



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FREEDOM DAY 2024 KEY MESSAGES

BRIEF:

This year marks the 30th commemoration of South Africa's democratic dispensation and we celebrate this Freedom Month under the theme "**30 Years of Democracy, partnership and growth**". The 27th of April holds even greater significance this year as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our nation's first democratic election. Furthermore, this Freedom Day also marks the 28th anniversary of the enactment of the South African constitution as the supreme law of our country.

This Freedom Day we celebrate the achievements we have made over the past three decades of our democratic journey. We also remember the sacrifices of unsung heroes and heroines who fought for our freedom and a nation that is truly democratic, equal, representative, fair and free from all forms of discrimination.

Our Freedom Day celebration will be held at the Union Buildings, South Lawns in Tshwane, and will include all spheres of government and various stakeholders who form part of our democratic journey.

The purpose of this year's Freedom Day and Freedom Month celebrations are to enhance an understanding of our nation's history and development and reflect on how we can advance our progress and address our most pressing challenges.

The celebration comes at a time when our nation prepares for our next National and Provincial elections, which is set to take place next month.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><i>Join in the celebration of our freedom and democracy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africans are encouraged to join in the Freedom Month celebrations and be part of the engagements between government and communities. • As we celebrate Freedom Month, we remember that our freedom was not free and cost the lives of many brave individuals. • Our democracy reflects the transformation of our nation, from an unequal, unjust and divided country to an inclusive, equal, free and fair nation. • Through our democracy and the adoption of the constitution in 1996, everyone has human dignity and millions of lives have improved. • This year we also commemorate the 28th anniversary of the enactment of the Constitution as the supreme law of our country. • The rights of all citizens are protected through the constitution which promotes inclusivity, equality, non-racialism, non-sexism, national unity, social cohesion, justice and diversity.
<p><i>Let us commit to advancing our development and democracy together.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our rich heritage, myriad of cultures and languages is protected through our constitution and makes us one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world. • Our national symbols such as the South African flag and anthem tell the stories of our nation and reflect our unity amidst diversity. • Together we have made significant progress over the past 30 years in advancing our democracy. • Through various social cohesion initiatives and nation building projects, we have forged a new national identity from a once deeply divided past. • Over the years we have proved that we are stronger together and as South Africans we share more in common than that which divides us.
<p><i>We have made significant progress in delivering basic services to the poor</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior 1994, many communities were deprived of basic services, which included clean running water, electricity, housing and education. • Since the dawn of our democracy, we have reduced the backlog of basic services and have improved living conditions for many citizens. • Since 1994, seven million more people have electricity (over 85 percent) and over 90 percent of citizens have access to potable water. • 1.8 million citizens have benefitted from land and economic transformation and three million free houses have been built, benefitting over 16 million people. • Over 18 million of the country's population benefit from social grants and more than 3.5 million South African households currently gain support from Government's free basic services programme.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over nine million children attend no-fee schools, and more than nine million children also receive free meals at school. • The provision of basic services enhances human dignity, and we are working to ensure the extension of basic services, especially to poorer communities.
<p><i>We are committed to creating a brighter future for our nation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To redress past imbalances and transform our nation, legislation, and policies such as Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment, Affirmative Action, and Preferential Procurement, came into effect. • We continue to work towards ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens and fight against the triple threat of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. • The National Development Plan is the blueprint for our development and focusses on job creation, reduction of poverty, economic transformation, and growth. • The Presidential Employment Stimulus, a job creation initiative by government, has created over 1.5 million work and livelihood support opportunities for unemployed South Africans. • Government is working towards accelerating employment and economic opportunities. • We call on citizens to play an active role in building the nation and future we want.
<p><i>Together we can tackle the scourge of GBVF.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa has one of the highest rates of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide globally and we must work together to fight the scourge of GBVF. • Abuse against women and children endangers their lives, infringes upon their constitutional rights and freedoms and therefore we are making every effort to create safer communities for all. • In 2019, Government launched the Emergency Action Plan to address the scourge of GBVF, and this included prevention campaigns and improving access to justice for survivors. • Our GBVF response is guided by the National Strategic Plan (NSP), launched in 2020, which outlines interventions to tackle all forms of GBVF. • The complex nature of GBVF require interventions at every level of society, and government has introduced and signed into law three pieces of legislation to step up the national fight against the of gender-based violence and femicide. • The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Act 13 of 2022, The Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act 12 of 2022, and The Domestic Violence Amendment Act 14 of 2022 are key

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	<p>interventions of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They increase protection of victims of gender-based violence and femicide and further prevent perpetrators from escaping justice. They also increase accountability and provide for consequence management against those who do not comply. • To report GBVF related crimes, call the 24-hour helpline: 0800 428 428, or to report any crime call: 086 00 10111 or report it via the MySAPS App.