



Louis Braille: A miniature painting on ivory by French painter Lucienne Filippi (1852)



The stone house in Coupvray, France, where Louis Braille was born is now a museum in honour of his life and work. The marble plaque, in French and English, reads: "In this house on January 4, 1809 was born Louis BRAILLE the inventor of the system of writing in raised dots for use by the blind. He opened the doors of knowledge to all those who cannot see."

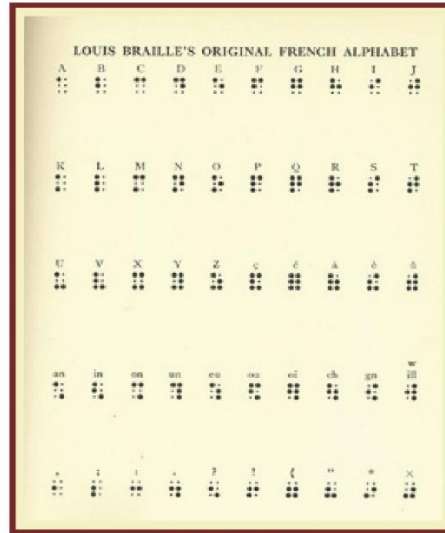


The original workshop building with period furniture and tools where the young Louis injured his eye, which led to infection and his total blindness by age 4.



LOUIS BRAILLE

4 January 1809 - 6 January 1852



Louis Braille died in 1852, and fifteen years later a monument in his honour was erected in the Coupvray town square. A bust of Louis Braille is at the top of the monument, with a bas-relief of Louis teaching a young student his dot system on the front panel. The stone base bears this inscription: Braille, les Aveugles Reconnaisants
Translation: To Braille, in gratitude from the Blind.

With Compliments



BLIND SA

Established 1946

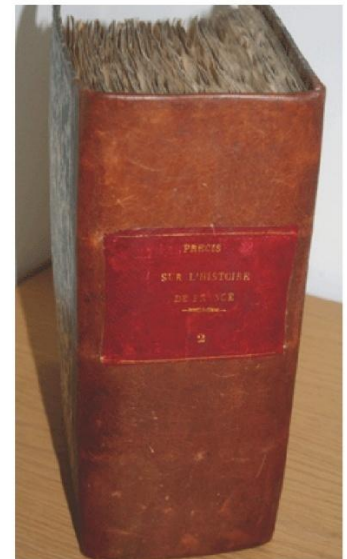
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Louis Braille: A charcoal sketch by American artist Nancy Lucas Williams (1998). The original can be viewed at the Louis Braille School in the USA.



Various raised script methods were in use before Louis' raised dot invention. Depicted here is the first page of Sebastian Guille's book "A Historical Explanation on Teaching Blind Youth" (Notice Historique sur L'Instruction des Jeunes Aveugles), 1819, using Valentin Haüy's embossing technique of the time.



"A Brief History of France" (Precis Sur L'Histoire De France), the first full-length book produced using the Braille dot system, was published by the National Institute for Blind Youth in 1837. There are only 3 known copies in existence.

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Blind South Africa & Braille Services, Johannesburg, SA (www.blindsa.org.za)



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4. Message from the President: Mr Christo De Klerk

It is with deep honour and responsibility that I present the President's Report for the year ending 31 March 2025. This reporting period has been one of both remarkable achievements and significant challenges for Blind SA, reflecting the resilience of our organisation and the enduring commitment of our members, staff, and partners to advancing the rights and wellbeing of blind and partially sighted persons in South Africa.

Throughout the year, Blind SA continued to champion inclusivity, accessibility, and empowerment. Notable achievements include:

- **Advocacy and Policy Engagement:** We played a central role in advancing critical policy issues affecting persons with visual disabilities, including accessible transport, inclusive education, employment equity, and electoral participation. Our Advocacy and Information Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of blind and partially sighted people were heard at both national and provincial levels.
- **Braille Services:** The Braille Services Division expanded access to accessible formats, ensuring that blind learners and adults had greater access to textbooks, literature, and other vital reading materials. The Antonette Botha Braille Museum continued to preserve and showcase the heritage of Braille, attracting growing interest from schools, universities, and community groups.
- **Youth :** The Youth Committee strengthened its role as a vital platform for young blind people to engage, lead, and influence. Programmes provided opportunities for skills development, peer support, and advocacy capacity building, equipping the next generation with tools to take the movement forward.
- **Skills Development and Training:** Blind SA's training programmes in Braille literacy, ICT, and life skills reached new beneficiaries, supporting their independence and employability. We are particularly proud of the strides made in research and innovation to align training with current socio-economic demands.
- **Economic Empowerment:** The year saw continued progress in supporting blind entrepreneurs and jobseekers. Initiatives such as the Monate Sensory Flavours Training and partnerships with private and public entities provided meaningful pathways to economic participation.
- **Community Programmes and Development Work:** Our branches and committees continued to drive grassroots engagement, hosting Provincial General Assemblies, youth and women empowerment activities, and outreach programmes that strengthened Blind SA's presence in communities.



Blind SA upheld principles of good governance, accountability, and transparency, guided by our Constitution and policies. The Executive Committee (EXCO), supported by various sub-committees, ensured effective oversight of the organisation's operations and finances.

Despite a challenging funding environment, Blind SA has remained steadfast in pursuing financial sustainability. Through prudent management and active fundraising efforts, we have continued to deliver services while exploring innovative partnerships to strengthen long-term viability.

The year was not without difficulties. Financial constraints, staff capacity limitations, and the broader socio-economic pressures facing the disability sector posed ongoing challenges. Nonetheless, these hurdles also presented opportunities to rethink our strategies, adapt, and innovate in ways that will ultimately strengthen the organisation.

On behalf of Blind SA, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, whose commitment and passion remain the backbone of our success. To the members, branches, committees, and volunteers – thank you for your unwavering support

and active participation. We are equally grateful to our partners, donors, and stakeholders, whose contributions make it possible to continue our mission.

A special word of thanks goes to the CEO, Jace Nair, and the Exco members for their leadership, vision, and collective dedication to Blind SA's values.

Together, we move forward with courage and hope, committed to building a society in which blind and partially sighted South Africans enjoy equal opportunities, dignity, and independence.

Mr Christo de Klerk
President
Blind SA

5. Message from the Chief Executive Officer: Mr Jace Nair

The year under review was undoubtedly the most challenging from a financial perspective for Blind SA. The decrease in the DSAC grant of over R1 M, reduction in donor contributions due to the poor and unsatisfactory postal services and the increased demand for services from young adults losing their sight and requiring rehabilitation, education, training and economic empowerment placed enormous stress on already strained resources. Despite these severe constraints, the Blind SA team were able to exceed the targets in reaching over totals 8211 blind and partially sighted beneficiaries and their families and other stakeholders.



Beneficiaries Reached – Year Ending 2024/2025

- Black beneficiaries: 8,047
- White beneficiaries: 164
- Women beneficiaries: 5,091
- Men beneficiaries: 3,120
- Total beneficiaries: 8,211

Listed in the pages that follow are the statistics and reports of the operations by our staff, committee members, volunteers and donor community.

My appreciation to the President, Christo de Klerk, office bearers, executive, staff, volunteers and our supporters. Special thanks to our donors, especially Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSAC), Finance and Accounting SETA (FASSET) and our numerous donors from the private and public sector, including the general public.

Mr Jace Nair
CEO
Blind SA

6. Who We Are

6.1 Statutory Mandate

Blind SA was established in 1946 as the South African Blind Workers' Organisation and changed its name to Blind SA in 2004. It is recognised as a national DPO of and for blind and partially sighted persons.

- NPO Registration Number: 000-606
- Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) Number: 130003512
- Central Supplier Database Registration: MAAA0497449
- B-BBEE Level: Level One (135% B-BBEE procurement recognition)

6.2 Vision Statement

To do whatever is necessary or conducive to empower blind and partially sighted people to become economically self-supporting and to live a full and meaningful life as citizens of South Africa.

6.3 Mission Statement

To promote the interests of all blind and partially sighted people through the provision of appropriate services:

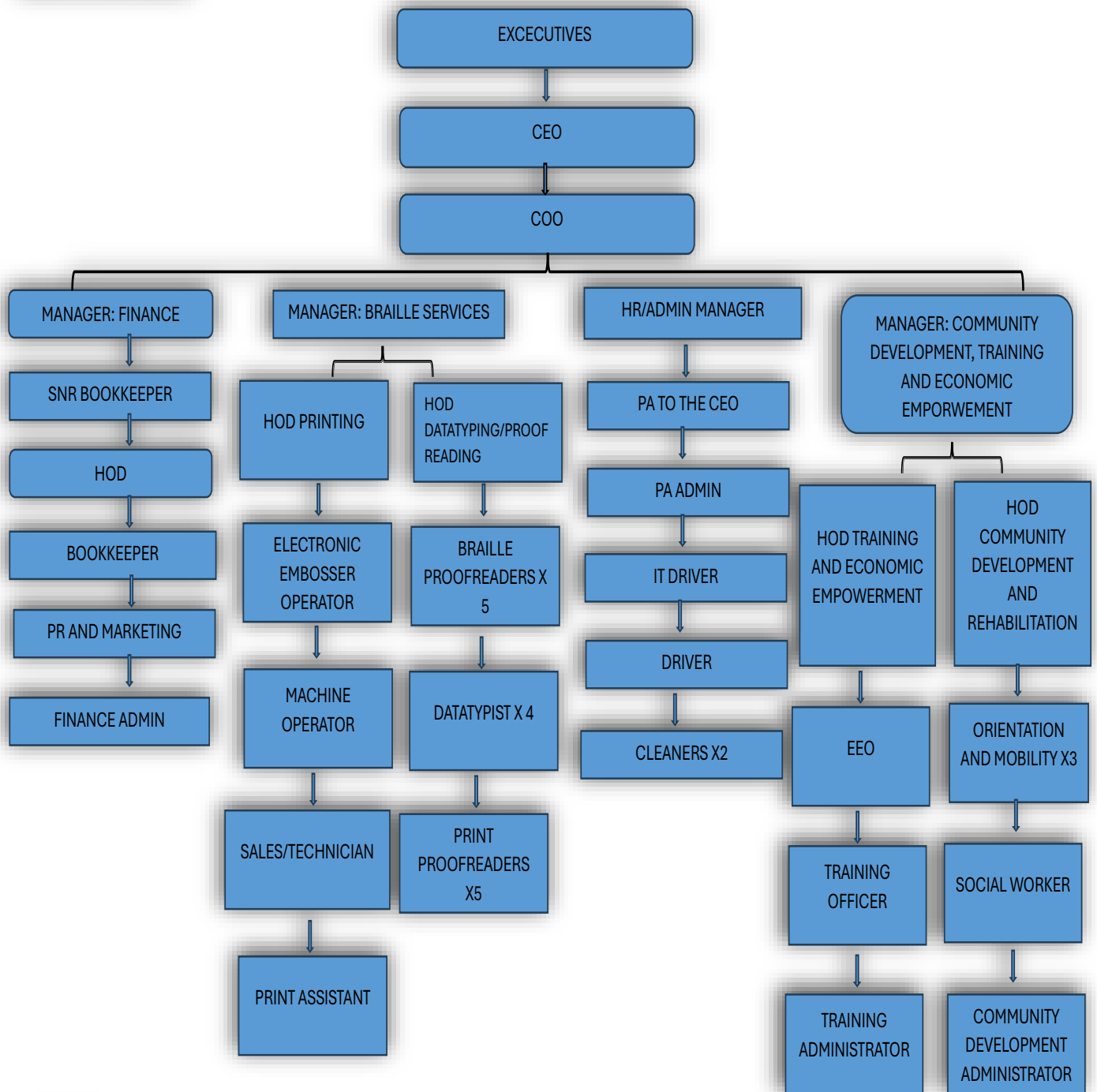
- To create an informed blind society
- To enable them to gain meaningful employment
- To enhance their quality of life
- To incorporate them into everyday life

6.4 Services Provided

- Advocacy, lobbying, and self-representation.
- Awareness-raising, information dissemination, and distribution of information through various publications: Blind SA Newsletter, Brailorama/Braillorette, Braille Trumpet/Young Stoners, and EmbraceAbility, Parents Network Newsletter.
- Assistive devices: white canes, liquid level indicators, Mali-Bhala signature guide, braille paper, Tatrapoint Brailier, and the Braille Me braille display.
- Assistance for learners in special and mainstream schools and student registration with tertiary institutions.
- DAISY, audio and braille production of literature in unified braille code (UBC) in all the official languages.
- Provision of study bursaries.
- Training in ETDP SETA-accredited braille and orientation and mobility services and placement in skills training and placement in employment.
- Training in ILO-accredited Small Business Development in Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB).
- Blind SA Bookshare electronic accessible library service.
- Antoinette Botha Braille Museum.

6.5 Organisation Structure.

BLIND SA ORGANOGRAM



AS OF 1ST APRIL 2025

7. OPERATIONAL REPORT

The **2024/2025** Strategic Plan was implemented successfully, addressing:

- Governance, accountability, and compliance.
- Empowerment of blind and partially sighted persons through training, employment, advocacy, and accessible publishing.
- Organisational visibility and resource mobilisation

7.1 Governance and Oversight

Efforts were directed at strengthening governance and management systems, ensuring transparency and alignment with the Blind SA Constitution and statutory obligations. Resolutions of the General Assembly and Executive Committee were diligently implemented.

7.2 Empowerment and Inclusion

Advancement of inclusive education, employment, advocacy, and accessible information empowered blind and partially sighted persons to fully participate in society.

7.3 Fundraising and Visibility

Increased efforts in donor engagement, social media visibility, and strategic communication channels enhanced financial sustainability and awareness.

7.4 Operational Oversight and Divisional Meetings

Braille Services Division Meetings held:

12 April, 10 May, 6 June, 5 July, 16 August, 13 September, 10 October, 15 November, 5 December 2024, 24 January, 7 March and 3 April 2025.

Administration Division Meetings held:

12 April, 17 May 2025, 12 July, 16 August, 16 September, 11 October, 15 November, 9 December 2024, 14 February 2025.

Skills Development Division Meetings held:

19 April, 3 May, 7 June, 17 July, 7 August, 13 September, 5 November 2024, 9 December 2024, 16 January; 3 February; 26 February and 26 March 2025.

Staff Management Meetings held:

2 May, 7 June, 27 August, 26 September, 30 October, 26 November, 10 December 2024, 28 January; 28 February; 18 March (Special meeting) and 27 March 2025.

7.5 Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

OHS Meeting: 24 April 2024, 21 August 2024, 5 February 2025 and the Fire Extinguishers Serviced: May 2024

8. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

8.1 Braille Services Division

8.1.1 Introduction

Blind SA's Braille Services Division continues to empower the visually impaired by producing braille, large print, and audio materials—ensuring equal access to information and literacy.

Braille Services is the largest production facility in Africa for braille and other accessible formats, including educational resources such as textbooks, children's literature, informational pamphlets, and more. Our mission is to convert existing materials into braille, large print, and audio formats—ensuring equitable access to information for persons who are blind or partially sighted.



Figure 1 Braille Services

8.1.2 STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Objective	Target	Achievement April 2024 to March 2025
Master pages produced	45 590	38 008
Job Cards	400	409
Students & individuals	11 000	15 123
Special Schools and DBE Text Books	7 500	2 641
Commercial Printing: Government brochures and Vuk'uzenzele, menus, annual reports, etc.	9 000	9 791
Braille business cards:	110	116
Blind SA Administration and Skills Development Division	8150	9 591
Braille Magazines and Calendars (Brailorama, Braille Trumpet, Blind SA News):	1750	1 976
Large Print Master Pages	8 000	8 007 p.
Audio Masters:	477,5	500
Duplication Page Produced	1 674 050	1 674 050
Students & Individuals:	14 000	16 763
Special Schools and DBE Text Books:	75 000	18 100
Commercial Printing: Government brochures and Vuk'uzenzele, menus, annual reports, etc.	1 050 000	751 442
Braille business cards:	20 000	32 604
Blind SA Administration and Skills Development Division	85 000	88 430
Braille Magazines and Calendars (Brailorama, Braille Trumpet, Blind SA News):	450 050	554 204
Large Print Duplication Pages	143 000	143 607
Audio Duplication (copies)	230	1093
Audio: The following monthly magazines are produced and uploaded onto Blind SA's website: Braille Trumpet, Brailorama, and Blind SA News	38	38

8.1.3 Paper Sales

Blind SA is a major supplier of braille paper to our special schools for the blind, blind individuals, government departments and companies employing blind persons. Paper sales showed a marked increase, with one export order to Mozambique during this reporting period. The final figures are:

Description	Target	Achievement April 2024 to March 2025
Flat Sheets	5000 kg	2420 kg
Boxes fan-fold	100 boxes	130 boxes

8.1.4 Accessible Magazines

Blind SA continues production and free distribution of *Brailorama*, *Braille Trumpet*, *Blind SA Newsletter*, and *Vuk'uzenzele*. These are also available as DAISY audio files.

Magazines	Subscribers	Master-Pages	Duplication-Pages
Brailorama	162 (192)	792 (808)	128 304 (158198)
Blind SA newsletter	199 (236)	444 (344)	88 356 (38852)
Braille Trumpet	354 (376)	666 (732)	235 764 (26 3220)
Vuk'uzenzele	453 (510)	1 112 (1424)	541 185 (801 356)
Annexures	Various	79 (58)	23 166 (39400)

8.1.5 Year-on-Year Comparison:

2024/25	1 674 050 p.
2023/24	1 600 633 p.
2022/23	2 007 255 p.
2021/22	2 398 633 p.
2020/21	1 835 938 p.

8.1.6 Braille Calendar

The 2025/26 Braille Calendar was distributed: 2,100 pocket-size and 1,000 standard-size copies. Blind SA remains the sole producer of braille calendars in South Africa.

8.1.7 Blind SA Bookshare Project

Launched on 26 October 2020, the Bookshare initiative aims to convert and upload South African titles as ePub files, accessible to visually impaired subscribers.

- Initial goal: 700 titles (achieved in November 2022)
- Total by March 2023: 948 titles
- Total by March 2024: 1,861 titles
- New titles uploaded (2024/25): 287
- Cumulative total by March 2025: 2,148 unique South African titles
- Current South African subscribers: 741, up from 692 in the previous year

8.1.8 Antonnette Botha Braille Museum (ABBM)

The Antonnette Botha Braille Museum (ABBM), established in 2022 at Blind SA House, continued to preserve and promote the heritage of Braille during the 2024/2025 financial year. The museum welcomed 84 visitors, reinforcing its role as an educational and cultural hub. Its fully displayed and well-curated collection, ranging from historic Braille writing machines and publications to modern embossers, tactile graphics, and assistive technologies, provided a comprehensive view of Braille's evolution and impact. With accurate identification and contextual artifacts from Blind SA's history, the museum ensured an informative visitor experience. ABBM remains a vital custodian of Braille's legacy, upholding its motto, "Vitality in Every Touch."

8.1.9 Conclusion

The 2024/25 reporting period reflects notable growth in braille, audio, and large print production, affirming our commitment to bridging the information gap for print-disabled readers. Of particular significance is the Blind SA Bookshare Project, to which considerable staff time and resources have been allocated, affirming its strategic priority for Braille Services.

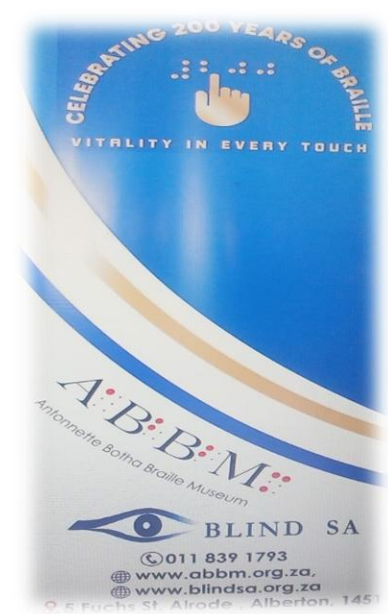
The establishment and sustained operation of the Braille Services Division is more than an organisational initiative—it is a transformational endeavour that promotes inclusivity, accessibility, and the independence of persons with visual impairments. Through continued advocacy and innovation in accessible formats, Blind SA plays a fundamental role in enhancing the educational, social, and professional outcomes of its stakeholders.

We acknowledge and appreciate the guidance of the Executive Committee, the leadership of CEO Mr. Jace Nair, and the support from Mr. Eric Gama, Chairperson of the Committee for Accessible Publications, Equipment and Assistive Devices (CAPEAD). We also extend our sincere gratitude to the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for their continued support.

In closing, the future we envision is one where every individual—regardless of visual ability—can access information, exercise autonomy, and meaningfully contribute to society.

Mr Ofentse Manyane

Manager: Braille Services, Blind SA



8.2 SKILLS, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

8.2.1 Introduction

Skills, Training, and Development continues to serve as a driving force behind Blind SA's mission to empower blind and partially sighted individuals through inclusive training, economic empowerment and rehabilitation services. During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the Division expanded its impact through targeted interventions, accredited training, strategic partnerships, and holistic beneficiary support. By aligning our programmes with national skills development goals and disability equity priorities, we are not only bridging accessibility gaps and also building pathways to independence, employability, and dignity. This year's achievements reflect the resilience of our beneficiaries, the dedication of our facilitators, and our commitment to creating an inclusive and economically active society.



Figure 2 Braille Grade 1 Training

The Skills Development and Training Division plays a pivotal role in empowering the visually impaired community across South Africa through a comprehensive range of services and capacity-building programmes. The division focuses on promoting independence, employability, and entrepreneurship through the following key services:



Figure 3 Computer training

Braille and Computer Literacy Training

Providing foundational and advanced training in Braille and computer usage to support academic, professional, and daily communication needs.



Figure 4 Orientation and Mobility Training

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) and Skills of Daily Living (SDL) Training

Equipping individuals with the necessary skills to navigate their environments safely and independently while mastering essential daily tasks.

Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training

Delivering accredited entrepreneurial training to aspiring and existing blind and partially sighted business owners, focusing on business planning, management, and sustainability.



Figure 5 White Cane Manufacturing



Figure 6 Blind SA SMMEs during exhibition at Nelson Mandela University in 2024

Economic Empowerment and SMME Incubation Projects

Facilitating access to enterprise development opportunities through small business incubation, mentorship, and strategic partnerships to enhance economic participation.

8.2.2 Consolidated statistics for Skills development and Training.

Programme	Annual Target	Achievements
Braille Grade 1	150	55
Braille Grade 2	55	28
Technical Braille	5	11
Tactile Graphics	5	0
Accredited computer training	360	353
Smartphone training	90	69
Other training	140	1462
Research	0	144
To the recruitment of blind and partially sighted beneficiaries	2000	
To train beneficiaries in Orientation & Mobility skills.	120	204
To train beneficiaries in skills of daily living	85	123
To run 5 awareness campaigns with 75 people regarding the white cane	675	387
Eye and disability awareness	225	852
Services to Professionals, Families, Old age home and support visits	225	275
Identifying and recruiting potential trainees for business training.	200	0
Train beneficiaries in Start Your Business Training (SYB)	60	0
Train Beneficiaries in Improve Your Business (IYB)	20	0
SMME Development and Support, Detergent manufacturing, Sewing, Beadwork and Leather work. Crop Making	130	124
Create a Blind SA Database system and assist SMME owners to register on the Central Supplier Database (CSD).	40	15
Assistance and support on registering with CIPC	4	3
Assistance and support on registering with central database	4	1
Obtain CV's of job seekers, edit and update.	60	147
Create and maintain job seekers' database.	50	115
Supporting job seekers to register on various job portals	30	113
Job Readiness Training	40	132
Trained beneficiaries in sensory flavours	30	67
CV's matched with Job opportunities	20	43
Direct job applications by candidates	140	47
Finding opportunities and placement in employment for Job seekers in private and public sectors	60	43
Place blind and partially sighted persons' in Supported Employment Enterprises (SEE).	4	0
Provision of support to employed Blind and Partially Sighted persons.	4	37
Identify learnerships and internships in which Blind and partially sighted persons can participate.	1	14
Identify internships in which Blind and partially sighted persons can participate.	1	19
TOTAL	4922	4883

8.2.3 Training

During the reporting period, the Training Division successfully implemented a comprehensive range of programmes aimed at empowering blind and partially sighted beneficiaries across various age groups, genders, races, and disability types. Key milestones included the revision of the FASSET implementation plan project, extended to conclude in March 2025, and the initiation of various accredited training programmes.

Significant progress was made in digital skills development, with the commencement of accredited computer training in partnership with Transnet and the continuation of computer skills transfer through both online and face-to-face modalities. The division also facilitated smartphone training sessions throughout the province, transitioning several sessions to online platforms to enhance accessibility and reach. In addition, the team conducted app accessibility reviews and incorporated feedback from EISA to improve training materials.

The division maintained a strong focus on braille education, drafting and revising question papers and memoranda for Grade 1 braille, assisting with braille mathematics materials, and supporting the KZN Department of Education with Grade 1 and 2 accredited braille training. Efforts continued with the review and restructuring of Grade 2 braille modules, alongside the design and delivery of new braille skills transfer courses.

Several targeted projects and special initiatives were successfully executed, including the launch of short two-week training programmes for new intakes, site visits for LEGO braille bricks

project implementation, and the planning and delivery of training for FASSET learners covering skills such as PowerPoint, Gmail, Google Drive, Windows, internet usage, and smartphone operation for online group training.

Operational support activities included technical testing and support for FASSET learners, coordination of the Ekurhuleni training proposal with finance (which was approved and is awaiting purchase order), and the scheduling of Smart Monday webinars to broaden learner engagement. The division also facilitated virtual and face-to-face certificate handovers and managed learner registrations in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Special projects such as the Kada device testing, coordination of the Lesotho project, and support for the Uganda braille initiative were also actively managed. The division played a key role in organizing stakeholder events and participating in expos to showcase innovations relevant to blind and visually impaired learners.

Beneficiary Overview

The Training Division reached a total of 2,121 beneficiaries during the reporting period, demonstrating significant outreach and impact. The gender distribution was balanced, with 1,011 females and 1,110 males benefiting from various training programmes. Age demographics showed a nearly even split between youth (16–35 years) accounting for 1,044 beneficiaries and adults (36 years and above) numbering 1,077.

Regarding disability classification, 2,079 beneficiaries were blind or partially sighted, with the remainder comprising individuals with other disabilities or no disabilities. The racial profile indicated that 1,999 beneficiaries identified as Black, while 122 were White.



Figure 7 Blind SA and FASSET Award Ceremony

Braille Training

Braille training showed steady progress with 55 beneficiaries completing Grade 1 training against a target of 150, and 28 completing Grade 2 out of a target of 55. Technical Braille training exceeded expectations with 11 beneficiaries trained against a target of 5. However, tactile graphics training was not conducted during the period, falling short of the target of 5.



Figure 9 Braille Training



Figure 8 Braille Training

ICT Training

In ICT skills development, the division nearly met its accredited computer training target, with 353 beneficiaries completing training out of 360 targeted. Smartphone training was completed by 69 learners, nearing the target of 90. Additionally, 1,462 beneficiaries acquired other digital skills, including Gmail, Google Drive, and cybersecurity fundamentals.

Research and Special Projects

A total of 144 beneficiaries participated in research-related activities, encompassing FASSET research, LEGO education projects, and focus groups. Contributions were also made towards adult education and app accessibility assessments, supporting ongoing improvements to training materials and delivery methods.

8.2.4 Rehabilitation

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the Rehabilitation Services Programme engaged with a total of 1,840 beneficiaries, significantly exceeding the annual target of 1,330. The demographic profile of beneficiaries demonstrated a balanced gender distribution, with 1,015 females and 825 males participating in the programme. Age-wise, 809 beneficiaries were classified as youth (aged 16–35), while 1,031 were adults aged 36 and above. Racially, the majority of beneficiaries were Black (1,778), with White beneficiaries accounting for 63 individuals. Regarding disability status, 698 beneficiaries were blind or partially sighted, 46 had other disabilities, and 1,096 were non-disabled individuals, many of whom were reached primarily through awareness and community education initiatives.



Figure 10 Orientation and Mobility training

Programme performance reflected strong achievement across various service areas. Recruitment efforts surpassed targets with 240 individuals recruited against a target of 205. The selection and pre-assessment stage closely approached its goal with 196 completions. Orientation and Mobility (O&M) training was notably successful, delivering services to 204 beneficiaries, well above the target of 120. Skills of Daily Living training also exceeded expectations with 123 participants, surpassing the target

of 85. The total training services sub-total reached 327 beneficiaries compared to the 205 targets. Awareness campaigns were extensive and impactful, reaching 1,514 individuals, surpassing the target of 1,125. Additionally, the programme produced 13 public relations articles and submitted six funding applications, contributing to ongoing programme expansion and stakeholder engagement.

Key achievements during the period included the delivery of training and assessment services across multiple provinces such as Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Free State. The programme facilitated voter education training for over 50 beneficiaries from groups including Blind Cricket, Rebone Kganya, the City of Johannesburg municipality, and Acorn Bush. A contractual agreement with the City of Johannesburg was secured for the training of 36 beneficiaries, with implementation scheduled to commence in April 2025. Numerous beneficiaries were referred for complementary training in braille, smartphone use, and computer skills.

Additional highlights included the assessment and referral of seven blind children to the education committee, recruitment of seven blind children into rehabilitation services, and the placement of two beneficiaries in practical training preparing cars at a panel beating workshop. Orientation support was provided for beneficiaries transitioning to new training environments. Two O&M practitioners successfully renewed their assessor certifications, and fifteen assessments were conducted online for the National ETDP SETA project.

The department's community engagement efforts were robust. Eye care awareness sessions were conducted at Randburg Clinic, and rehabilitation services were presented online to a Cape Town-based Rehabilitation Centre. Public awareness initiatives were held at Randburg Clinic, Sebokeng Hospital, and other centers, while staff sensitization on blindness and appropriate communication techniques was delivered to hospital personnel. The department actively participated in national campaigns and advocacy events, including Disability Indaba, World Sight Day at



Figure 11 Skills Of Daily Living Training

the University of Pretoria, and White Cane Awareness Day in Thokoza. Outreach extended to family support, as demonstrated by involvement with playgroups for blind children in Alberton.



Figure 12 White Cane Walk In Bushbuckridge and CoJ municipality

Strategic partnerships with organisations such as EISA, ETDP-SETA, and the IEC supported training activities, election observation, and software implementation. The department liaised closely with EISA for training observers on the Popola software, assisting facilitators with organisation and supporting sensitisation training. Communication challenges with the IEC were collaboratively addressed to resolve observer registration issues. Furthermore, training was delivered to members of Mpumalanga's structure, the City of Johannesburg municipality, and Acorn Bush.

In the research and advocacy domain, Rehabilitation Services produced 13 media articles and photographic materials to promote its activities. Six funding applications were submitted to support programme growth.

Representatives attended various key meetings, including NPE 2024 weekly meetings, ETDP-SETA

stakeholder engagements, and post-election submission reports. The team also participated in national dialogues and stakeholder engagements following the National Policy on Education 2024, underscoring a commitment to continuous sector alignment.

Challenges and Constraints

Despite notable successes, several challenges impeded smooth programme delivery. Follow-up with beneficiaries in the City of Johannesburg project required close monitoring to prevent loss to competing training providers. Many newly referred clients were unresponsive to calls for assessment or were only reachable late in the day, limiting daily client throughput. Infrastructure barriers, such as broken pavements between key transport stations (Riya Vaya bus station and Gautrain station), complicated re-orientation training for blind individuals, with site inspections being negotiated to address these issues.

High demand led to waitlists and client frustration due to training delays, while transport shortages highlighted the need for an additional vehicle to support off-site training. A shortage of three beneficiaries in Region A was noted, impacting programme balance. Coordination challenges emerged with City of Johannesburg coordinators struggling to understand beneficiary eligibility criteria, and some Blind SA beneficiaries reported irregularities in housing allocations by the Department of Human Settlements. Unexpected beneficiary relocations further disrupted continuity of services.

Capacity-building needs were identified within the staff complement. One O&M practitioner still requires assessor and computer training, while two practitioners successfully renewed their assessor certifications. There is an ongoing imperative for skills empowerment among O&M practitioners to maintain service quality. Beneficiary communication gaps, especially regarding illness-related absences or unavailability, negatively affected scheduling and operational efficiency.

Conclusion

The 2024–2025 reporting period for Blind SA's Rehabilitation Services Programme was marked by significant achievements, exceeding many annual targets and extending the programme's impact to a broad demographic. Strategic collaborations with partners such as the City of Johannesburg, Electoral Institute For Sustainable Democracy In Africa (EISA), Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), various health and community organisations enhanced the department's capacity to deliver effective and inclusive rehabilitation services.

While the programme advanced substantially, operational challenges remain and require targeted interventions in infrastructure, human resources, transport, and communication systems. Strengthening stakeholder coordination and beneficiary engagement will be critical for ensuring service continuity and improving programme efficiency.

Looking forward, the Rehabilitation Services team is committed to building on these successes by deepening partnerships, expanding capacity, and sustaining a client-centred approach. These measures will further empower blind and partially sighted individuals through inclusive, high-quality rehabilitation services aligned to evolving community needs.

Mr Gibert Mangwekea
O&M Practitioner

8.2.5 Economic Empowerment

Blind SA's Economic Empowerment Programme is dedicated to enabling blind and partially sighted individuals to achieve sustainable livelihoods through targeted recruitment, skills development, entrepreneurial support, job readiness training, and employment facilitation. The programme further emphasises advocacy, awareness, and the cultivation of strategic partnerships across both public and private sectors.

During the reporting period, the programme engaged a total of 920 beneficiaries, exceeding the annual target of 918. This comprised 321 individuals directly engaged, 22 businesses recruited, 147 job seekers assisted, and 143 SMME beneficiaries supported. The demographic breakdown reflects a fairly balanced distribution:

- Gender: 442 females and 478 males
- Age: 481 youth (aged 16–35) and 439 adults (aged 36+)
- Race: 840 Black and 80 White beneficiaries
- Disability: All 920 beneficiaries are persons with disabilities



Figure 13 Blind SA SMME

Programme Activities

Recruitment and Assessment

The programme successfully recruited 140 individuals and 22 businesses. Of these, 139 individuals and 20 businesses were selected and assessed for programme participation.

SIYB (Start and Improve Your Business) Training

No SIYB, IYB, or entrepreneurial training sessions were conducted during this period due to funding and implementation delays. The annual target for these trainings is 100 beneficiaries.

SMME Support and Development

Support was provided to 143 beneficiaries across various trades, including detergents, sewing, beadwork, leatherwork, and crop production. Assistance with business registrations through the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and the Central Supplier Database (CSD) was also provided. A Blind SA SMME database was created, currently registering 15 businesses.

Employment and Job Readiness Services

A total of 147 job seekers were assisted with CV development and updates, while 132 individuals completed job readiness training. Additionally, 113 job seekers were supported with portal registrations. Sensory flavours training was provided to 67 individuals. Forty-three CVs were matched with job opportunities, resulting in 47 direct job applications and 43 job placements. Moreover, 19 internships and 14 learnerships were identified, with 37 individuals supported in existing employment.

Strategic Partnerships

Public Sector

Engagement with National Treasury's CSD Division aimed at improving supplier registration accessibility for blind SMME owners. The programme partnered with SEDA, Transnet, and other entities for a virtual empowerment event focusing on women and youth, which engaged 52 participants. Blind SA also submitted an application to the Technological Innovation Agency (TIA) for the AmaDots project, a next-generation Braille note-taker designed to enhance digital access. In addition, the programme maintained engagements with 31 other entities to foster networking, funding, exhibitions, and training opportunities.



Private Sector

Blind SA co-hosted the DE&I Disability Indaba, promoting workplace inclusion for persons with disabilities. A partnership with Siyakhana Food Gardens led to the development of food gardens at six branches across three provinces, with site assessments and implementation plans underway. Additionally, Blind SA was featured in a televised segment on SABC 1 Daily Thetha, highlighting the economic challenges faced by persons with visual disabilities.

Figure 14 Disability Indaba

Monate Sensory Flavours Training

Blind SA's Monate Sensory Flavours Training Project represents a significant collaborative initiative with partners such as the Givaudan Foundation, DSM-Firmenich, and the National Skills Fund (NSF). The project aims to train blind and partially sighted individuals in sensory flavour identification, expose them to industry practices, and facilitate job placements.

Key milestones include the continued strategic partnership with Givaudan SA, with a site visit planned for July 2024 to observe training activities, following the submission of the initial project report in June 2024. Ten learners participated in the training, demonstrating near-perfect attendance and completing the programme by September 2024, with notable improvement in flavour identification skills. As part of industry exposure, learners visited flavour houses to gain practical insights and explore employment opportunities, with two houses expressing interest in continued collaboration. In August 2024, Consumers in Focus conducted a training session for seven staff members aimed at improving sensory description and language skills.



Figure 15 Sensory Flavours Training Flyer



Figure 16 Sensory Flavours Training

The partnership with DSM-Firmenich resumed in July 2024 post-merger, with 40 candidates screened and 25 selected for a month-long training programme; by November 2024, twelve individuals had begun on-the-job panel training. Blind SA is also preparing to train 30 beneficiaries under the National Skills Fund (NSF) partnership, pending receipt of amended agreements. Candidates not selected during the DSM-Firmenich screening will be considered for participation in sensory panels and for short certification courses. Engagements are ongoing with the University of Pretoria to introduce a certified short course in Sensory Flavours Training to expand exposure and employment readiness for beneficiaries. A proposal for phase two NSF funding has been submitted, targeting the training of an additional 321 beneficiaries starting in April 2025.

SMME Development and Support

Support efforts included assisting the registration and business planning of White Path Innovations (Pty) Ltd and facilitating site visits with potential funders concerned with operational and safety compliance at partner enterprises. A Transnet supplier engagement session was held in September 2024, where Blind SA's SMME database was shared and recognized. Additionally, the Economic Empowerment Officer attended the China Homelife Exhibition to explore sourcing opportunities.

An Enterprise and Supplier Development Day conducted in November 2024 featured 17 SMMEs and contributions from

various governmental stakeholders. Though attendance was below expectations, the event successfully provided networking and informational exchanges. Blind SA also nominated five SMMEs to exhibit at the 2024 Disability Indaba, with full sponsorship for exhibition stands.



Additional developments encompassed participation in the Lions Club conference bag sponsorship, Yanda Centre Career Day, referral of entrepreneurs, engagement with Disability Business Enterprise (DBE), and ongoing enterprise support activities.

Employment-Related Interventions

The programme facilitated internship opportunities, including engagement with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Participation in the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention further strengthened employment pathways.

Figure 17 Blind SA SMME

Other Activities

Key supplementary activities involved the placement of 44 candidates in Small Business Finance Management learnerships, submission of funding proposals to IDT, SEDFA, SMEC, SAB Foundation, ADM SA, and NSF, support for sensory garden research projects, and hosting of Eye Care and White Cane Awareness events.

Achievements

Notable accomplishments included the expansion of sensory skills training, successful SMME empowerment events, internship completions, and increased collaboration with tertiary institutions and funders.

Challenges and Responses

The programme faced challenges such as transport shortages, funding constraints, internship placement difficulties, delays in Memoranda of Agreement, development of descriptive sensory language, proposal coordination complexities, and low attendance at some SMME events. Blind SA continues to implement targeted strategies to mitigate these challenges.

The 2024–2025 reporting period marked a phase of strategic growth, innovation, and strengthened partnerships for Blind SA's Economic Empowerment Programme. The Monate Sensory Flavours Training initiative has shown remarkable progress through global partnerships and practical training approaches, enhancing sector-specific employment pathways for blind and partially sighted individuals.

Simultaneously, expanded SMME development and entrepreneurial support activities have reinforced Blind SA's commitment to fostering sustainable businesses owned by persons with visual disabilities. Partnerships with organisations such as the Lions Club and Yanda Centre have broadened referral networks and advocacy platforms.

Employment-focused initiatives, including internships and national youth employment engagements, have been pivotal in bridging training and workplace experience, exemplifying Blind SA's proactive approach to economic inclusion.

Complementary activities—including national funding applications, accredited learnerships, research collaborations, and community awareness—reflect the programme's comprehensive scope and impact.

Despite operational challenges, Blind SA's adaptive and strategic management ensures ongoing progress. The Economic Empowerment Programme stands as a key driver of inclusive economic transformation in South Africa, empowering blind and partially sighted individuals to achieve meaningful livelihoods.

Mr Teboho Lehasa
HOD Training centre

9. COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

9.1 Consolidated statistics for community projects:

Gender	Youth	Disability	Race	Total
Female 1894=57% Male 1434=43%	842=25.3%	Blind & Partially sighted 2234=67.2% Other disabilities 209=6.3% Total disabled=2443=73.4% Non-Disabled 885=26.6%	Africans 3106=93.3% White 222=6.7%	3328

Total beneficiaries reached by Blind SA year to date: 8211

9.2 Community Programmes and Development Work

9.2.1 Branch Launches and Constitutional Reviews

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, Blind SA's Community Programmes Office made significant strides in strengthening branch structures, empowering youth and women, and fostering strategic partnerships aimed at inclusion and capacity building.

On 8 May 2024, two new branches were successfully launched in Gauteng: Sibambene for Visual Impact and Disabilities, and Vision Express Development. During the reporting period, eight branch constitutions were reviewed across several provinces, including Libo Lwethu and Upliving with Disabilities Movement in the Eastern Cape; Itsoseng Association for the Blind in the Free State; Transport for All Disabilities Association and O Seke Wa Enyatsa Support Group for People Living with Disabilities in Gauteng; Asimthande Disability Initiative in KwaZulu-Natal; Dilokong Association for the Blind in Limpopo; and Mpumalanga Blind Skills Development Hub in Mpumalanga. Following these reviews, two branches—Libo Lwethu and Dilokong Association for the Blind—received formal approval. Additionally, multiple constitutions were updated to ensure compliance and enhance operational effectiveness. To strengthen branch support, the office also onboarded new interns across various provinces.

The second round of Provincial General Assemblies (PGAs) was conducted smoothly with elections, governance policy development, and targeted capacity building workshops. Although the KwaZulu-Natal PGA was disbanded due to inactivity, ongoing efforts continue to strengthen provincial structures and prepare for future expansions.



Figure 18 Members of the Gauteng Provincial General Assembly

Youth empowerment initiatives were robust, highlighted by active Youth Committee engagements, recruitment for the FASSET Project, and successful hosting of the National Youth Parliament. Women's empowerment and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) initiatives included strategic dialogues, workshops, and participation in national campaigns and policy dialogues.

Blind SA maintained active involvement in the Engage Project, supporting leadership development for young women with disabilities. The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) project and Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) collaboration contributed to economic inclusion and voter education, respectively.

The FASSET Learnership Programme advanced economic opportunities for blind and partially sighted youth, with strong candidate recruitment and successful programme launch. Additional strategic engagements included awareness campaigns, justice access dialogues, sports inclusion efforts, participation in legislative processes, and capacity development workshops.

Data management improvements were initiated with the introduction of Microsoft Access to enhance branch and membership tracking.

Overall, the Community Programmes Office demonstrated commitment to inclusion, empowerment, and organisational strengthening through well-coordinated projects and stakeholder collaboration.

Ms Thandile Butana
Community Programmes Liaison Officer

10. HUMAN RESOURCES

10.1 Staff Headcount

- 40 permanent staff
- 4 temporary staff
- 1 intern

10.2 Diversity Overview:

- 65% women, 35% men
- 26% visually impaired (13% female, 13% male)
- 65.2% Black African, 19.57% White, 13.04% Coloured, 2.17% Indian

10.3 Compliance & Submissions:

- Employment Equity Report: 18 Jan 2025
- EMP201: Submitted monthly: 30 April 2024, 31 May 2024, 3 July 2024 and ROE was submitted on 28 April 2024, 5 August 2024, 29 August 2024, 4 October 2024, 4 November 2024, 3 December 2024, 6 January 2025, 6 March 2025, and 7 April 2025.
- EMP501: 9 May and 27 Sep 2024
- BBBEE Audit: July 2024

Ms Cindy Zulu:
Human Resource Manager

11. FUNDRAISING

11.1 Fundraising Highlights

The Fundraising Department, aimed to exceed a revised budget of R4.5 million. Actual revenue realized amounted to approximately R3.12 million, generated from corporates, trusts, individuals, bequests, special events, and new initiatives such as My School donations. Key activities included maintaining strong relationships with corporate sponsors, submitting proposals, researching new donors, and processing online funding applications. Tax certificates and donor acknowledgments were diligently issued.

The Embrio programme generated a gross income of approximately R2.34 million, with net revenue of around R1.61 million after expenses, involving comprehensive donor management, receipt issuance, and monthly reconciliations. Corporate and trust funding remained the primary source of income during the reporting period, although some fundraising targets were not fully achieved. Despite this, significant efforts in donor prospecting resulted in the addition of over 77 new corporate and trust contacts, laying a solid foundation for future fundraising opportunities.

11.1.1 Challenges and Plans

Fundraising activities were temporarily constrained during the audit period, but efforts resumed with a renewed focus on donor research and targeted outreach. Looking ahead, Public Relations plans for the coming year include expanding media engagement, increasing content creation, and developing internal skills in writing and visual media to further enhance the organisation's communications strategy.

11.1.2 Income - 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Activity	Revenue Realised
Corporates	R886 914
Trusts & Foundations	R1 442 112
Individual Donations	R211 121
Bequest Programme	R310 975
Special Events	R272 466
Embrio Income:	R1 612 762
Project Grants	R895 099
DSAC grant	R8 616,000
Total income	R14 247,449

11.2 Public Relations and Marketing

Public Relations and Marketing, focused on increasing organisational visibility and stakeholder engagement. Extensive media coverage was achieved through radio interviews on major stations and articles published in prominent print outlets.

11.3 Social Media

Social media campaigns, run in partnership with organisations such as UNICEF, the British High Commission, and the Lego Foundation, further enhanced public interaction and awareness. Website analytics revealed consistent traffic, with 1.1K new users recorded, primarily from South Africa and international regions. Additionally, the organisation's monthly newsletter saw growth in its subscriber base and improvements in content relevance and accessibility.

11.4 Media Engagements

Blind SA maintained strong media engagement across multiple platforms during the reporting period. Radio appearances included interviews on stations such as Metro FM, SA FM, and Jozi FM. Collaborative social media campaigns were conducted with partners including the LEGO Foundation and UNICEF. Print media coverage featured articles in publications like Daily Maverick, Municipal Focus, and Leadership Magazine. The Blind SA website recorded 1,100 new users, with an average engagement time of 1 minute and 18 seconds per active user.

Ms Karin Gouws
HOD Fundraising and Communication

12. GOVERNANCE

12.1 Governance and Leadership Changes



Figure 19 Blind SA Governance Members

In March 2024, Mr Ntshavheni Netshituni resigned as President following his appointment to the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. Subsequently, on 16 March 2024, Mr Christo de Klerk was elected as President, with Mr Eric Gama elected as Vice President. Both served in an interim capacity until the end of the term in October 2024.

At the 78th General Assembly held on 25 October 2024, new leadership was elected. Office bearers were appointed for a four-year term, and committee chairpersons for a two-year term. In recognition of his longstanding service and commitment to the organisation, Mr Derick Greeff was awarded the title of Honorary President at the same Assembly.

The appointments were as follows:

Honorary President

- Ms Cathy Donaldson and Mr Derick Greeff

Office Bearers

- President: Mr Christo de Klerk
- Vice President: Mr Thakhani Masuka
- Treasurer: Mr Tommie Lehmkuhl

Executive Committee Chairpersons

- Committee on Accessible Publications, Equipment and Assistive Devices: Mr Eric Gama
- Committee on Advocacy and Information: Mr Lungile Mdingi
- Committee on Economic Empowerment: Mr Sello Mabusela
- Committee on Education and ECD: Mrs Bawinile Mdunyelwa
- Committee on Women and GBVF: Mrs Mpini Letlhage
- Committee on Youth: Mr Jonas Ndlovu

The elections for all office bearers, committee chairpersons, and committee members were conducted and overseen by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process.

12.2 Governance Meetings

Blind SA maintained robust governance practices during the 2024/2025 reporting period through structured engagement with members, committees, and operational units. A comprehensive range of meetings were held to ensure participatory decision-making, compliance with the constitution, and alignment with strategic goals.

12.3 78th General Assembly

Blind SA held its 78th General Assembly from 23 to 25 October 2024 in Pretoria, attended by 60 members, comprising:

- 10 Executive Committee members
- 1 Honorary President
- 4 Provincial General Assembly representatives
- 2 incoming Executive Committee members
- 9 staff members
- 40 branch delegates

Meeting notices, agendas, and documentation were distributed electronically. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly were circulated to branches, committees, and operational divisions for implementation. Progress was reported at the Executive Committee meeting on 15 March 2025 and will be further reported at the upcoming 79th General Assembly in October 2025.

The minutes of the 78th General Assembly were circulated to branches on 11 June 2025

12.4 Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive held virtual monthly meetings except where it indicates physical meetings on: 9 April 2024, 21 May 2024, 11 June 2024, 27 July 2024- Physical meeting, 13 August 2024, 10 September 2024, 8 October 2024, 19 November 2024, 5 December 2024, 11 February 2025, and 15 March 2025.

Finance and Human Resources Committee meetings were held on: 22 July, 26 November, 4 December 2024 and 7 March 2025.

Governance Orientation and Induction was conducted with the Advocacy and Information Committee on 09 December 2024, Economic Empowerment Committee on 09 December 2024, and Education and Early Childhood Development Committee on 10 December 2024. Youth committee: 11 December 2024, Women and GBVF committee: 11 December 2024 and CAPEAD Committee: 16 January 2025

The Executive Committee and General Assembly approved the Operational Reports from the CEO and committee reports from the Accessible Publications, Equipment and Assistive Devices Committee, Advocacy and Information Committee, Education and ECD Committee, Economic Empowerment Committee, Youth Committee, Women and GBVF Committee, Finance and Human Resource Committee, Legal and Constitutions Committee, PGA and Branches.

The committee approved the business plan, annual budget, and monthly financial reports, and monitored the implementation of General Assembly and committee decisions. All minutes were formally approved and are available on file at the head office.

12.5 Provincial General Assembly (PGA) Activities

During the reporting period, Blind SA facilitated a series of Joint Provincial General Assembly (PGA) meetings across several provinces to strengthen provincial governance, foster collaboration, and ensure alignment with national strategic priorities.

- The Gauteng PGA was held on 9 May 2024.
- An orientation and induction session for the Eastern Cape PGA was conducted virtually on 5 July 2024.
- The second round of General Assembly elections took place in Mpumalanga on 23 July 2024 and in Limpopo on 22 August 2024.
- The Mpumalanga PGA convened in Mbombela on 30 September 2024.
- A series of meetings with office bearers from Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, and Gauteng were held on 12 August 2024, 16 October 2024, 14 January 2025 (Limpopo PGA), and 30 January 2025 (Joint PGA).

These engagements contributed to enhanced coordination between the national and provincial structures and supported the effective implementation of programmes across regions.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1 FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (FHR)

13.1.1. Members Who Served Until the 78th General Assembly (25 October 2024)

Members

Derick Greeff
Christo de Klerk
Eric Gama
Jace Nair
Refiloe Maake
Njabulo Mthabela
Rudi Kruger



13.1.2 Members serving after the 78th General Assembly

Members:

Tommie Lehmkuhl
Christo de Klerk
Thakhani Masuka
Jace Nair
Refiloe Maake

Committee Meetings:

The committee held meetings on 12 March 2024, 22 July 2024, 26 November 2024 (Half-Year Review), 4 December 2024 and 7 March 2025

All meeting reports were submitted to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. Approved minutes are available on file.

Blind SA NPO

Total Income: R24,607,699.
Total Expenditure: R32,426,345
Total deficit: R7,818,646

The audited financial statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 25 July 2025 and appear in this annual report on pages 40 to 65.

Treasurer: Mr Tommie Lehmkuhl

13.2 ACCESSIBLE PUBLICATION, EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTIVE DEVICE (CAPEAD)

13.2.1 Committee Composition

13.2.1.1 Members Who Served Until the 78th General Assembly (25 October 2024)

Chairperson: Mr Eric Gama
Vice Chairperson: Mr Kamogelo Mangoele
Secretary: Mr Jonas Ndlovu
Member: Mr Sanele Sikhakhane



13.2.1.2 Members Elected at the 78th General Assembly

Chairperson: Mr Eric Gama
Vice Chairperson: Mr Jonas Ndlovu
Secretary: Mr Lekhatla Likhoka
Members: Mr Mike Mathibeli

13.2.2 Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the Committee on Accessible Publications, Equipment, and Assistive Devices (CAPEAD) is to guide, oversee, and advance Blind SA's work in ensuring that persons who are blind or partially sighted have equitable access to information, publications, and assistive technologies. The Committee is dedicated to promoting the production, distribution, and quality assurance of accessible formats such as braille, DAISY, audio, and large print, and to fostering innovation in related software, hardware, and equipment. Through research, collaboration, and standard-setting, the Committee works to maintain and enhance accessibility standards, support braille literacy, and strengthen the availability and affordability of assistive devices. CAPEAD actively monitors and evaluates relevant organisational programmes, and training materials to ensure compliance with recognised standards and the needs of end users. In fulfilling its purpose, the Committee collaborates with internal committees, external organisations, and stakeholders, ensuring alignment with Blind SA's strategic objectives and commitment to accessibility.

13.2.3 Committee Meetings Held

20 April 2024, 05 October 2024 and 12 November 2024 and 12 April 2025.

13.2.4 Committee Activities (April 2024 – March 2025)

During the year under review, the Committee prioritised the update of Braille Grade 2 training materials to meet accreditation requirements. The revised one-year course comprises five learning outcomes and concludes with a 300-mark competency assessment. Plans for shorter, flexible modules are underway, alongside the registration of Braille as an accredited qualification. Audio materials for Braille Grade 1 are in development, with future manuals to be produced in African languages to promote inclusive language representation.

Several Braille training sessions were held in different provinces, including Braille Mathematics and retraining workshops in the Eastern Cape (1–7 July 2025) for educators. The Setswana Text-to-Speech

(TTS) system was successfully launched, following extensive piloting and feedback on accessibility, usability, and language compatibility.

The Committee also commenced research to determine the number of learners requiring large-print materials in schools. Planning for World Read Aloud Day 2025 began in June 2024, with follow-up meetings to address concerns over the quality of story submissions from the 2024 celebrations.

Braille magazine production continued as scheduled, and servicing of Braille equipment remained a top priority. Pioneer Printers provided interim assistance with production due to the ageing plate embosser, which remains a critical replacement need. Braille paper stock were sufficient.

The Committee met formally on four occasions and engaged with stakeholders, including Section 27, to address non-compliance by DBE with the 2019 court order on Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM). Many schools remain without Braille versions of key subjects such as Mathematics and Science. A recommendation was made for schools to include Braille as a dedicated period in their curricula to strengthen early literacy.

Staff changes during the year included the retirement of long-serving members, the appointment of new committee members — Jonas Ndlovu, Lekhatla Likhokha, Mike Mathibedi, and Chairperson Eric Gama — and operational transitions, with Mr Manyane assuming production oversight and Mr Dube returning in a mentoring role.

The year also marked the bicentennial celebration of Braille. Branches were encouraged to sustain “Braille 200” activities until September 2025, in alignment with International Literacy Week. The Committee paid tribute to Mr Phillip Jordan for more than two decades of dedicated service.

13.2.3.1 Braille Task Team

The Committee actively contributed to the Braille Task Team’s work on the standardisation, production, and timely delivery of Braille materials. Engagements were held with schools and production stakeholders to enhance access to quality Braille learning resources for blind and partially sighted learners nationwide.

13.2.3.2 Accessible Publications

The Committee oversaw the transcription and dissemination of materials into Braille, large print, and audio formats. Publications included government communications, textbooks, and community resources, which were distributed to learners and Blind SA members countrywide. Efforts continue to ensure all essential information is available in accessible formats.

13.2.3.3 Text-to-Speech (TTS) Project

The TTS initiative focused on enhancing literacy and independence through the piloting of software and devices. Feedback was provided on usability, accessibility, and compatibility with South African languages, leading to the successful launch of the Setswana TTS system.

13.2.3.4 South African Braille Authority (SABA)

Blind SA maintained strong representation in SABA through the active participation of the Committee’s Chairperson, Mr Eric Gama. The Committee contributed to the development and standardisation of

Braille codes, ensuring alignment with both international Braille standards and South African educational needs.

Acknowledgements

The Committee extends sincere appreciation to staff, Managers, Heads of Departments, the CEO, and executive assistants Mrs Busi Mokhari and Ms Lebo Mashile, as well as the broader organisational leadership, for their unwavering support in advancing Braille services nationwide.

Chairperson: Mr Eric Gama

13.3 ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE (AIC)

13.3.1 Committee Composition

13.3.1.1 Members Who Served Until the 78th General Assembly (25 October 2024)

Chairperson: Mr Tommy Lehmkuhl
Vice Chairperson – Mrs Caireen Van der Vyver
Secretary – Mr Disky Lebesse
Members: Mr Sizwe Madlala and Mr Abraham Allies

13.3.1.2 Members Elected at the 78th General Assembly

Chairperson: Mr Lungi Mdingi
Vice Chairperson: Mrs Nicole Roos
Secretary: Ms Lindiwe Manana
Members: Mr Abraham Allies and Mr Frankford Williams



13.3.2 Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of this annual report is to present the Advocacy and Information Committee's response programme and activities to the 79th General Assembly.

As outlined in the Blind SA Constitution, the committee represents blind and partially sighted persons by addressing the historical marginalisation of their human rights. The committee plays a key role in mainstreaming programmes that promote access, equality, and the development of livelihoods for blind and visually impaired individuals. It further serves as an access point for the blindness sector across the country.

13.3.3 Committee Meetings Held

6 April 2024, 3 August 2024, 28 September 2024, 18 November 2024 and 8 March 2025 and 2 April 2025 (special meeting)

13.3.4 Committee Activities (April 2024 – March 2025)

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the Advocacy and Information Committee (AIC) of Blind SA actively advanced the rights of blind and partially sighted persons through strategic advocacy, policy engagement, and collaboration with government, civil society, and private sector stakeholders. The Committee's work focused on systemic issues, including accessible transport and the built environment, consumer protection, ICT and financial inclusion, accessible elections, and legislative reform.

Across the year, the Committee convened four internal meetings (including a formal, handover, and induction meeting) and participated in over 25 external engagements with entities such as the Department of Transport, Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), ABSA, SABC, ICJ, IZIKO Museums, DPISA, SAFOD, and other national and international Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs).

13.3.4.1 Transport and the Built Environment

The AIC represented Blind SA at the Presidential Summit on Accessible Transport (25–26 April 2024), advocating for universal design standards, inclusive policy frameworks, and safer pedestrian environments. Ongoing collaboration continued with the Department of Transport's ICT Subcommittee regarding national regulatory reform for disability parking tokens.

Engagements on silent electric vehicles were sustained throughout the year, pressing for compliance with international safety standards. While the Department of Transport acknowledged the UNECE 1958 agreement, local Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System (AVAS) regulations remain pending. In early 2025, the Committee engaged Golden Arrow Bus Services on safety concerns and conducted an observation visit. A formal letter was sent to the Minister of Transport and the RTMC. The AIC also attended three Transport Authority of Gauteng virtual workshops, the STP Workshop (4 February 2025), and the National Access Advisory Forum hosted by ACSA (12 February 2025).

The Committee participated in the Airbus tactile markers survey (26 March 2025) and attended mediation on 21 February 2025 regarding Dial-A-Ride services, facilitated by the SAHRC. However, the City of Cape Town declined to participate. An Inclusive Accessible Workshop was also conducted on 31 January 2025.

13.3.4.2. Consumer Affairs

Advocacy in consumer protection focused on improving access to public spaces, with engagement held with IZIKO Museums to enhance accessibility for blind and partially sighted visitors. On 17 February 2025, a consultation was held with Westown Square architects on accessible signage. Persistent service delivery challenges with Cape Town's Dial-a-Ride remain unresolved despite escalation.

13.3.4.3 ICT and Financial Inclusion

In collaboration with ABSA and the International Commission of Jurists, the Committee advanced legal strategies to ensure digital banking platform accessibility, supported by Senior Counsel. Blind SA also

provided user-testing feedback during ABSA's Accessibility Day. Oversight was maintained for digital platforms, including the Blind SA website, to ensure accessibility compliance.

In October 2024, following a software update, the Checkers Sixty60 app became largely unusable for blind and partially sighted users. The AIC engaged with Checkers via Mr. Dean Olwage and Ms. Ena Bosman, leading to partial improvements, though major accessibility barriers remain. Engagement on the SABC Plus app is ongoing.



13.3.4.4 Policy and Legislative Reform

The AIC monitored key legislative developments, particularly the Copyright Amendment Bill (CAB) and the Performers' Protection Amendment Bill (PPAB), both passed by the National Assembly in February 2024 but still awaiting Presidential assent. Blind SA, with Section 27, continued pressing for enactment.



On 28 November 2024, Gauteng branches participated in a march at Constitution Hill to highlight the urgency of CAB implementation. Blind SA was invited to submit additional inputs by 28 February 2025 and hosted a member and stakeholder webinar workshop.

The Committee also participated in national consultations on the Domestication of the CRPD and White Paper (17–18 March 2025), contributing to Discussion Paper 163 and the Draft Referral Protocol on Respite Care Services.

Two AIC members attended the National Disability Bill workshop (17–18 March 2025) and contributed to the NPO Commission, providing recommendations to address systemic inequalities, strengthen anti-discrimination measures, and establish accountability

mechanisms. The Committee recommends further provincial consultations.

13.3.4.5 Access to Information and Regional Engagements

Blind SA hosted a joint meeting with SAFOD and the DPSA (14 November 2024) to advocate for the adoption of the Draft SADC Disability Protocol. It was resolved to engage additional disability stakeholders, including SADA, SANCB, and DAFSA.

From 5–7 March 2025, Blind SA participated in the SADA/National Disability Rights Machinery online conference to assess disability rights progress. Provincial reports indicated minimal advancement.

13.3.4.6 Elections and Voter Education



A major priority during the year was the 2024 National and Provincial Elections. Under the leadership of Abraham Allies, Blind SA delivered a national accessible voter education campaign, reaching over 1,630 participants via WhatsApp groups and publications. A special edition of Blind SA Assist was held, and 69 trained observers were deployed nationwide.

While progress was noted, such as wider availability of the Universal Ballot Template (UBT), serious gaps remained, including inconsistent assisted voting procedures, inaccessible candidate lists, and the exclusion of trusted persons to assist the blind voter at some stations.

Post-election, Blind SA engaged with the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) to develop an action plan based on 2024 election findings. Participation in an IEC e-voting seminar (10–12 March 2025) informed preparations for the 2026 Local Government Elections. A train-the-trainers programme for civic education is scheduled to launch in June 2025.

13.3.4.7 Strategic and Governance Resolutions

The AIC assumed responsibility for managing Blind SA's website and communications and was formally appointed to the Editorial Committee overseeing organisational content.

- Prioritisation of elections-related advocacy and sustainable funding for accessible election initiatives.
- Intensified lobbying for the signing and implementation of the CAB and PPAB.
- Stronger advocacy on silent vehicle regulations and inclusive transport infrastructure planning.
- Strengthened cooperation with national and international DPOs.

Despite operational constraints and the absence of IEC funding for election work, the AIC made significant progress in advancing the dignity, rights, and participation of blind and partially sighted South Africans.

Chairperson: Mr Lungi Mdingi

13.4 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE:

13.4.1 Committee Composition

13.4.1.1 Members Who Served Until the 78th General Assembly (25 October 2024)

Chairperson – Mr Thakhani Masuka
Vice Chairperson - Mr Godfrey Lebyane
Secretary- Mr Chris Van Der Vyver
Members: Mr Sello Mabusela and Ms Reinette Moshidi

13.4.1.2 Members Elected at the 78th General Assembly

Chairperson: Mr Sello Mabusela
Vice-Chairperson: Mr Godfrey Lebyane
Secretary: Mr Chris van der Vyver
Members: Mr Clerk Mokoena and Mr Lekhatla Likhokha



13.4.2 Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of this annual report is to present the Economic Empowerment Committee's programme of action and activities to the 79th General Assembly.

In accordance with the Blind SA Constitution, the Committee aims to represent blind and partially sighted persons in addressing systemic barriers to economic inclusion. It is responsible for driving initiatives that support access to employment, entrepreneurship, skills development, and equitable economic opportunities. The Committee further serves as an access point and advocacy platform for economic rights within the blindness sector across South Africa.

13.4.3 Committee Meetings Held

18 May 2024, 24 August 2024, 11 November 2024 and 15 February 2025

13.4.4 Committee Activities (April 2024 – March 2025)

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the Economic Empowerment Committee (EEC) continued to advance its strategic objectives, in alignment with the 2023–2025 plan, to enhance economic opportunities for blind and partially sighted persons. Activities during the year reflected strong stakeholder engagement, targeted skills development initiatives, and ongoing advocacy for inclusive economic participation.

13.4.4.1 Engagement with Transnet

The Committee maintained sustained interaction with Transnet to promote supplier inclusivity and equitable access to procurement opportunities for visually impaired entrepreneurs. Discussions addressed accessibility of tender platforms, inclusion in relevant Requests for Quotations (RFQs), and the sharing of the Annual Procurement Plan for 2024–2025. Blind SA also participated in the Transnet

Enterprise Day, aimed at expanding opportunities for blind entrepreneurs within state-owned enterprises.

13.4.4.2 Siyakhana Agricultural Skills Development Partnership

The EEC advanced its partnership with Siyakhana to provide agricultural skills training and employment for branch members, with compensation linked to produce sales. This initiative includes the joint pursuit of repayable loans from government and other agencies to secure sustainable funding. Discussions

during the year emphasised the need for formal agreements, structured training plans, and integration into Blind SA's broader empowerment strategy.

13.4.4.3 SMME Support and Capacity Building

Capacity-building for SMMEs was a key focus throughout the year. The Committee planned and delivered a virtual training session on tax compliance and business requirements, and convened the Enterprise and Supplier Development Day in November 2024. This event provided SMMEs with a platform to showcase their enterprises, network with potential partners, and engage with procurement stakeholders. Coordination between national and provincial portfolio leaders was strengthened to ensure alignment of objectives and enhance collaboration.

13.4.4.4 Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

The EEC explored potential collaboration with the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry to support skills development, management control, and enterprise growth. Blind SA also participated in the National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC) Imbizo, contributing to discussions on accessible housing finance models for persons with disabilities.



Engagements with Demisize focused on innovation in inclusive development and employment pathways, while participation in an Exxaro information session provided insights into procurement, employment, and enterprise development opportunities. Collaboration with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) enabled exploration of access to small business support services and entrepreneurship training.

13.4.4.5 Employment and Skills Development

The Committee facilitated ongoing programmes to prepare blind and partially sighted individuals for the open labour market, including workshops on job readiness, CV development, and workplace integration. Advocacy efforts with the Public Services Commission targeted improved inclusion and employment equity within the public sector.

Blind SA participated in the Sixth Annual Disability Management Conference, contributing to national dialogue on disability mainstreaming and economic empowerment. The organisation was also represented at career fairs and employer engagement sessions, promoting workplace inclusivity and reasonable accommodation practices.

13.4.4.6 Challenges and Outlook

While notable progress was made in strengthening partnerships and delivering targeted interventions, challenges remain in tracking job placement outcomes and measuring the long-term impact of initiatives. The Committee will integrate outstanding activities into future strategic plans, maintain strong stakeholder relationships, and continue driving the socio-economic inclusion of blind and partially sighted persons through innovation, skills development, and inclusive economic policy engagement.

Chairperson: Mr Sello Mabusela

13.5 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) COMMITTEE

13.5.1 Committee Composition

13.5.1.1 Members Who Served Until the 78th General Assembly (25 October 2024)

Chairperson – Mrs Susan Bam

Vice Chairperson: Mr Eric Gama

Secretary: Ms Estelle Roos

Members: Ms Selina Botha and Mr KJ Mathibeli

13.5.1.2 Members Elected at the 78th General Assembly

Chairperson: Mrs Bawinile Mdunyelwa

Vice Chairperson: Cindy Mullin-Williams

Secretary: Estelle Roos

Members: Sherly Mashile and Mpini Letlhage



13.5.2 Purpose of the Committee

This report is written at a time when the committee is confronted with various challenges. Several schools for blind and partially sighted learners—including Thiboloha, Ethembeni, Athlone, Rivoni, Filadelfia, and Arthur Blaxall—are experiencing difficulties accessing learning and teaching materials. Additionally, some learners continue to face barriers in accessing basic and tertiary education.

13.5.3 Committee Meetings Held

04 May 2024, 17 August 2024, 13 November 2024 and 3 March 2025.

13.5.4 Committee Activities (April 2024 – March 2025)

During the reporting period, the Education and ECD Committee held one formal meeting via Zoom on 4 May 2024, supported by additional internal meetings focused on key initiatives such as the Lego course and a story competition. External engagements included productive meetings with partners such as Lego Denmark, UCT, and the Department of Basic Education, as well as participation in an inclusion conference and visits to educational sites.

The Committee provided advisory support and assistance to a range of beneficiaries including preschoolers, school-going learners, and adult learners, addressing needs such as braille books, mobility aids, educational advice, and matriculation support. Notable beneficiary engagements include supporting young children and their caregivers in the playgroup, assisting school learners facing vision loss, and helping adult learners access educational resources.

Key resolutions during this period include the co-option of Ms. Sassie Naicker, an experienced educator, to strengthen the Committee's expertise. The Committee also monitored ongoing legal matters concerning curatorship applications at Filadelfia and Arthur Blaxall schools, noting opposition from Departments of education in Gauteng and KZN. Transport challenges for learners remain unresolved, with schools advised to liaise with provincial social workers for assistance.

A significant development was the establishment of the Alberton Playgroup for young children with visual impairments in Alberton, which quickly expanded to include infants, reflecting a broader

community need. Interest from other organizations to start similar playgroups is encouraging and seen as a positive step for early childhood development.

The Committee acknowledges the vital support from the Blind SA CEO, staff, and committee members, highlighting the collaborative effort necessary to advance education and early childhood development for blind and partially sighted learners.

The Education and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Committee worked to address ongoing challenges in accessing learning materials for blind and partially sighted learners, and in overcoming barriers to both basic and tertiary education.

- **Early Childhood Development (ECD):**

Four accessible ECD centres were identified across KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, and Eastern Cape. Support was provided to the parent of a 3-year-old blind child in finding an appropriate centre, and assistance was extended to a playgroup of six blind children. Work continues with Blind SA branches to identify additional centres.

- **Adult Education and Training (AET):**

Eleven blind learners sought assistance; six were placed in AET centres, and a total of ten blind and partially sighted learners successfully enrolled. This enabled access to foundational education and skill-building opportunities.

- **School Placement:** In collaboration with the Free State branch and the Department of Education, a visually impaired learner was placed in an Afrikaans-medium school, with reasonable accommodation measures implemented.

- **Advocacy & Engagements:** The committee participated in meetings and workshops with Stellenbosch University, the Department of Basic Education, and other stakeholders, focusing on inclusive education, Braille development, and policy alignment.



**Learning Through Play: Adopt
Lego Braille Bricks and Foster
Inclusivity in Your Classroom**

The
LEGO
Foundation



BLIND SA



Ongoing Priorities

The committee remains committed to Resolution from the General Assembly—identifying out-of-school children aged 6–15—and addressing the needs of very young blind children (6–9 months), which require greater focus and resources.

The Education and ECD Committee acknowledges the unwavering support of Blind SA leadership, office bearers, the Executive Committee, and the CEO in advancing accessible education for blind and partially sighted learners nationwide.

Chairperson: Mrs Bawinile Mdunyelwa

13.6 YOUTH COMMITTEE

13.6.1 Committee Composition

13.6.1.1 Members Who Served Until the 78th General Assembly (25 October 2024)

Chairperson- Mr Sabelo Hlophe

Vice Chairperson: Mr Disky Lebesse

Secretary: Ms Estelle Roos

Members: Mr Jonas Ndlovu and Ms Gloria Mputla



13.6.1.2 Members Elected at the 78th General Assembly

Youth Committee Members:

Chairperson: Mr Jonas Ndlovu

Vice Chairperson: Ms Nasmirah Bhamjee

Secretary: Mr Thabo Sejane

Members: Ms Amogelang Dibe and Ms Badroenisah Joubert.

13.6.2 Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the Youth Committee is to advocate for the interests, empowerment, and inclusion of blind and partially sighted youth. The committee creates platforms for participation, capacity development, leadership training, and policy engagement to improve the lives and representation of youth in Blind SA structures and society at large.

13.6.3 Committee Meetings Held

12 October 2024, 11 November 2024 and 22 February 2025.

13.6.4 Committee Activities (April 2024 – March 2025)

During the reporting period, the Youth Committee actively advanced the participation, empowerment, and inclusion of visually impaired youth across recruitment, education, advocacy, economic empowerment, and cultural sectors. Between April and September 2024, the Committee focused on strengthening youth representation by recruiting 15 new young leaders from various provinces, thereby enhancing its reach and capacity. Despite ongoing challenges in accessible education, notable progress was observed, with approximately 150 visually impaired graduates from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and active support from institutions such as Bawinile Christian College. Advocacy efforts were directed towards addressing disparities in business opportunities, particularly within the maritime sector, with plans to conduct information sessions for disability-led SMMEs in collaboration with the Department of Transport. Economic empowerment initiatives during this period included the recruitment of 30 visually impaired individuals into learnership programmes and ongoing progress towards integrating 300 visually impaired beneficiaries into the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). In sports and cultural activities, the Blind Cricket South Africa national tournament successfully engaged youth from eight provinces, complemented by efforts to promote youth talent development through planned talent searches and increased participation. The Committee remained committed to expanding opportunities for youth and continued to foster partnerships supporting the growth and inclusion of visually impaired young people in South Africa.

From October 2024 to March 2025, the Committee maintained its active engagement in promoting leadership, education, economic empowerment, and recreational activities for visually impaired youth nationwide. Comprising five members with designated portfolios, the Committee held regular meetings and participated in numerous local, national, and international events, including the National Youth Parliament (NYP), the SADC Youth Parliament, and the BRICS Blind Football Tournament. Key achievements included the successful establishment of a regional blind football league, strategic partnerships with youth organisations such as SAYOF and SABYA, and strengthened advocacy for accessible education and sport participation. Operational challenges, including resource constraints and member workload, affected full delivery in some areas, and the resignation of Vice Chairperson Kamogelo Maree in February 2025 left the position vacant, with recruitment underway. The Committee continued to focus on youth recruitment, academic support, including Braille literacy, youth media participation, and facilitation of economic empowerment programmes.

The Committee also worked closely with Blind SA branches to identify and recruit young blind and partially sighted individuals into organisational programmes, leadership structures, and advocacy initiatives. Outreach and communication platforms were strengthened to engage youth in both rural and urban areas. Committee members actively participated in the National Youth Parliament, contributing inputs on disability-inclusive policy and accessibility, providing visibility for blind and partially sighted youth, and highlighting their needs and aspirations. Participation was notable, with proceedings widely covered on social media, and partnerships with the legislature and the Department of Basic Education were developed. Several 2024 matric participants achieved top national and provincial academic results, demonstrating the quality and potential of young leaders engaged through these platforms.

Engagement with the National Youth Machinery facilitated collaborative work between government youth development agencies and disability organisations, ensuring that the blindness sector was represented in the broader youth development agenda. In sports, Jonas Ndlovu represented South Africa at the BRICS Blind Football Friendly Tournament in Moscow from 16–23 December 2024, marking the first national blind football team event. The tournament underscored the importance of developing blind sports disciplines beyond football and cricket. In support, Blind SA backed the Johannesburg Blind Football Association's regional league, launching in May 2025, and continued efforts to establish a South African Blind Football Association, with plans to formalise the BRICS tournament as an annual event through a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The Committee also participated in the first hybrid in-person sitting of the third SADC Youth Parliament from 25–27 March 2025, where Blind SA was formally admitted as a stakeholder. The platform facilitated policy recommendations and knowledge sharing among youth and disability representatives across SADC member states. Through its Education portfolio, the Committee supported advocacy for inclusive education and learning opportunities, working closely with the Education and ECD Committee to address challenges faced by blind learners in mainstream and special schools. Through its Economic Empowerment portfolio, the Committee promoted youth participation in skills development, entrepreneurship, and employment-readiness programmes, exploring partnerships with training providers and public-private stakeholders to strengthen youth economic inclusion.

Overall, the Youth Committee remains committed to fostering the representation, empowerment, and inclusion of visually impaired youth in South Africa through strategic engagement, advocacy, and service delivery, building on the momentum achieved during the reporting period.

Chairperson: Mr Jonas Ndlovu

13.7 WOMEN AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE (GBVF) COMMITTEE

13.7.1 Committee Composition

13.7.1.1 Members Who Served Until the 78th General Assembly (25 October 2024)

Chairperson: Mrs Mpini Letlhage

Vice Chairperson: Mrs Bawinile Mdunyelwa

Secretary: Mrs Caireen Van Der Vyver

Members: Ms Martha Seane, Ms Gloria Mputla and Ms Evelyn Maako



13.7.1.2 Members Elected at the 78th General Assembly

Chairperson: Mrs Mpini Letlhage

Vice Chairperson: Mrs Nancy Netshituni

Secretary: Mrs Caireen van der Vyver

Members: Ms Gloria Mputla and Ms Lindelwa Ndzukuma

13.7.2 Purpose of the Committee

The Women and GBVF Committee is mandated to champion the rights, empowerment, and well-being of blind and partially sighted women and girls. The committee actively addresses gender inequality, gender-based violence, and social injustice by facilitating awareness, support structures, and advocacy campaigns. It also promotes leadership and meaningful participation of women in Blind SA and society at large.

13.7.3 Committee Meetings Held

11 May 2024, 31 August 2024, 13 November 2024 and 11 December 2024 and 5 April 2025.

13.7.4 Committee Activities (April 2024 – March 2025)

The Women and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Committee, established in 2019 and formally recognised as an independent committee at Blind SA's 76th General Assembly, is mandated to promote the empowerment, protection, and inclusion of blind and partially sighted women through advocacy, capacity-building, and support initiatives.

During the reporting period, the Committee conducted multiple meetings via Zoom and WhatsApp to plan, reflect, and implement its activities. It participated in several external events, including the "Women Talk" session in Mogale City, the Unmute Civil Society National Launch, GBV awareness marches, caregiver workshops, and municipal-led women's programmes. Committee-led initiatives included an Economic Empowerment Workshop, a dialogue event on blind parenting, and a significant GBVF conference at the Indaba Hotel.

Key achievements include advancing women's inclusion in Blind SA governance structures and convening meaningful engagements to raise awareness and drive empowerment. However, objectives around sports, arts, youth collaboration, and GBVF workshop participation were not met due to low participation and limited resources. To address these gaps, the Committee proposes targeted capacity-building, awareness campaigns, and structured youth collaboration.

The Committee envisions a world without poverty where women are empowered, uplifted, and recognised as equal partners in society. It is mandated to empower blind and partially sighted women nationally by:

- Restoring confidence, dignity, and self-esteem
- Encouraging educational advancement
- Supporting aspiring women entrepreneurs to achieve business success

In response to a General Assembly resolution, the Committee engaged stakeholders on the proposed election process for members and developed a decentralised structure promoting branch-level Women's Ambassadors. These Ambassadors would coordinate local activities and represent their branches nationally. The Committee further recommends the creation of safe women-only forums across all organisational levels.

Key proposals requiring Executive Committee consideration include the approval of the proposed Women's Forums and Ambassadors model, the allocation of resources for ambassador training and forum facilitation, and the appointment of a Women's Liaison Officer at the Executive Committee (EXCO) level.

Additionally, the Committee highlights the need for stronger communication channels and has committed to submitting a Women's Month calendar for August 2025.

This report reflects a year of growth, reflection, and structural reimagination to ensure greater participation, impact, and representation of blind and partially sighted women within Blind SA and beyond.

Chairperson: Mrs Mpini Letlhage

14. Financial Report

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

General Information

Country of incorporation and domicile	South Africa
Nature of business and principal activities	The non-profit organisation is engaged in activities which are geared towards empowering blind and partially sighted South Africans to become or remain contributing members of society.
General Assembly	C.J. de Klerk T. Masuka J.G. Nair T. Lehmkuhl
Registered office	5 Fuchs Street Alrode Alberton Gauteng 1451
Postal address	X9005 Crown mines Johannesburg Gauteng 2025
Bankers	Standard Bank
Auditors	Mahdi Meyer Steyn Chartered Accountants Inc
Company registration number	000-606 NPO
Tax reference number	9128559151
Level of assurance	These annual financial statements have been audited in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Non-profit Organisation Act, Act 71 of 1997.
Preparer	The annual financial statements were independently compiled by: T Kluys Chartered Accountants (S.A.)
Issued	21 August 2025

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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The reports and statements set out below comprise the annual financial statements presented to the general assembly:

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The following supplementary information does not form part of the annual financial statements and is unaudited:

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Level of assurance

These annual financial statements have been audited in compliance with the applicable requirements of the entity's constitution.

Preparer

T Kluyts
Chartered Accountants (S.A.)

Published

21 August 2025

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

General Assembly's Responsibilities and Approval

The general assembly is required by the Non-profit Organisation Act, Act 71 of 1997, to maintain adequate accounting records and is responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is their responsibility to ensure that the annual financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the non-profit organisation as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended, in conformity with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities. The external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements.

The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The general assembly acknowledge that they are ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the non-profit organisation and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the general assembly to meet these responsibilities, the general assembly sets standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or loss in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the non-profit organisation and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the non-profit organisation's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the non-profit organisation is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the entity. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the entity endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.


The general assembly is of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The general assembly has reviewed the non-profit organisation's cash flow forecast for the year to 31 March 2026 and, in the light of this review and the current financial position, they are satisfied that the entity has, or has access to, adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The external auditors are responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the non-profit organisation's annual financial statements. The annual financial statements have been examined by the entity's external auditors and their report is presented on pages 6 - 8.

The annual financial statements set out on pages 9 to 26, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, along with the General Assembly's Report set out on pages 4 - 5, were approved by the general assembly on 25 July 2025 and were signed on their behalf by:

Approval of annual financial statements



C.J. de Klerk



J.G. Nair

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

General Assembly's Report

The General Assembly has pleasure in submitting their report on the annual financial statements of BLIND SA for the year ended 31 March 2025.

1. Nature of business

The organisation is engaged in activities which are geared towards empowering blind and partially sighted South Africans to become or remain contributing members of society. To alleviate the implications of blindness and partial vision; the activities include the printing and distribution of braille material; acting as an agent for finding employment; providing braille and orientation and mobility training; compiling newsletters and magazines monthly; providing annual bursaries for tertiary education and the ongoing provision of information and advocacy services. During the year there were no changes to these services.

There have been no material changes to the nature of the entity's business from the prior year.

2. Review of financial results and activities

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Non-profit Organisation Act, Act 71 of 1997. The accounting policies have been applied consistently compared to the prior year.

Full details of the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the non-profit organisation are set out in these annual financial statements.

3. Auditors

Mahdi Meyer Steyn Chartered Accountants Inc continued in office as auditors of the organisation for 2025.

4. General Assembly

The general assembly in office at the date of this report are as follows:

General Assembly	Position	Changes
C.J. de Klerk	President	
J.G. Nair	Chief Executive Officer	
T. Masuka	Vice President	Appointed Thursday, 24 October 2024
T. Lehmkuhl	Treasurer	Appointed Thursday, 24 October 2024
E.O. GAMA	Vice President	Appointed Monday, 01 April 2024, resigned Thursday, 24 October 2024
D. Greeff	Treasurer	Resigned Thursday, 24 October 2024

5. Events after the reporting period

The general assembly is not aware of any material event which occurred after the reporting date and up to the date of this report which could have a material impact on the annual financial statements presented.

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

General Assembly's Report

6. Going concern

We draw attention to the fact that at 31 March 2025, the organisation had accumulated losses of R 1,339,703.

The ability of the organisation to continue as a going concern is dependent on a number of factors. The general assembly believes that, dependent on the factors mentioned in note 19, the organisation will have adequate access to resources to continue as a going concern.

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

The general assembly believes that the organisation has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and accordingly the annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The assembly has satisfied itself that the organisation is in a sound financial position and that it has access to sufficient borrowing facilities to meet its foreseeable cash requirements. The general assembly is not aware of any new material changes that may adversely impact the organisation. The assembly is also not aware of any material non-compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements or of any pending changes to legislation which may affect the organisation.

7. Date of authorisation for issue of annual financial statements

The annual financial statements have been authorised for issue by the general assembly on 25 July 2025. No authority was given to anyone to amend the annual financial statements after the date of issue.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Shareholder of BLIND SA

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the annual financial statements of BLIND SA (the organisation) set out on pages 9 to 24, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025; and the statement of comprehensive income; the statement of changes in equity; and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and notes to the annual financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effect of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of BLIND SA as at 31 March 2025, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Nonprofit Organisations Act of 1997.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Cash and other donations are a significant source of fundraising revenue for Blind SA. It is not feasible for the organisation to institute accounting controls over cash and other collections from donations prior to initial entry of the collections in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impracticable for us to obtain sufficient assurance on the completeness of revenue, as we could not extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Annual Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the organisation in accordance with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (IRBA Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in South Africa. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IRBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Code is consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards). We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 20 in the annual financial statements, which indicates that the organisation incurred a net loss of R7,787,215 during the year ended 31 March 2025 and, as of that date, the organisation had accumulated losses of R1,339,703. As stated in Note 20, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 20, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The general assembly is responsible for the other information. The other information includes the General Assembly's Report as required by the Non-profit Organisation Act, Act 71 of 1997 and the supplementary information as set out on pages 25 to 26. The other information does not include the annual financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the annual financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the annual financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Directors: S Mahdi CA (SA), LJ Meyer CA (SA) MCom, J Van Deventer CA (SA), T Kluyts CA (SA)

Mahdi Meyer Steyn Chartered Accountants Inc.

Reg. No. 2009/014806/21
Practice No. 900227

Independent Auditor's Report

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Annual Financial Statements

The general assembly is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Non-profit Organisations Act of 1997, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual financial statements, the assembly is responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assembly either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Annual Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the assemblies.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the assemblies use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the annual financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the members of the general assembly regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with our responsibilities in terms of sections 44(2) and 44(3) of the Auditing Profession Act, we report that we have identified an unlawful act or omission committed by a person responsible for the management of Blind SA which constituted a reportable irregularity in terms of the Auditing Profession Act, and we have reported such matter to the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors.

The detail of the reportable irregularity, is as follows:

The entity has failed to pay over amounts due to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) to the value of R 2,018,617.87 in respect of:

- Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE)
- Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF)

In terms of section 45(3)(b), the assembly has made representations regarding the identified reportable irregularity and submitted a report to us, dated 16 July 2025. Based on the report received from the assembly, it was determined that adequate steps have been taken to ensure that the reportable irregularity is no longer taking place.



Mahdi Meyer Steyn Chartered Accountants Inc
Director: J. van Deventer
Registered Auditor

21 August 2025
Florida Hills

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025

Figures in Rand	Notes	2025	2024
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	12,969,417	14,890,133
Other financial assets	3	24,974	28,844
		12,994,391	14,918,977
Current Assets			
Inventories	4	238,990	422,253
Trade and other receivables	5	136,326	842,919
Cash and cash equivalents	6	26,695	660,123
		402,011	1,925,295
Total Assets		13,396,402	16,844,272
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Reserves	7	7,991,532	7,991,532
Accumulated loss		(1,339,703)	6,447,512
		6,651,829	14,439,044
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Other financial liabilities	8	1,493,698	1,337,686
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	3,393,032	1,067,542
Loans from related parties	10	69,503	-
Bank overdraft	6	1,788,340	-
		5,250,875	1,067,542
Total Liabilities		6,744,573	2,405,228
Total Equity and Liabilities		13,396,402	16,844,272

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Figures in Rand	Notes	2025	2024
Revenue	11	23,829,876	28,482,228
Cost of sales	12	(5,490,787)	(2,917,557)
Gross profit		18,339,089	25,564,671
Other income	13	81,380	813,207
Operating expenses	14	(25,781,934)	(25,901,012)
Operating (loss) profit		(7,361,465)	476,866
Investment revenue	15	31,016	48,564
Finance costs	16	(456,766)	(261,715)
(Loss) profit for the year		(7,787,215)	263,715
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) income for the year		(7,787,215)	263,715

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Changes in Equity

Figures in Rand	Revaluation reserve	Accumulated loss	Total equity
Balance at 01 April 2023	7,991,532	6,183,797	14,175,329
Profit for the year	-	263,715	263,715
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	263,715	263,715
Balance at 01 April 2024	7,991,532	6,447,512	14,439,044
Loss for the year	-	(7,787,215)	(7,787,215)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(7,787,215)	(7,787,215)
Balance at 31 March 2025	7,991,532	(1,339,703)	6,651,829

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

Figures in Rand	Notes	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts from customers and donors		24,582,330	30,565,621
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(26,503,655)	(27,664,778)
Cash (used in) generated from operations	18	(1,921,325)	2,900,843
Interest income		29,759	417,671
Dividends received		1,257	5,293
Finance costs		(456,766)	(261,715)
Net cash from operating activities		(2,347,075)	3,062,092
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	2	(479,244)	(1,287,085)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	2	85,048	10,432
Net cash from investing activities		(394,196)	(1,276,653)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayments of loans from related parties		69,503	(198,351)
Cash advances received on loans from group companies		69,503	-
Repayments of other financial liabilities		(69,503)	(2,204,681)
Cash advances received on other financial liabilities		250,000	1,650,000
Net cash from financing activities		319,503	(753,032)
Total cash movement for the year		(2,421,768)	1,032,407
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		660,123	(372,284)
Total cash at end of the year	6	(1,761,645)	660,123

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

1. Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies

The annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities, and the Non-profit Organisation Act, Act 71 of 1997. The annual financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for the revaluation of certain classes of property, plant and equipment and the measurement of certain financial instruments at fair value, and incorporate the principal accounting policies set out below. They are presented in South African Rands.

These accounting policies are consistent with the previous period.

1.1 Significant judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty

Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

Management did not make critical judgements in the application of accounting policies, apart from those involving estimations, which would significantly affect the annual financial statements.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

The organisation reviews the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment when changing circumstances indicate that they may have changed since the most recent reporting date.

Allowance for slow moving, damaged and obsolete inventory

Assemblies assesses whether inventory is impaired by comparing its cost to its estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Where an impairment is necessary, inventory items are written down to selling price less costs to complete and sell. The write down is included in cost of sales, note 12.

Impairment of non-financial assets

The organisation reviews and tests the carrying value of property, plant and equipment carried on the cost model when events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. When such indicators exist, management determine the recoverable amount by performing value in use and fair value calculations. These calculations require the use of estimates and assumptions. When it is not possible to determine the recoverable amount for an individual asset, management assesses the recoverable amount for the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Fair value estimation

Other financial assets of the organisation are measured at fair value.

The valuation process requires management to always first consider whether there is a quoted price in an active market for an identical or similar asset. If no such quoted price exists, then the fair value is determined by reference to a recent binding sale agreement or a recent transaction for an identical or similar asset.

The recent binding sale agreement or transaction is only applied where it is between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction and where there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or significant time lapse between the date of such agreement or transaction and the measurement date. Where there have been significant changes in economic circumstances, then the price is adjusted to determine fair value. If there is no quoted price and there have been no recent binding sale agreements or recent transactions for the identical or similar assets, then management will determine fair value by applying appropriate valuation techniques. Observable market data is used as inputs to the extent that it is available.

Impairment of financial assets

The organisation assess its receivables for impairment at each reporting date. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in the statement of profit and loss and comprehensive income, the organisation makes judgements as to whether there is observable data indicating a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from a financial asset

Provision is made for bad debts based on assembly's estimate of the prospect of recovering the debt. Where the general assembly has determined that a debt is no longer recoverable, the amount is written off.

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

1.1 Significant judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

Revaluation of Property, plant and equipment

The organisation reviews the carrying values of certain classes of property, plant and equipment to ensure revaluations are made with sufficient regularity so the carrying value does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting period.

1.2 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are tangible assets which the organisation holds for its own use or for rental to others and which are expected to be used for more than one period.

Property, plant and equipment is initially measured at cost.

Cost includes costs incurred initially to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment and costs incurred subsequently to add to, or replace part of it. If a replacement cost is recognised in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment, the carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised.

Expenditure incurred subsequently for major services, additions to or replacements of parts of property, plant and equipment are capitalised if it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the expenditure will flow to the company and the cost can be measured reliably. Day to day servicing costs are included in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

Subsequent to initial recognition, property plant and equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, except for plant and machinery, motor vehicles, it equipment, office equipment and furniture and fixtures which are stated at revalued amounts. The revalued amount is the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity such that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting period.

When an item of property, plant and equipment is revalued, the gross carrying amount is adjusted consistently with the carrying amount. The accumulated depreciation at that date is adjusted to equal the difference between the gross carrying amount and the net revalued carrying amount.

Any increase in an asset's carrying amount, as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation reserve in equity. The increase is recognised in profit or loss to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss.

Any decrease in an asset's carrying amount, as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any credit balance existing in the revaluation reserve in respect of that asset. Any remaining decrease in excess of such credit is recognised in profit or loss in the current year.

The revaluation reserve related to a specific item of property, plant and equipment is transferred directly to retained income when the asset is derecognised.

Depreciation of an asset commences when the asset is available for use as intended by management. Depreciation is charged to write off the asset's carrying amount over its estimated useful life to its estimated residual value, using a method that best reflects the pattern in which the asset's economic benefits are consumed by the company.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Buildings	Straight line	10 years
Leasehold property	Straight line	10 years
Plant and machinery	Straight line	5 years
Furniture and fixtures	Straight line	10 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line	4 years
Office equipment	Straight line	5 years
IT equipment	Straight line	3 years
Computer software	Straight line	1 year

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

1.2 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

When indicators are present that the useful lives and residual values of items of property, plant and equipment have changed since the most recent annual reporting date, they are reassessed. Any changes are accounted for prospectively as a change in accounting estimate.

Impairment tests are performed on property, plant and equipment when there is an indicator that they may be impaired. When the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment is assessed to be higher than the estimated recoverable amount, an impairment loss, equal to the excess of the carrying amount over the recoverable amount, is recognised immediately in profit or loss for assets which are not revalued. In the case of revalued assets, the impairment loss is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation reserve in equity against any existing credit relating to the same asset. Any remaining impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its continued use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment, determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the item, is included in profit or loss when the item is derecognised.

1.3 Financial instruments

Initial measurement

Financial instruments are initially measured at the transaction price (including transaction costs except in the initial measurement of financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value through profit or loss) unless the arrangement constitutes, in effect, a financing transaction in which case it is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial instruments at amortised cost

These include loans, trade receivables and trade payables. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments which are classified as current assets or current liabilities are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash expected to be received or paid, unless the arrangement effectively constitutes a financing transaction.

At each reporting date, the carrying amounts of assets held in this category are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence of impairment. If there is objective evidence, the recoverable amount is estimated and compared with the carrying amount. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Financial instruments at fair value

All other financial instruments, including equity instruments that are publicly traded or whose fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, without undue cost or effort, are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

If a reliable measure of fair value is no longer available without undue cost or effort, then the fair value at the last date that such a reliable measure was available is treated as the cost of the instrument. The instrument is then measured at cost less impairment until management are able to measure fair value without undue cost or effort.

1.4 Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, on the first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis.

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

1.5 Impairment of assets

The organisation assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that property, plant and equipment carried on the cost model may be impaired.

If there is any such indication, the recoverable amount of any affected asset (or group of related assets) is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

If an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or group of related assets) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but not in excess of the amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or group of assets) in prior years. A reversal of impairment is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

1.6 Share capital and equity

An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities.

1.7 Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

The cost of short-term employee benefits, (those payable within 12 months after the service is rendered, such as leave pay and sick leave, bonuses, and non-monetary benefits such as medical care), are recognised in the period in which the service is rendered and are not discounted.

1.8 Government grants

Grants from the government are recognised at their fair value in profit or loss where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the non-profit organisation has complied with all attached conditions. Grants received where the non-profit organisation has yet to comply with all attached conditions are recognised as a liability (and included in deferred income within trade and other payables) and released to income when all attached conditions have been complied with. Government grants received are included in revenue in profit or loss.

1.9 Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that the organisation has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership of goods to the buyer, or has rendered services under an agreement provided the amount of revenue can be measured reliably and it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the organisation. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding sales taxes and discounts.

Service revenue is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the end of the reporting period. The Stage of completion is determined by the proportion of costs incurred to date bear to the total estimated costs of the transaction. When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent of the expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Interest is recognised, in profit or loss, using the effective interest rate method.

Dividends are recognised, in profit or loss, when the company's right to receive payment has been established.

Donations are recognised on a cash basis in the period received.

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

1.10 Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

1.11 Cost of sales

When inventories are sold, the carrying amount of those inventories is recognised as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognised. The amount of any write-down of inventories to net realizable value and all losses of inventories are recognised in the period the write-down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write-down of inventories, arising from an increase in the net realizable value, is recognised in the period in which the reversal occurs.

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
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2. Property, plant and equipment

	2025			2024		
	Cost or revaluation	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Carrying value	Cost or revaluation	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Carrying value
Buildings	9,903,311	(1,799,677)	8,103,634	9,903,311	(1,316,882)	8,586,429
Plant and machinery	7,091,252	(4,254,751)	2,836,501	7,091,252	(2,836,501)	4,254,751
Furniture and fixtures	464,982	(82,038)	382,944	224,582	(45,156)	179,426
Motor vehicles	928,864	(686,512)	242,352	998,864	(454,296)	544,568
Office equipment	234,473	(141,646)	92,827	234,473	(93,418)	141,055
IT equipment	344,321	(297,889)	46,432	335,316	(186,299)	149,017
Computer software	1,543,298	(278,571)	1,264,727	1,313,458	(278,571)	1,034,887
Total	20,510,501	(7,541,084)	12,969,417	20,101,256	(5,211,123)	14,890,133

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2025

	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Closing balance
Buildings	8,586,429	-	-	(482,795)	8,103,634
Plant and machinery	4,254,751	-	-	(1,418,250)	2,836,501
Furniture and fixtures	179,426	240,400	-	(36,882)	382,944
Motor vehicles	544,568	-	(52,500)	(249,716)	242,352
Office equipment	141,055	-	-	(48,228)	92,827
IT equipment	149,017	9,004	-	(111,589)	46,432
Computer software	1,034,887	229,840	-	-	1,264,727
	14,890,133	479,244	(52,500)	(2,347,460)	12,969,417

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2024

	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Closing balance
Buildings	9,046,221	22,261	-	(482,053)	8,586,429
Plant and machinery	5,673,002	-	-	(1,418,251)	4,254,751
Furniture and fixtures	202,084	-	-	(22,658)	179,426
Motor vehicles	631,159	145,000	-	(231,591)	544,568
Office equipment	189,282	-	-	(48,227)	141,055
IT equipment	175,341	84,937	(10,432)	(100,829)	149,017
Computer software	-	1,034,887	-	-	1,034,887
	15,917,089	1,287,085	(10,432)	(2,303,609)	14,890,133

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
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2. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Revaluations

The organisation's machinery, motor vehicles, furniture and fixtures, office equipment and IT Equipment are stated at revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

The fair value measurements as of Friday, 31 March 2023 were performed by the general assembly by applying fair market values of similar assets.

The carrying value of the revalued assets under the cost model would have been:

Plant and machinery	-	-
Furniture and fixtures	-	-
Motor vehicles	-	-
Office equipment	-	-
IT equipment	-	-

Details of properties

SS Linatex One, Scheme Number 113, Unit 3 and 4

ST29401/2022 measuring 1458 square meters

- Purchase price: 27 July 2022

- Additions since purchase

5,750,000	5,750,000
4,153,311	4,153,311
9,903,311	9,903,311

Registers with details of property, plant and equipment are available for inspection by shareholders or their duly authorised representatives at the registered office of the company.

3. Other financial assets

At fair value

1312 Old Mutual shares	24,974	28,844
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Non-current assets

At fair value	24,974	28,844
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4. Inventories

Raw materials, components	39,117	39,117
Finished goods	199,873	383,136
	238,990	422,253

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
5. Trade and other receivables		
Trade receivables	97,940	794,644
Deposits	20,017	-
VAT	18,139	34,966
Employee costs in advance	230	13,309
	136,326	842,919
Fair value of trade and other receivables		
The fair value of trade and other receivables approximate their carrying values due to their short term nature and the effect of discounting being immaterial.		
6. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash on hand	145	1,419
Bank balances	26,550	658,704
Bank overdraft	(1,788,340)	-
	(1,761,645)	660,123
Current assets	26,695	660,123
Current liabilities	(1,788,340)	-
	(1,761,645)	660,123
The total amount of undrawn facilities available for future operating activities and commitments	211,660	-
Available Facilities		
Overdraft facility with the Standard Bank of South Africa Limited	R2,000,000	
7. Reserves		
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment	7,991,532	7,991,532
8. Other financial liabilities		
At amortised cost		
SABWO Trust	1,493,698	1,337,686
This loan is unsecured, interest-free and is not repayable within the next twelve months. This loan has been subordinated to third party claims until the company's total assets, fairly valued, exceeds the total liabilities, fairly valued.		
Non-current liabilities		
At amortised cost	1,493,698	1,337,686

BLIND SA

(Registration number: 000-606 NPO)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
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9. Trade and other payables

Trade payables	309,595	244,923
Accrued leave pay	317,735	419,380
Accrued liabilities *	2,751,702	389,239
Deposits received	14,000	14,000
	3,393,032	1,067,542

* Included in Accrued liabilities is an amount of R 2,460,090.74 in payroll taxes owed to the South African Revenue Services for which the general assembly has entered into a payment arrangement to settle this debt over a period of six months.

Fair value of trade and other payables

The fair value of trade and other payables approximate their carrying values due to their short term nature and the effect of discounting being immaterial.

10. Loans from related parties

Subsidiaries

Blind SA NPC	69,503	-
<i>This loan was unsecured, interest free and is repayable within the next twelve months.</i>		

11. Revenue

Sale of goods	3,877,923	4,360,795
Grants received	895,099	1,030,509
Grants - Carleton University	96,054	304,518
Grants - City of Johannesburg	-	374,400
Grants - Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC)	8,616,000	9,698,000
Grants - ETDP SETA	400,000	1,200,000
Grants - FASSET	4,042,377	-
Grants - National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)	-	150,000
Grants - St Dunstan's Association	396,000	367,200
Donations received	5,506,423	10,996,806
	23,829,876	28,482,228

12. Cost of sales

Sale of goods		
Cost of goods sold	1,913,782	2,616,416
Rendering of services		
Project costs	3,577,005	301,141
	5,490,787	2,917,557

BLIND SA

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
13. Other income		
Profit on sale of assets	32,548	-
Bad debts recovered	-	20,630
Other income	32,000	253,809
Sundry income	16,832	520,798
Insurance claim	-	13,050
Casual day income	-	4,920
	81,380	813,207
14. Operating expenses		
Operating expenses include the following expenses:		
Operating lease charges		
Premises		
• Contractual amounts	317,341	246,903
Loss on exchange differences	2,971	-
Fair value losses	3,870	88,022
Depreciation and amortisation	2,347,460	2,303,609
Employee costs	19,093,630	18,179,964
15. Investment revenue		
Dividend revenue		
Listed financial assets - Local	1,257	5,293
Interest revenue		
Bank	29,759	43,271
	31,016	48,564
16. Finance costs		
Bank	18,886	55,015
Penalties and interest paid to the South African Revenue Services	437,880	206,700
	456,766	261,715

17. Taxation

No provision has been made for taxation as the company has been approved as a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, and the receipts and accruals are exempt from income tax in terms of section 10(1)(cN) of the Act. The remaining items subject to tax such as brille services and sundry income is exceeded by the business expenses relating to non exempt income.

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
18. Cash (used in) generated from operations		
Net (loss) profit before taxation	(7,787,215)	263,715
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation, amortisation, impairments and reversals of impairments	2,347,460	2,303,609
Profit on sale of assets and liabilities	(32,548)	-
Loss on foreign exchange differences	2,971	-
Fair value (gains) losses	3,870	88,022
Other trading activities included in other financial liabilities	(93,988)	-
Investment income	(31,016)	(422,964)
Finance costs	456,766	261,715
Changes in working capital:		
(Increase) decrease in inventories	183,263	(67,558)
Decrease in trade and other receivables	703,622	1,644,587
Increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	2,325,490	(1,170,283)
	(1,921,325)	2,900,843
19. Categories of financial instruments		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Unit trusts	24,974	28,844
Debt instruments at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	26,695	660,123
Trade and other receivables	117,953	807,720
	144,648	1,467,843
Financial liabilities at amortised cost		
Other financial liabilities	1,493,698	1,337,686
Bank overdraft	1,788,340	-
Loans from related parties	69,503	-
Trade and other payables	615,206	648,162
	3,966,747	1,985,848

BLIND SA

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
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20. Going concern

We draw attention to Note 20 in the annual financial statements, which indicates that the organisation incurred a net loss of R7,787,215 during the year ended 31 March 2025 and, as of that date, the organisation had accumulated losses of R1,339,703.

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

The ability of the organisation to continue as a going concern is dependent on a number of factors. The most significant of these are as follows:

- The loan from SABWO trust as referred to in note 8 of these financial statements, remain subordinated to the claims of 3rd party creditors until solvency is restored.
- The overdraft facility as referred to in note 6 of these financial statements remain unchanged
- The payment plan to settle the debt on payroll taxes referred to in note 8 of these financial statements, is accepted by the South African Revenue Services and the payment plan is honored by Blind SA.
- Successful completion of a R 7.1 m memorandum of agreement with the National Skills Fund
- The successful implementation of the realignment of of the operational budget, with which the executive committee tasked itself.

BLIND SA

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Detailed Income Statement

Figures in Rand	Notes	2025	2024
Revenue	11	23,829,876	28,482,230
Cost of sales	12	(5,490,787)	(2,917,556)
Gross profit		18,339,089	25,564,674
Other income		81,380	813,207
Expenses (Refer to page 26)		(25,781,934)	(25,901,012)
Operating (loss) profit		(7,361,465)	476,869
Investment income	15	31,016	48,564
Finance costs	16	(456,766)	(261,715)
		(425,750)	(213,151)
(Loss) profit for the year		(7,787,215)	263,718

BLIND SA

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Detailed Income Statement

Figures in Rand	Notes	2025	2024
Operating expenses			
Accounting fees		(40,500)	(146,907)
Administration and management fees		(3,900)	(3,750)
Advertising		(40,641)	(32,889)
Auditors remuneration		(136,104)	(128,400)
Bad debts		(419,743)	(132,424)
Bank charges		(155,011)	(102,657)
Cleaning		(113,356)	(94,442)
Computer expenses		(209,325)	(145,445)
Conference expenses		-	(47,342)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments		(2,347,460)	(2,303,609)
Employee costs		(19,093,630)	(18,179,964)
Entertainment		(123,622)	(242,367)
Economic Empowerment project		(3,609)	(876,008)
Founders' Day expenses		-	(16,997)
General assembly expenses		(464,169)	(357,260)
Fair value losses		(3,870)	(88,022)
Hire of Equipment		(194,486)	(191,648)
Insurance		(294,396)	(231,723)
Lease rentals on operating lease		(317,341)	(246,903)
Legal expenses		-	(20,400)
Motor vehicle expenses		(99,238)	(76,928)
Occupational Health and Safety		(8,282)	(5,653)
Other expenses		(6,448)	(1,518)
Postage		(870)	(100)
Printing and stationery		(69,440)	(81,675)
Provincial General Assembly expenses		(137,407)	(137,974)
Loss on exchange differences		(2,971)	-
Repairs and maintenance		(76,371)	(166,774)
Security		(67,021)	(44,974)
Staff welfare		(93,483)	(64,450)
Study Bursaries		(129,000)	(304,000)
Subscriptions		(82,119)	(77,361)
Telephone and fax		(312,800)	(287,358)
Training		(103)	(14,678)
Travel - local		(703,712)	(1,007,991)
Utilities		(31,506)	(40,421)
		(25,781,934)	(25,901,012)

15. List of Branches

EASTERN CAPE

1. Eastern Cape Hope of the Blind
2. Inkwenkwezi Society for the Blind
3. Libolethu
4. Masakhane Midaka for the Blind
5. Masihlume Organisation for the Blind
6. Masincedane Organisation for the Blind
7. Siyazingca Social Group
8. Sinako Organisation for the Blind
9. Sakhisizwe Foundation for the Blind

FREE STATE

10. Progressive Centre
11. Reikamohetse Qwaqwa
12. Mangaung Blind Cricket Association
13. Itsoseng Association for the Blind

GAUTENG

14. BWO Orion
15. Changing Lives

16. Critical & Creative Clustered Community Project
17. Egoli Blind
18. Empowerment Centre
19. House of Hope
20. Lethabo Centre for the Visually Impaired
21. United Blind People of South Africa
22. Vukani Ma-Africa
23. Mmatli Centre of the Blind
24. Sibambene for Visual Impact and Disability
25. Vision Express Development

KWA-ZULU NATAL

26. Disabled People's Movement
27. SA Vision of the Blind
28. Liberation of Disabled People's Abilities
29. Zuzulwazi Communication for the Blind
30. In-Trinity Service for Disabled People

LIMPOPO

31. Areshomeng Society of the Blind
32. Babohle Project for the Blind

33. Dilokong Association for the Blind
34. Fetakgoma Blind Association
35. Hans Arise & Shine
36. Kom Kyk
37. Lepelle Nkumpi Blind SA
38. Now is the Time
39. Success Association of the Blind
40. Vhembe Blind SA

MPUMALANGA

41. Khuthala Association for the Blind
42. Lesedi Blind Association
43. Mbombela Blind Association
44. Nkomazi Organisation for the Blind
45. MBSDH in the dark

NORTHERN CAPE

46. Itireleng Association for the Blind

NORTH WEST

47. Rebone Kganya
48. North West Blind Cricket

WESTERN CAPE

49. Peninsula Blind SA
50. Breedevallei

16. Vote of thanks

On behalf of Blind SA, we extend our deepest gratitude to all our valued stakeholders, clients, donors, and partners for your unwavering support, commitment, and collaboration throughout the past year.

Your continued partnership has enabled us to advance our mission of promoting the rights, well-being, and full participation of blind and partially sighted persons in South Africa. Whether through financial support, shared expertise, or meaningful engagement, each of you has played an essential role in helping us create a more inclusive and accessible society.

To our donors and funding partners—thank you for investing in our vision. Your generosity has allowed us to sustain critical programmes, expand our reach, and respond effectively to the evolving needs of our community.

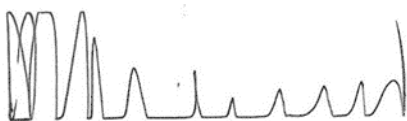
To our beneficiaries, thank you for your trust and engagement. Your voices shape our direction and drive our efforts to provide responsive, inclusive, and impactful services. Your experiences and insights guide our efforts and inspire our work every day.

To our stakeholders and strategic partners—thank you for walking this journey with us. Your collaboration strengthens our collective impact and helps us push boundaries in the fight for accessibility, equality, and opportunity.

As we reflect on our progress and look ahead to new challenges and opportunities, we do so with deep gratitude for the relationships we have built. Together, we remain committed to creating a society where all persons with visual disabilities can thrive with dignity and autonomy. We value the relationships we've built and look forward to continuing our work together in service of dignity, empowerment, and equality for all.

Thank you once again for your steadfast support.

You are appreciated!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jace Nair'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'J'.

Jace Nair

CEO Blind SA

This Annual Report for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 was formally compiled and prepared by Mrs. Busi Mokhari on behalf of Blind SA.