a7c61b> <https://www.newswire.com/rainbow-vision-supports-literature> <https://yswna.org.za/kinship-parenting-south-african-story> <https://www.calameo.com/books/001563237a7e61b69c4bf> <https://www.calameo.com/books/001563237461c68be0e9>

### **Academic article published**

Published in AJET, ISSN2788-6379

<https://issu.com/ajet1/doc/ajetvolume1no1>

### **Academic article submitted**

2025

Theme: Gender, (Dis) equalities and Inclusion, International Seminar on Social Vulnerabilities and Health 2025

Article Title: The barriers in the female dominated profession of social (care) work towards career progress

## Board Membership

---

### **Secretary of the Board of Director of North West Mental Health s**

Dec 2008 - Apr 2010

December 2008 until April 2010

- Co-ordinating meetings for the board
- Compiling an agenda for the board meetings
- Compiling minutes of the board

### **Secretary of the Board of Tharisepepa Dichaba, Mutual and Co-operative bank**

May 2018 - Mar 2019

- Co-ordinated board meetings, compiled board meetings agenda and minutes
- Compilation and co-ordination of the board' sub-committee's
- Sourcing the board 'sub-committee's reports
- Developing organisational concept documents
- Verifying sub-committee's reports
- Resolving organisational logistics challenges

### **Ministerial appointee on the Council for Higher Education for North West University**

Sep 2025

- Advisory role to the Minister of Higher Education regarding the functioning of the North West University
- Participation in the North West University council's activities
- Providing significant inputs on the decision making processes of the University's council.

## Books

---

**Author of the novel "A Woman 'Scar"** **2015**  
 Available worldwide on Amazon 2015  
<https://www.amazon./awomanscar-Agnes-Palo/dp/15/2239097>

**Book Chapter: Are Higher Institutions of Learning Promoting Digital Literacy and AI Skills Development for Their Employees?**  
 Accepted chapter in Enhancing South African Higher Education through AI and Digital Technologies

## Committee Membership

---

**Y20 working group for the future of work, artificial intelligence and skills development**

**ND20, the rights and inclusion of persons living with disabilities**

## Conference Presentations

---

**IVV International Seminar Social Vulnerabilities and Health, Gender, (In) equalities and Inclusion** **May 2025 - May 2025**  
 May 29, 30 and 31, 2025

**Stellenbosch University, Faculty of Law: 2nd International Conference on Children's Rights** **Sep 2025 - Sep 2025**  
 9-11 September 2025

## Research Projects

---

**UNISA'S Anthropological Research Excursion in Buysdorp** **2007 - 2007**  
 2007

**UNISA Social Work Honours research project into how socio-economic factor affect the mental health of the psychiatrically and intellectually disabled** **2009 - 2009**  
 2009

**The perceptions and needs of entry level social workers in the Matlosana region regarding Continuing Professional** **2013 - 2015**

## **Development**

2013-2015

**Developing guidelines for the use of CPD to empower, reskill and upskill social services professionals in the North West Province**  
2020-2023

**2020 - 2023**

**Covid-19 accelerating the fourth industrial revolution and remote work strategies**  
2021

**2021 - 2021**

**Are Higher institutions of learning promoting digital literacy and artificial intelligence skills development for their employees?**

**2025 - 2025**

Accepted abstract and compiled submitted book chapter 2025

**Are South Africans (SA) Children protected from Artificial Intelligence (AI) 's Use of Online Data for Exploitation Abuse**

**2025 - 2025**

International Conference on Children's rights 2025

## **References**

**Prof Sisheba Makgato (UNISA)**

**Dr Boitumelo Innocent Ramatsetse  
(Stellenbosch University)**

**Dr Noel Shamley (General Practitioner)**

