



## CALENDAR OF SIGNIFICANT DAYS

### HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 21 MARCH

Human Rights Day observes human rights and honours Constitutional values in South Africa. Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to highlight the importance of the Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) with a specific focus on Chapter 2 (the Bill of Rights). They should emphasise the fact that the Bill of Rights goes hand in hand with the concept of responsible citizenship.



### FREEDOM DAY - 27 APRIL

Freedom Day commemorates the day in 1994 when the first democratic election was held in South Africa. For the first time, all South Africans voted for a single National Assembly under a common voters' roll under the principle of majority rule. Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to celebrate the birth of democracy and freedom in our country with a key message to protect freedom and democracy on Freedom Day.



### WORKER'S DAY - 1 MAY

Worker's Day commemorates the role played by workers and the broader Trade Unions, the Communist Party and other labour movement in the struggle against worker exploitation Apartheid. Today it celebrates 'Working together to create jobs and fight poverty'. Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to dedicate themselves to the provision of quality education and training for learners, especially those from working class and disadvantaged backgrounds.



### YOUTH DAY - 16 JUNE

Youth Day commemorates the Soweto Uprising in the country. The day is celebrated in order to recognise the role of youth in the liberation of South Africa from the Apartheid regime. All Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to dedicate this day to the empowerment of the youth of the country and the provision of quality access education and training for the youth of South African youth.



### WOMEN'S DAY - 9 AUGUST

On 9 August South Africa celebrates the achievements of women of South Africa. We come together to advance women's struggles for empowerment and their rights to full equality. On 9 August 1956, 20 000 women marched to the Union Building in Pretoria against pass laws which affected African women. Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to dedicate this day to women empowerment and mark progress and challenges in the field of gender equity and equality in South Africa. The historical role of women in liberation struggles should also be acknowledged.



### HERITAGE DAY - 24 SEPTEMBER

On this day, South Africans across the spectrum are celebrating their cultures and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people. South Africa celebrates the cultural diversity of the South African population. It was initially known as Shaka Day to honour the place of King Shaka in history. All Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to promote the diverse cultures of our country and put emphasis on unity in diversity. This culture has both tangible (e.g. languages) and intangible elements (architecture).



### DAY OF RECONCILIATION - 16 DECEMBER

A period of conflict is marked as a period of reconciliation. This day aims to foster reconciliation and national unity. 16 December is a day of great significance in South Africa due to two historical events that took place. The first of these was in 1838, when the Battle of Blood River took place between the Voortrekkers and amaZulu. The second was in 1961, when Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) was formed. All Post-School Education and Training institutions are encouraged to foster non-racial unity and peaceful co-existence in South Africa throughout the year.



## CALENDAR OF SIGNIFICANT MONTHS

### HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 1 - 31 MARCH

Human Rights Month is commemorated in March to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa. We commemorate Human Rights Month to reinforce our commitment to the Bill of Rights as enshrined in our Constitution.

These rights include:

- Equality – everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
- Human dignity – everyone has inherent dignity and have their dignity respected and protected.
- Freedom of movement and residence – everyone has a right to freedom of movement and to reside anywhere in the country.
- Language and culture – everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice.
- Life - everyone has the right to life.

### FREEDOM MONTH 1 - 30 APRIL

Freedom month promotes the values of freedom and democracy that are an integral part of our Constitutional democracy. April will forever resonate in the history of our nation as the month that saw the first democratic elections in 1994 that gave birth to freedom and constitutional democracy in South Africa.

### YOUTH MONTH - 1 - 30 JUNE

This month aims to mobilise youth to take responsibility for their own lives and to contribute to the society. Youth Month pays tribute to the school pupils who lost their lives during the 16 June 1976 uprising in Soweto as well as to carry on with their legacy and principles of selflessness determination and devotion that are necessary for success and growth for any society or nation.

### MANDELA MONTH/ MORAL REGENERATION MONTH 1 - 31 JULY

This month is aimed at encouraging people to recommit to efforts of building communities grounded on positive values and rededicate to building a caring society in pursuit of creating lasting peace and prosperity in the country. This month pays tribute to the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. This gives everyone the opportunity to heed the call to action for people to recognise their individual power to make an imprint and change the world around them.

### WOMEN'S MONTH 1 - 31 AUGUST

This month is celebrating all women and their contribution to the freedom and prosperity of the country.

Women's month is a tribute not only to the thousands of women who marched on that day in 1956, but also a tribute to the pioneers of the women's movement in this country, dating back to 1913, when women like Charlotte Maxeke led the way in establishing the ANC Women's League and encouraging women to engage in the struggle for freedom.

### NATIONAL MONTH OF DEAF PEOPLE 1 - 31 SEPTEMBER

This month is promoting awareness of the rights of Deaf persons in South Africa. Month for Deaf People is in commemoration of the first World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf which took place in September 1951.

### DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS MONTH 3 NOVEMBER - 3 DECEMBER

Disability Awareness Month offers an opportunity for all South Africans to remove disability barriers and to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities through concrete action. Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM) provides South Africa with an opportunity to:

- Inspire hope and confidence in the ability of South Africans and the state machinery to work together in addressing the common challenges facing persons with disabilities and society in general;
- Mobilise persons with disabilities around the gains made in protecting, promoting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities since the adoption of the Freedom Charter 60 years ago and 21 years of democracy;
- Reach out to the diversity within the disability sector, and acknowledging that all human and socio-economic rights should be equally enjoyed by all persons with disabilities, irrespective of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, impairment, socio-economic status, educational qualification level, religion, culture, employment status or nationality; and to
- Celebrate the release of the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which advocates for measures that will hold duty-bearers accountable and strengthen recourse measures for rights-holders whose rights have been violated.

Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to focus on the enabling of disability rights during this month.

### 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN 25 NOVEMBER - 10 DECEMBER

It is a worldwide Campaign to oppose violence against women and children. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the negative impact that violence and abuse have on women and children and to rid society of abuse permanently this day has been adopted from the united nations 1999 resolution on violence against women and children All Post-School Education and Training institutions, entities and organisations are encouraged to focus on advocacy activities against abuse of women and children throughout the year.

