Blind SA
Annual Report & Audited Financial Statements
2018/2019

1.1 ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

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Postal Address: Private Bag X9005, Crown Mines, 2025, RSA
Contact Person: Jace Nair (CEO)
Tel: 011 839 1793
Cell: 060 967 0258
Fax: 011 839 1217
Email: ceo@blindsa.org.za
Website: www.blindsa.org.za
Facebook: https://facebook.com/Blind-SA-1777715589132307/

1.2. STATUTORY MANDATE

Blind SA is a national Disable People’s Organisation (DPO) of the blind and for the blind. Established in 1946 as the South African Blind Workers Organisation (SABWO) and became Blind SA in 2004.

Not-for-profit organisation registration number: 000-606 NPO
Public benefit organisation registration number: PBO 130003512
Central Suppliers Database registration: MAAA0497449
B-BBEE: Level 1 2019/2020

1.3. VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Blind SA is to do whatever is necessary or conducive to empower visually impaired people to become economically self-supporting and to live a full and meaningful life as citizens of South Africa.

1.4. MISSION Statement

The mission of Blind SA is to promote the interests of all visually impaired people through the provision of appropriate services -

- To create an informed blind society,
- To enable them to gain meaningful employment,
- To enhance their quality of life, and
- To incorporate them into everyday life.
1.5. SERVICES

Blind SA provides services that seek to empower blind and partially sighted people directly and by training trainers that empower our beneficiaries. The main services are listed below:

- Advocacy, lobbying and self-representation.
- Awareness raising, information dissemination and distribution of information through various publications: Blind SA News, Braillorama, Braillorette, Braille Trumpet, Young Stoners and Parents Network.
- Assistive devices: white canes, liquid level indicators, Mali-Bhala signature guide, braille paper, Tatrapoint brailler and the Braille Me.
- Assistance for learners in special and mainstream schools and student’s registration with tertiary institutions.
- DAISY, audio and Braille production of literature in UBC (unified braille code) in all 11 official languages.
- Provision of study bursaries and loan facilities for the purchase of work and study related items.
- Training in accredited braille and orientation and mobility services and placement in skills training and placement in employment.

Orientation and mobility is a vital service delivered by Blind SA to newly-blinded people
2. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

By Miss Cathy Donaldson (President)

It is my privilege to present another eventful year filled with exciting developments that marked our 72nd Anniversary. In this Annual Report we highlight the achievements for the period 1 April 2018 until 31 March 2019.

Strategic Plans

The strategic plan for 2019-2020 builds upon the strategic plans developed in 2017 which goals continue to provide the framework for the action plans implemented despite the financial constraints and human resources and industrial relations activities.

Governance

The EXCO held monthly skype meetings and physical meetings on 25 June 2018, 28 July 2018, 26 October 2018 and 19 February 2019. During this review, The Advocacy and Information, Braille, Education and ECD, Employment, Legal and Constitutions and FHR Committees also held their meetings and highlights are recorded in this Annual Report. The recruitment of the Youth Committee was initiated after the 72nd General Assembly and inaugurated on 13 April 2019.

Important matters arising from these meetings for this review period include:

The changes proposed to the Terms of Reference of the Braille Committee and a possible name change for the Braille Committee, which will be discussed and adopted at the 73rd General Assembly.

Engaging with the resolutions that were adopted at the Blind SA, Gauteng Department of Education and ICEVI Education Seminar 2017.


Restructuring and right-sizing of our human resources in view of financial constraints.

Implementing the NSF Project of Braille Training, O&M Training and Start and Improve Your Business Training for the twenty-three Blind SA member organisations.

Increasing the sales of the Tatrapoint Braille Writing Machine and the Braille Me Electronic Notetaker and setting up a Braille Me Electronic Group.

Producing the Universal Ballot Template (UBT), IEC Factsheets in accessible formats and being an accredited observer at the National and Provincial Elections (NPE) 2019.

Tender to produce the Vuk'uzenzele Government Newsletter in braille over the next three years awarded to Blind SA.

Hosting a Youth Employment Workshop on 18 June 2019 and an Employment Job Readiness Workshop to be held on 19 July 2019.

Member Organisations

The engagements with our member organisations and the interactions with these organisations indicate that we have twenty-three member organisations. Our programme to develop capacity building programmes commenced with member organisations in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Gauteng.

In an attempt to increase our membership, we have embarked on a campaign to engage with young blind and partially sighted students at tertiary institutions and in this regard, we have visited VUT, UJ, Wits, UNISA and South West College in Gauteng.
Conclusion

The coming months will be filled with a number of activities which include the capacity building workshops for member organisations, the 73rd General Assembly and events to highlight International White Cane Day.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging my appreciation to all members of the EXCO, members of governance, management, staff, volunteers and our donors.

Miss Cathy J Donaldson, Blind SA President

Blind SA won the tender from GCIS to produce the braille edition of the Vuk’uzenzele magazine
3. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The pillars of selfless-service, volunteerism, and commitment drives the growth and development of Blind SA. The strong advocacy initiatives together with sound administration and management propels Blind SA’s zeal to strive for excellence, quality services and ethical standards.

The transformation of Blind SA, to become more representative of the demographics of our country, is high on the agenda of the organisation and is evident in the governance, management and staff composition by furthering the expansion of services to blind and partially sighted beneficiaries, particularly programmes of training and empowerment is focused towards improving the quality of life. Similarly, the programmes of mentorship, coaching, strengthening and capacity building of member organisations will result in more effective leadership and sound and stable member organisations.

The highlights listed in the Annual Report reflect the achievement over the past year and the emphasis in the coming years.

Our appreciation to the broader team at Blind SA including the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), ETDP SETA, NSF, IEC and the many corporates and philanthropic individuals and donors.

Special thanks to EXCO, members of governance, management, staff, media, volunteers, donors and well-wishers for your guidance, support and inspiration.

Jace Nair - CEO
### 4. BRaille SERVICES

#### Production statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Master copy</th>
<th>Duplication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Braille for DBE &amp; PEDs: (examination papers)</td>
<td>Achieved 2800 p.</td>
<td>Achieved 9252 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braille for Special Schools: text books &amp; LTSM</td>
<td>Achieved 12091 p</td>
<td>Achieved 54503 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braille for Business Cards</td>
<td>Achieved 300 names; 75820 cards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper sales</td>
<td>Perkins (Sun offset 140gsm) Achieved 6808 kg Computer continuous (Camelot 135gsm) Achieved 357 boxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Brailler Service &amp; Repairs</td>
<td>Achieved 417 machines repaired and serviced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preparing braille pamphlets in the Braille Printing Division*
5. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

National Skills Fund

The National Skills Fund awarded a twenty-seven-month contract which commenced in December 2018, to Blind SA, to train:

- 50 persons in Braille Grade 1,
- 50 persons in Braille Grade 2,
- 20 persons in Orientation and Mobility and
- 30 persons in Start and Improve Your Business training.

During the financial year, the recruitment and selection of all the candidates from the twenty-three member organisations was finalised. The O&M training of 7 persons in Free State and 10 persons in Limpopo was completed. The remainder of the training will be completed in the new financial year.
City of Johannesburg

Service Level Agreement with the City of Johannesburg was signed in January 2019 for Blind SA to provide 30 beneficiaries from the City of Johannesburg with Skills in Daily Living with the focus on kitchen skills, communication skills, personal grooming, cleaning, washing and ironing skills. The beneficiaries also received basic assistive devices from the City of Johannesburg.
ETDP SETA

The Gauteng Provincial ETDP SETA entered into a Service Level Agreement with Blind SA for the provision of Orientation and mobility training in the two-unit standard based O&M training. The beneficiaries who were trained were from Johannesburg, Daveyton, Sedibeng, Mogale city and Ekurhuleni.

Learning to identify notes - Blind SA produces the Mali-Bhala signature guide that also doubles-up as a note identifier
**Orientation & Mobility statistics**

NSF Limpopo province 10  
NSF Free State province 7  
Absa client 1  
Vaal hospital North West 1  
South West College 2  
Sibokeng Hospital 1  
Enadale 1  
Katlehong 1  
Hammanskraal 3  
Randburg 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>No. of clients</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Whites</th>
<th>Indians</th>
<th>Coloureds</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ekurhuleni</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedibeng</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mogale City</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

172 persons on the database - 86 trained and 80 in training.

5 Awareness events were done: Edu week, UNISA, UJ and 2 events at RTMC (traffic in Pretoria)

**White Cane Day Events**

4 White cane walks were hosted in Ekurhuleni, Orange Farm, Roodepoort and City of Johannesburg, organised from our head office
In 2019, the IEC contracted Blind SA directly to produce the National and Provincial UBT and also to print the NPE Election Factsheets; UBT Instructions; and the National and Provincial List of Political Parties in braille. Blind SA Undertook voter education by 11 Member organisations and staff trained volunteers from Blind SA in 6 Provinces and the volunteers were able to reach 480 blind and partially sighted persons through this training.

As an accredited observer, Blind SA had 36 Observers who visited 172 voting stations in the country. Blind SA lodged an official complaint with the electoral offences directorate in view of many blind and partially sighted voters being discriminated against at the voting stations and not having a secret vote. A comprehensive report was submitted to the IEC on 27 May 2019.

The UBT (universal ballot template) - Blind SA produced 60 000 of these units for use in the May 2019 elections!
Blind SA produced 18 000 braille information brochures for the IEC for the national and provincial election on 8 March 2019.

Blind SA produced the latest Wimpy menu in braille, proudly displayed here by Victoria and Shahieda. We braille the Wimpy, Steers and Mugg & Bean menus.
## 7. BRAILLE TRAINING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date of training</th>
<th>Type of training</th>
<th>Number of candidates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cape</td>
<td>3 to 7 April 2018</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwa Zulu Natal</td>
<td>7 to 12 May 2018</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 to 27 July 2018</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho Education Examination Council</td>
<td>17 to 21 September 2018</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>12 to 16 November 2018</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape</td>
<td>4 to 8 February 2019</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 to 15 February 2019</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
<td>18 to 22 March 2019</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learner Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cape</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwa Zulu Natal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Braille training of teachers at our Schools for the Blind*
World Read Aloud Day - Staff packing large print and braille reading material for the annual World Read Aloud Day, held on 21 February 2019

Proud participants of the World Read Aloud Day
8. PLACEMENT

Presentations and Sensitisation

56 companies

Job Placements:

2 Permanent and 2-part time.

Beneficiaries:

NSF Project Beneficiaries - 88
Braille Training Beneficiaries – 149
ETDP SETA Beneficiaries - 50
CoJ projects Beneficiaries - 30
Study Bursary Project - 55 beneficiaries
World Read Aloud Day Project - 14 Schools 645 Learners.

9. SALE OF BRAILLE ME AND TATRAPoint.

Tatrapoint campaign resulting in sales of 67 Tatrapoint

BrailleMe campaign resulting in sales of 55 BrailleMe and setting up of the Braille Me on-line list by Chairperson of Braille Committee.
10. MEMBER ORGANISATION CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building Workshops

A Capacity building workshop was held on:
9 June 2018 with Gauteng member Organisations
7 August 2018 with Limpopo Member Organisations
9 November 2018 with Limpopo Member Organisations

Meetings were held with South African Vision of the Blind on 17 August 2018 and Zuzulwazi on 18 August 2018. Meeting with Mbombela Blind Association, Kutala Association for the Blind and Lesedi blind was assisted by bringing these member organisations together with a meeting with the Mpumalanga DoH regarding O&M services and general common issues to be coordinated. The meeting was held on 22 March 2019.

VUT: Discussions were held with the coordinator on 4 June 2018.
UJ: The president held discussions with members of DARE on the 31 August 2018 and skills division participated in the open day on 31 August 2018. We visited UNISA on 20 February 2019.

11. FUNDRAISING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fundraising Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embrio Net Income</td>
<td>R907 126.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal fundraising</td>
<td>R1 659 039.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto</td>
<td>R1 159 665.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>R827 000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Fundraising</td>
<td>R2 062 665.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ri Wana Ndivho Book Project:
CONCOR
LEWIS
NASHUA
TFG (FOSCHINI)
LYLAX BEDDING
Sponsorship of 14 African Language titles
12. GIVAUDAN FOUNDATION

Sponsored 41 Tatrapoint

Public Relations, Media, Communication and Social Media

Social Media

3-and-a-half-star rating 1944 followers 1966 likes and 29 social media interventions.
Meropa project reached 700000 persons through digital media.

Newsletters and Magazines as listed below were distributed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magazines</th>
<th>Number of publication a year</th>
<th>Subscribers</th>
<th>Editors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Braillorama</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>Christo de Klerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blind SA News</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>André Vosloo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braillorette</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>Christo de Klerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braille Trumpet</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>Johannes Dube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Stoners</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>Itumeleng Mohale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Media outlets - 233
Media contacts - 341
Media releases sent - 12

Conclusion

“One’s life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, and compassion” Simone de Beauvoir

We live in extremely troubled times both locally, nationally and internationally. We face financial uncertainty in our private and professional lives. Yet though all of this we have had valued donors who have against all odds, stuck with us and made possible the work that we do and selflessly contributed so that we were able to make a difference to the visually impaired people whom we serve.

For your compassion and friendship, and for assisting us through another year, from all of us at Blind SA, please accept a heartfelt THANK YOU, for making it possible. We are humbled by your kindness.
13. GOVERNANCE

Advocacy and Information

Members
Chairperson: Andre Vosloo
Vice Chairperson: Raymond Mabuza
Secretary: Susan Webber

Portfolio Leaders
Access to Government Services, Policy and Legislation: Ntshavheni Netshituni
Access to information/ICT: Christo de Klerk
Social media and publications: Andre Vosloo
Access to the built environment and Public Transport: Tommie Lehmkühl
Women/GBV: Cathy Donaldson
Consumer Matters: Susan Webber
Member: Lekhatla Likhoka

Preamble
The period under review was quite a busy time with a few activities undertaken.

Committee Meetings held
The committee had a physical meeting on 5th May 2018. All were in attendance accept Dibatsela Maabane. The committee met on 15th November 2018 via skype conference. During the meeting the office bearers were elected as well as the portfolio leaders for the next term of office.

External meetings/workshops/conferences
As stated, the committee is quite busy and meetings were attended by all portfolios covering a wide range of topics. Reports for all meetings were circulated and action taken where needed.

Various radio, TV and media interviews were also conducted by myself, Ntshavheni Netshituni, Christo de Klerk, Cathy Donaldson and Jace Nair.

Committee activities
Publishing all activities of Blind SA on various social media platforms:
- ICASA submission 15 January 2019 and Public Hearing on 31 January and 1 February 2019
- SASSA Disability definition 18 January 2019
- Public transport parking discs
- Disability ambassador training for hospitality personnel
- Tourism regarding tourism grading, key card access, braille labelling and training of tourism personnel
- NHI to include persons with disability
- SANTACO MoU 5 December 2018
- Public transport taxi violence
- SASA workshop on social security grants
- Access to banking services – SAHRC, BASA, Standard bank and Absa
- Copyright and Marrakesh Treaty advocacy
- The committee also dealt with the safety of learners at special schools and it was decided that the AIC and Education and ECD committee should take this matter further.
- The closure of the training Centre at Innovation for the Blind was also discussed and it was decided to write a letter to them in which we pointed out that certain aspects of the matter are not legal, such as the selling of the equipment at cheap prices to employees.

Members of the committee also assisted with voter education and training to IEC staff.
CLOSING REMARKS
I would like to thank all members of my committee for your dedication and commitment. Lastly I would like to thank our CEO for his hard work and commitment to Blind SA and all his guidance and advice.

Andre Vosloo - Chairperson

Braille Committee

Committee members
Chairperson: Christo de Klerk
Vice Chairperson: Eric Gama
Secretary: Heaven Botma
New member: December Nkosi

Ex Officio
President: Cathy Donaldson
Vice President: Ntshavheni Netshituni

Preamble
The report covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 including the 72nd General Assembly at which the new committee was elected. Derick Greeff did not make himself available for re-election and I wish to thank him for his valuable and helpful participation over very many years. December Nkosi is the new kid on the block and I welcome him and I am looking forward to his contributions.

Committee Meetings held
The committee had one physical meeting on 23 February 2019. Other business was handled via e-mail.

External meetings/workshops/conferences
Advisory Committee on LTSM: Attended an Advisory Committee meeting with the DBE and other stakeholders on 11 October 2018 to discuss braille production of textbooks and other matters related to the education of blind learners. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee was scheduled for March, but was postponed.
Copyright: attended a meeting of PASA (Publishers’ Association of South Africa) on 10 December 2018 about the Copyright Amendment Bill. Although PASA supports ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, they are dead against adoption of the Bill.
Attended Parliament NCOP on 27th of February 2019 regarding Copyright Amendment Bill.
Attended a workshop on the Copyright Bill on 19 February 2019 at Wits University.
Education colloquium: Attended a colloquium arranged by the University of Pretoria On 22 August 2018 regarding course for teachers of blind learners. The course will have braille as one of its components.

Committee activities
- The Daisy project is to the extent that all magazines are produced in Daisy format, but not much else of any significance. This needs attention.
Braille marketing: The Sponsor a Book – Ri wana ndivho project is in progress. It is unfortunately not providing as much funding as we have been hoping. We need to change the approach and do more face-to-face canvassing. The amount of sponsorship per book is R6000 for Primary School books and R12000 for High School books.

Tatrapoint braille: This project is progressing well and the machines are proving to be rugged and reliable. During this period 67 Tatrapoints were sold.

BrailleMe braille display: The import and distribution of BrailleMe devices from Innovision in India is going well. Those who now own units, are extremely happy with them. An e-mail BrailleMe list for discussions and support was created. During this period 55 BrailleMe were sold.

World Read Aloud Day: Blind SA partnered with Nali’Bali and SABA on 21 February (Mother Tongue Day) to promote a culture of reading at schools for the blind. Fourteen schools with 645 learners participated and it was a great success with Arthur Blaxall School and Prinshof School winning a Tatrapoint each.

Resolutions

As the committee no longer deals with braille matters only, but now also is responsible for the Daisy format which in turn could be used to produce documents in other formats as well and as the committee now also embraces the distribution of devices such as the Tatrapoint braille writer and the BrailleMe note taker, it is recommended that the Blind SA Constitution be amended so that the name of the committee can be changed to be more descriptive of its ambit. The committee recommends the following new name: Committee on Accessible Publications and Equipment/Assistive Devices.

Matters that requires attention

The following matters require attention:
- Matters around the Section 27 court order against the DBE in respect of school textbooks, the deviation order, etc.
- The Copyright Amendment Bill and the Marrakesh Treaty.
- Matters concerning cost efficiency of Braille Services, right-sizing, etc.
- Problems identified in respect of braille training.

General

Now that the functions and responsibilities of the committee have expanded, the committee will have more work and more will be expected from members. We are planning to have quarterly Skype meetings to deal adequately with the bigger work load. I welcome the new committee and trust that it will be a fruitful and effective term of office.

Christo de Klerk - Chairperson
Preamble
I must admit that I feel more positive this year than a year ago. We received a donation for Braille books. We printed textbooks and summaries for 2 adult centres, Bawinile Centre in Pietermaritzburg and Tshimologo Centre in Thaba Nchu. Most adults are going now to centres to write their G12 and we provide the books as far as we can. We are planning to engage a ECD Centre in Orange Farm to enable the Centre to enrol blind and partially sighted young children.

Committee Meetings
Three committee meetings were held by skype: 5 June 2018, 18 September 2018 and 5 December 2018. A physical meeting was held on 23rd February 2019.

Committee Activities
WORLD READ ALOUD DAY
World Read Aloud Day was held on 21st February 2019 to commemorate and promote Mother Tongue Language Day and International Braille Day. Blind SA in conjunction with SA Braille Authority and Nali’Bali hosted a successful World Read Aloud Day with fourteen Schools for the Blind and 645 blind and partially sighted learners participating in reading the story “Where are you” by Ann Walton, illustrated by Rico, and also participated in the spelling and comprehension quiz and a braille treasure hunt. The learners read the story in 7 South African languages.

The schools and learners received the prizes listed below:
All participating schools received a Certificate of Participation
1st Prize: Tatrapoint Mechanical Braille Writing Machine
Awarded to Arthur Blaxall School which had 76 learners and Prinshof School which had 215 Learners, respectively in the category. The highest percentage of participating learners – 100% of learners from Grade 4 to 7;
Participating in all the categories;
Participating in the most number of languages – 5 and 4 languages respectively.

All 14 schools received library books in braille and print for their school library. Learners received prizes for participating in the quiz and braille treasure hunt.

Procedure for enrolment of learners
The committee set up a Task Team (Susan Bam, Johnson Mdluli, Susan van Wyk and Jace Nair) to assist in drawing up a procedure to assist parents and other stakeholders with referrals to professional support and enrolment to special and ordinary schools. The procedure guideline was finalised on 18 January 2019. This guideline will assist parents and other stakeholders with advice, guidance on professional resources and the application forms for enrolment.

Resolutions from the Education Seminar 13-14 February 2017
The Chairperson: Advocacy and Information, Chairperson: Education and ECD and the CEO initiated on 14 February 2019 the setting up of a task team with the chairpersons of Advocacy and Information, Education and ECD, Braille, and Employment together with a representative from the GDE, DBE, OMASA, parent, an educator and principal from a school for the blind in Gauteng. The task team met on 15 March 2019 to pursue with the
identification of the resolutions for immediate implementation and strategy for the way forward. A few of these resolutions deals with identifying learners who are out of school, identifying more accurate statistics, importance of parent’s counselling, educator training, importance of Braille, orientation and mobility, Mathematics and Science, LTSM, technology, assistive devices and Norms and Standards for Special Schools for the Blind.

Learner Assistance
Five parents of pre-school learners were assisted with a home programme from Prinshof School. Eleven primary school learners and their parents were assisted with Special School enrolment. Four adult learners were assisted with Grade 12 at Community Learning Centres and one student was assisted at a tertiary institution.

Rianna Visser, a pastoral councillor, requested details of facilities in Pretoria where a partially sighted intellectually disable young lady of 19 could be accommodated. She was given a referral to facilities. Els de Keijzer from an organisation in the Netherlands, requested assistance for an Eastern Cape grandfather who was taking care of his blind grandchild. The grandchild was at Athlone School for the Blind. The international organisation, Tikoon, agreed to help this learner with his school fees.

External meetings/workshops/conferences
UNISA
A meeting between UNISA and Blind SA was held on 20th February on the Sunnyside Campus in Pretoria. Attendees to this meeting were: Dr Chalufu - Head of Student Affairs, Dr Mohasoa - Acting Director of the Disability Unit, both from UNISA and Christo de Klerk - representing the Advocacy Committee and Susan Bam - Chairperson of the Education and ECD Committee.

At this meeting problems of blind and partially sighted students at UNISA were discussed and the need of a Cooperation MoU between the two parties were discussed.

External Drivers
On 6th March 2019 a meeting was held with the two external drivers, who transport learners of Prinshof School on a weekly basis. The purpose was to streamline the learner schedules and payments.

The Education Committee sponsored 7 learners’ transport to Prinshof and back home over weekends and holidays. We also sponsored one learner’s transport of the Open Air School in KZN.

University Of Pretoria
The meeting with the Pretoria University was on 25 April, 2018, at the Saint George Conference Centre in Pretoria. Members of the EXCO and staff of Blind SA attended this meeting. The University designed a diploma for teachers in special and mainstream schools, who educate visually impaired learners. They will undertake research on the teaching of Visually Impaired learners. The diploma will be a post graduate qualification and the university will also serve as a hub for teachers and students nationally and internationally.

The second meeting was held on 22 August 2018, at the same venue. Staff of the University of Pretoria and stakeholders met to discuss the diploma which they are planning for teachers who teach Visually Impaired learners.

Professor Ronél Ferreira said that they went to 17 schools to hear what teachers had to say about Visual Impairment. They are busy putting our ideas and the ideas of the teachers together to form modules for the diploma.

Meeting with Bawinile Centre
A meeting with the Centre was held on 23 May 2018 in Pietermaritzburg. The Centre caters for Abet levels 1 to 4 and adult G12.

They apparently get good results and recently 2 of their learners are studying further. They are in need of learning material and a Braille embosser. They have 3 trained teachers and volunteer staff. They use their own money to fund many of their projects and even subsidise some learners.

SA Braille Authority (SABA) General Assembly was held in Durban at the UNISA campus on 24th-25th May 2018. The Chairperson of the Education and ECD Committee reported on the World Read Aloud Day and the Training and Implementation Materials Committee of ICEB. The Director of LTSM in DBE, Allan Subban reported that the the DBE is aware of the court action launched by the Blindness Sector.

Committee Activities
Learners and young people were helped.
**Resolutions/Recommendations**

- The CDTC Centre in Braamfontein was closed, because of funds. This is a great problem, because we do not have nursery schools for visually impaired learners. We will have to bring this to the attention of the DBE.
- It was decided that our committee will definitely not help adult learners at home anymore, because it is not feasible and the learner does not cope on his/her own without tutoring.
- Retsohile Support Group reported that there were twenty children of school going age not at school. The Group was advised to encourage parents to take their children of school going age to register at their nearest office of the Department of Education. The matter was referred to the GDE, however, the parents did not provide the names and contact details so that there could be interventions from the GDE.

**GENERAL**

I want to thank my committee, the EXCO, the staff of Blind SA for their advice and assistance which you willingly give to me. Without you our Education work will not be a success.

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*Susan Bam - Chairperson of the Education and Early Childhood Development Committee*

**Employment Committee**

**Members**
Chairperson: Tommie Lehmkühl
Vice chairperson: Mpini Letlhage Secretary: Abraham Allies
Member: December Nkosi
Member: Lekhatla Likhoka
Member: Susan Webber

Sello Mabusela (member – not re-elected)
Hanif Kruger (member-not re-elected)

**Ex Officio**
President: Cathy Donaldson
Vice President: Ntshavheni Netshituni

**Preamble**
It is indeed a pleasure to submit the report of the Employment committee for the above-mentioned period.

**Committee Meetings held**
A Skype meeting was held on 28 February 2019.
At this meeting the following portfolios were designated to the following committee members:

- **Learnerships**: December Nkosi
- **Skills training**: Mpini Lethlage
- **SIYB and cooperatives**: Tommie Lehmkuhl
- **Employment - Public and Private Sector**: Abraham Allies
- **Sheltered and Protective Workshops**: Lekgatla Lekhotla
- **Employment Awareness, Advocacy and reasonable accommodation**: Cathy Donaldson

### External meetings/workshops/conferences

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<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ORGANISER</th>
<th>DATE / VENUE</th>
<th>REPRESENTATIVES</th>
<th>MATTERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Colloquium</td>
<td>University of Pretoria</td>
<td>25 April 2018</td>
<td>A Allies</td>
<td>Development of a post graduate qualification in visual impairment</td>
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<td>Mr C de Klerk</td>
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<td>Mr T Lehmkuhl</td>
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<td>Round table discussion</td>
<td>Communications Forum of South Africa</td>
<td>25 May 2018</td>
<td>T Lehmkuhl</td>
<td>Dialogue between communication providers and the disability sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working relationship with organisations for people with disabilities</td>
<td>Dept Science and Technology</td>
<td>28 Sept. 2018</td>
<td>Mr T Lehmkuhl</td>
<td>DST tries to have a positive and best practice solution in respect of people with disabilities</td>
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<td>Ms P Ramlucken</td>
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<td>Application of the minimum wage</td>
<td>Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration</td>
<td>23 Nov. 2018</td>
<td>Ms P Ramlucken</td>
<td>Application of the minimum wage in the sheltered employment environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Disability Forum</td>
<td>Airports Company South Africa</td>
<td>15 Feb. 2019</td>
<td>Mr T Lehmkuhl</td>
<td>Advisory board regarding disability management</td>
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### Committee activities

- **Database of job seekers** - The database stands at 489 job seekers.

### Interview on Radio Sonder Grense

The chairperson was interviewed by the Afrikaans radio station Radio Sonder Grense regarding employment for visually disabled persons and to raise awareness about their abilities. The interview was broadcast on 21 January 2019.

### Placements

Many positions were identified and CV’s submitted. Two candidates were placed permanently and two candidates were placed in part-time positions.

### Full-time placement officer

The full time placement officer has been working for a year and three months. The placement officer has conducted various awareness raising and sensitisation sessions. Eleven companies were assisted with reasonable accommodation measures in respect of their visually disabled employees.

### Entrepreneurship training

The Start Your Own Business project, which is aimed at equipping trainers with the skills to facilitate this course, will be facilitated during July 2019. It is envisaged that these trainers will be able to train other visually disabled people in the skills of starting and running a small business, thereby minimising the need for traditional employment.
Recognition of employers
On 7 September 2018 a delegation from Blind SA, including the president, CEO and chairperson of the Employment Committee, visited the premises of Lixil, previously known as Cobra Taps. A certificate was handed over to the company in recognition of the appointment and retention of blind and partially sighted people for more than 40 years.

Resolutions/Recommendations
That the problems experienced by visually impaired people regarding public transport and the negative impact that these challenges pose in respect of their ability to commute to and from the workplace be addressed through awareness raising and advocacy.

Tommie Lehmkuhl - Chairperson

14. TREASURE’S REPORT
Finance and Human Resource Committee (FHR)

Committee Members
The FHR Committee was elected by the Executive Committee in 2018. Members were:
Mr Derick Greeff (Chairperson)
Ms Cathy Donaldson
Mr Ntshavheni Netshituni
Mr Christo de Klerk
Mr Jace Nair
Ms Ria Vermaak

Meetings:

The main task of the members was to monitor the finances of the organisation. Each member attended to a section of the work. These included monitoring of the monthly financial statements, preparing reports and monitoring the debtors list and age analysis. With these monthly reports, it was hoped that members could gain an overview of the financial status of the organisation for that period.

Important decisions/resolutions taken:

Application to the National Skills fund (NSF)
The NSF awarded a grant of R3,122,926.92. The programme will consist of four projects and will run over 24 months with an additional three months to wind up the full programme to be finalised on 31 December 2020. The programme will allow a 7.5% management fee of which 10% will be retained until the full programme has been completed and all reports acceptably submitted. The four projects within the programme will deal with grade one braille training for 50 individuals, grade two braille training for 50 individuals, O&M training for 20 individuals and SIYB income generating craft training for 30 individuals.
Application to the National Lottery
The National Lottery allocated R1,159,665 to Blind SA. The funds were used to purchase a Toyota Etios, machinery for Braille Services and certain operating expenses.

St. Dunstan
Blind SA was successful in its motivation for the subsidy from the John and Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust. The Trust awarded a subsidy of R333,480 to Blind SA for a portion of the salaries of three O&M Practitioners.

Report on Student Bursary
The General Assembly of October 2017 recommended that the amounts paid per study bursary be raised to a more realistic figure. It was resolved that the amount for bursaries be increased to R8,000 per bursary and R4,000 for part-time bursaries.

The team to allocate bursaries has also been expanded to be as transparent as possible. It was also envisaged to accommodate all of the demographics and various institutions around the country to assure an equal distribution of the bursary fund.

Bequest reserve of R4.9M as an historic amount as well as a building reserve fund of over R2.0M. in consultation with the auditors and EXCO Committee, it was resolved that the bequest and building reserve funds as per the audited financial statements of 2018, be phased out over a number of years in consultation with the auditors.

Finance policies
Fin01 Policy and procedures on finance was finalised and approved on 27 July 2019.

Summary of the Audited Financial Statements 31 March 2019
The audited annual financial statements consist of several reports, of which two are the reports of the Independent Auditor and the General Assembly. The remaining reports deal with the various aspects of the financial affairs of Blind SA. The two supplementary schedules at the end of the statements do not form part of the financial statements, and are therefore unaudited. These statements are:

Detailed income statement and manufacturing statement
Our annual financial statements were prepared by Ms Ria Vermaak, Accountant of Blind SA and Head of the Finance Department and audited by Mahdi Meyer Steyn, Chartered Accountants Inc.

The revenue for the year was R9,128,740 compared to R7,986,287 for 2018 or 14% increased.
The cost of sales (production costs) was (R12,373,057) compared to (R11,396,841) for 2018 or 8.5% increased.
The gross deficit was therefore (R3,244,317) compared to (R3,410,554) for 2018 or 4.87% increased.
Other income was R12,370,336 compared to R12,498,331 or 1.02% increased.
Operating expenses were (R9,716,948) compared to (R8,856,997) for 2018 or 9.7% increased.
The operating deficit for the year is therefore (R590,929) compared to a profit of R230,780 for 2018.
Add to this investment revenue of R20,446 compared to R11,649 for 2018, then the deficit for the year was (R570,483) compared to a surplus of R242,429 for 2018.
As an overall picture, we see that total income was at R21,519,522 compared to R20,496,267 for 2018 or 4.99% increased.
Expenditure for the same period was (R22,090,005) compared to (R20,253,838) for 2018 or 9.06% increased.

I trust you will find the above information and the audited financial statements which appear in the following pages, informative and that it will provide you with a broad outline of the financial status of Blind SA.

Derick Greeff (Treasurer)