

CEO'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

27 FEBRUARY 2025

Introduction: The Year of the Snake

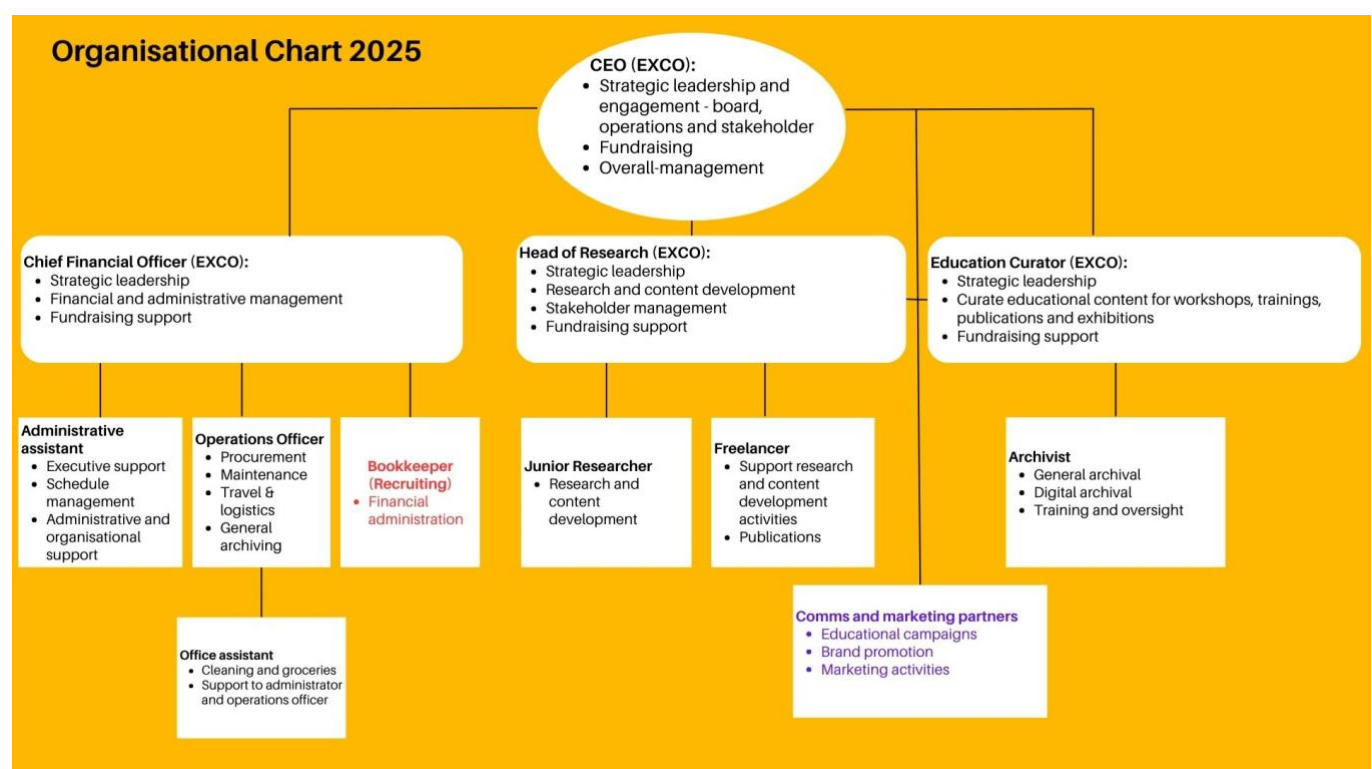
Recently, I had the privilege of visiting Thailand, where the country celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year. This year marks the arrival of 2025, the Year of the Snake. This Chinese zodiac sign heralds a year of wisdom, adaptability, and transformation—fitting for the Constitution Hill Trust. We remain guided by the *wisdom* of our Trustees and partners, prepared to confront and *adapt* to both known challenges and surprises in establishing an ambitious constitutional literacy programme, driven by the imperative to *transform* South Africa through the promotion of knowledge and understanding of the Constitution, its creation, and its undeniable impact on our society.

During this reporting period of December 2024 – February 2025, we worked to improve our operational capacity and efficiencies through a recruitment process of the following positions:

- a. The **Education Curator** is responsible for curating educational content related to the Constitution from the archive for workshops, training sessions, and publications and creating both physical and online exhibitions. Having spent the past year and a half developing a repository of constitutional literacy content, we are now prepared to enhance the teaching of the Constitution in both traditional and innovative ways. We are in the final stages of recruiting for the position, which is expected to commence in March or April 2025.
- b. The **Junior Researcher** supports the Head of Research in conducting studies on case law, developing content, and collecting and analysing data. We are delighted to announce that Mr Fani Miya has been appointed to this position after completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Pretoria and serving as an intern at WeThePeopleSA since 2023.
- c. We have engaged the services of a **research freelancer** commencing in May 2025. The freelancer will analyse content from the 490 interviews for communication and marketing, create Wikipedia entries on the Constitution, and join the writing team for the 490 book.

- d. Kingdom Kome and Podium are our **communications and marketing** partners. They develop social media educational campaigns and promote WeThePeopleSA's efforts through various marketing activities.
- e. We are currently recruiting a **bookkeeper** in collaboration with the FirstRand FirstJob Programme. This initiative aims to provide meaningful work experiences for unemployed graduates and offers the opportunity to undertake role-related and entrepreneurship training. The programme lasts for 12 months, from 1 July 2025 to 20 June 2026.

Our organisational chart for 2025 is as follows:



With a clear understanding of the functionaries who will carry out the work, we have developed workplans for the year and distilled the main projects. We have created a budget that outlines our funded work and the projects that require further fundraising. Below, we review the projects for 2025 and provide progress reports on our programmes from December 2024 – February 2025.

1. CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY

1.1. The 490: Oral History Project

The 490: Oral History project continues to be one of our most important projects in 2025, and it has birthed three critical workstreams.

1.1.1 The 490 interviews

This year, we aim to complete the interview process for members and functionaries of the Constitutional Assembly. We have interviewed 24 of the 80 individuals who agreed to participate in the project. During this reporting period, we were honoured to interview Pat Govender, Susan Rabinowitz, Alexander Erwin, Patricia Fahrenfort, Patricia De Lille, Janet Love, Father Smangalis Mkhathshwa, Nkenke Kekana, Nkateko Nyola, and Roelf Meyer. We were also privileged to have the opportunity to interview our Trustee, Justice Albie Sachs, who narrated the story of the certification of the Constitution.

The Anglo American Foundation grant also supports our communication and marketing campaigns by utilising the interview content. For example, it encompasses podcasting, social media snippets (short-form content), YouTube (long-form content), and the production of segments for broadcast by traditional media, including national and community radio stations.

The project is fully funded.

1.1.2 Wits Digital Dome: The 490 Story

During this reporting period, we have collaborated closely with our partners at WITS to produce a 10 to 15-minute immersive film at the state-of-the-art Wits Anglo American Digital Dome. The film tells the story of how the Constitutional Assembly was a body that truly reflected the diversity of the South African people and their ability to work together for a common purpose. The film draws its storyline from our archives and the content from the 490 interviews.

We are delighted to announce that radio and television personality Anele Mdoda will narrate this historical piece. To ensure maximum visibility and endorsement, the film will be released between October and November 2025 during the G20 Summit. Following the launch, it will be accessible at the Digital Dome for high school students visiting Wits University.

The project costs R2 million, of which we have secured R400 thousand. We are confident we will obtain the remaining funds in the coming months.

1.1.3 The 490 book

We are pleased to report that the Albie Sachs Trust for Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law (ASCAROL) has granted WeThePeopleSA R750,000 to publish a book covering the writing of the Constitution from 1994 to 1996. This book will draw from our archive and the 490 interviews we conducted. The first draft is anticipated to be submitted in January 2026.

1.2. Saturday school: Constitutional literacy Workshops on the Hill

The Constitutional Literacy Workshops (“**CLW**”) project seeks to empower learners by instilling an appreciation for South Africa’s democratic values and history; and educating them about the making of the Constitution, their constitutional rights, and fostering civic engagement. It is supported by Justice Steven Majiedt, who seeks to ensure that present and future generations understand the supremacy of our Constitution, its fundamental importance to South Africa’s democratic project, and the values which underpin a just, free, and fair society.

This CLW project builds on the legacy of the Saturday Workshops and the Bill of Rights Training programme, initiated by the Constitution Hill Education Project and supported by various Justices and clerks of the Constitutional Court. The CLW project will feature interactive training sessions on the Bill of Rights, in addition to tours of the Women’s Jail and the Constitutional Court on Saturday mornings, offering learners exposure to these historic sites and key institutions that underpin South Africa’s democracy. Through the project, learners will gain a deeper understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The Saturday workshops, which underpin the CLW project, aim to initially engage grade 10 learners from non-fee-paying quintile 1 to 3 schools and thereafter broaden the project to other eligible schools within Gauteng and adjacent provinces. To ensure that the CLW project is implemented on a gradual basis, it is proposed that the Saturday workshops be implemented in four phases. The four phases are differentiated in terms of the age of the target learners, the location of the target schools, and the frequency of workshops. Implementation in gradual phases will enable the workshops to be incrementally adjusted to account for any challenges that may arise, as well as iteration of the workshops based on the feedback that is received. This will ensure that the content presented in the workshops is impactful, and that the parties involved in running the workshops have the necessary skills to ensure the workshops’ longevity.

- A. Phase one: Grade 10 learners located in Gauteng will meet bi-monthly. In this initial phase of implementation, set to commence in early **May 2025**, the workshops will be held twice a month and will target **50 high school learners per workshop** from schools within Gauteng province. The rationale for concentrating the first phase on Grade 10 high school learners is that they typically require less direct supervision than younger children. This will allow facilitators to focus on the content of the workshops. Additionally, the content will need to be adjusted to accommodate varying maturity levels among primary school children; beginning with high school learners will give facilitators the chance to refine the content before working with younger children. Due to the logistics involved in hosting learners from different provinces, this pilot phase will restrict participation to schools within Gauteng province. Moreover, to enable facilitators to apply feedback received, which is likely to be extensive during the initial months of implementation, the workshops will take place once a month. Phase one will continue for the remainder of 2025.
- B. Phase Two: High school learners in Gauteng, bi-monthly. Following adjustments to the content and structure of the workshops in Phase One, Phase Two will engage more high school students from various grades. Workshops will be conducted twice a month. This phase will extend for six months (i.e. twelve workshops will be held during this period).
- C. Phase three: Primary and high school learners based in Gauteng will participate bi-monthly. Phases one and two will have led to the development of an efficient system regarding the logistical aspects of hosting the workshops. Should it be necessary to extend the scope of the CLW project, phase three will adapt the workshops to appeal to primary school children. For the reasons outlined below, these will be intermediate and senior phase primary school learners, i.e. learners in grades 4 to 7. During this phase of implementation, the content of the workshops will be modified to cater to younger learners. The workshops will be held bi-monthly, alternating between groups of primary and high school learners. Phase three will last for six months (i.e. 12 workshops will take place in this phase – six for high school learners and six for primary school learners). The facilitators of the workshops will also use phase three to prepare for the logistics of phase four, which will require careful planning in advance.
- D. Phase four: Primary and high school learners located in other provinces, bi-monthly. Phase four will introduce hosting learners from schools located in other provinces. Depending on the distance from the school to Constitutional Hill, the learners may need overnight accommodation and meals or the CLP project team may need to travel to schools in other provinces. In phase four, primary and high

school learners from Gauteng and other provinces will be hosted bi-monthly. As in phase three, the workshops will alternate between primary and high school learners. However, learners from outside of Gauteng will now also be invited to participate. In the initial stages of phase four, the focus will be on inviting learners from neighbouring provinces (such as Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and the North West) to mitigate the administrative tasks associated with hosting learners outside Gauteng. Once an efficient system is established, the workshops will extend to include learners from all of South Africa's provinces. Phase four is the final implementation stage, and the workshops will continue to run in this fashion.

WeThePeopleSA will lead the CLW in collaboration with Justice Majiedt, former and current clerks of the Constitutional Court, Constitution Hill Development Company, and the ALT Africa Foundation. The CLW pilot is fully funded and will run for six months, commencing in May 2025.

1.3. Takalani Sesame Feature film on the Constitution

It is remarkable how focused visibility concerning the Constitution garners interest from various parties, particularly within the education and entertainment sectors. During this reporting period, we have strengthened discussions with Takalani Sesame to develop a feature film based on the Constitution. The full-length feature will draw on some of the seminal Constitutional Court cases from the past 30 years that have impacted South African society. We have also created a database and case summaries of significant instances since the birth of our democracy.

The stars would be Zikwe, Elmo, Kami and the other Takalani characters, alongside human actors, creating a feature film that's in the tradition of movies like "The Muppet Movie", where there's a compelling story with real emotional stakes, mixed in with celebrity appearances and some musical numbers. The emphasis would be on South A talent (including the director, writers and key crew).

This multi-year project will commence in 2025. It involves developing the storyline, writing, and conceptualising the creative treatment for the complete movie script. This project phase will cost R600,000, and we are currently fundraising.

1.4. Distribution of constitutional literacy assets

In 2025, we intend to distribute the following constitutional literacy assets:

NO	ASSETS	QUANTITY	CAPACITY
1.	We The People Curriculum	10 schools/160 learners and training of 40 teachers	Funded
2.	Snakes & Ladders: Bill of Rights Ed	500	Funded
3.	Constitution card matching game	500	Funded
4.	490 Poster	500	Unfunded
5.	Constitutions	5 000	Funded

2. DEVELOPING CONSTITUTION HILL AS A HERITAGE SITE

2.1.1. Public Artworks Programme

The Public Artworks project continues to progress. The current forecast indicates that all the artwork will be finished by April 2025. We have also agreed with the Constitution Hill Development Company that as long as the Visitors' Centre remains unfinished, the artwork will be displayed as a temporary exhibition at Number 4 on Constitution Hill.

In December 2024, we conducted a focus group with Professor Saths Cooper, who served as Vice President of AZAPO in 1983. We also engaged in conversation with Professor Shireen Hassim, an author and historian who has produced work on the Women's Charter, as well as Zeenat Sujee, a feminist attorney from SECTION27, who provided us with insights on women's rights in contemporary South Africa and the intersectional impact of the Women's Charter.

Trustees will remember a change in direction regarding one of the artworks for the We The People Museum. Instead of focusing on the concept of "Constitutional Thinkers," the artwork will be created to illustrate the 1994 Elections and the Constitutional Assembly. In order to integrate the work of our various projects, the 490 interviews have informed the artist briefs for creating this artwork.

The FirstRand Empowerment Foundation fully funds the project.

2.1.2. Placemaking on the Hill

We will start the placemaking project on the Hill in partnership with the Constitution Hill Development Company. The project will be split into two years for completion. This year, the focus will be on installing signage at the various entrances of Constitution Hill and

markers on site. We have developed the scope of work and are finalising the procurement document. The installation is set to begin in April 2025.

The Kresge Foundation fully funds the project.

2.1.3. Flame of Democracy

We continue to maintain the Flame of Democracy, located at Constitutional Square, with the support of our donor, Afrox.

3. ARCHIVE: THE MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION

Stabilising the physical and digital archive remains a multi-year project. Currently, the project is supported by our general funds. Concerted efforts will be made to mobilise resources to support the stabilisation and maintenance of our archives.