

Rtia News.

*September 2020.
RTIA, The Authority on AARTO.*

SIGN LANGUAGE AWARENESS MONTH



Image of SASL sourced from Wikipedia.



RTIA
Road Traffic Infringement Agency

Justice in Adjudication

The lady in the corner of the screen.

Words:
Images:

Staff Writer.
Palesa Moalusi.



In late 2006 the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) announced that it was cooperating with the South African Human Rights Commission on the use of appropriate sign language on television news programmes. This announcement was seen as a beacon of inclusivity by all especially the Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA) who were on a crusade to have South African Sign Language (SASL) recognised as an official language.

In recent years sign language interpreters have become commonplace on news programmes, during state events and in recent months at all COVID-19 official briefings. It may seem like great strides have been made in including the deaf community when it comes to information sharing however more still needs to be done. September marks National Month of Deaf People. A month aimed at creating awareness about the deaf community, sign language and what we can all do to be a responsible deaf community ally. So let's get started.

HOW MANY SOUTH AFRICANS ARE DEAF?

In 2011, Statistics SA stated that there are 104 738 people who cannot hear at all and 241 734 who have great difficulty hearing in the country.

SIGN LANGUAGE

Sign language helps deaf people and those who are unable to communicate through speech to convey meaning, thoughts and emotions through a combination of hand, arm and body movements, facial expressions and orientation of their hands.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

South African Sign Language (SASL) is not specifically recognised as a language by the country's constitution, and the phrase 'sign language' is used generically.

On 13 November 2009, the Constitutional Review Committee met to explore the possibility of upgrading SASL as South Africa's 12th official language.

HOW TO REFER TO DEAF PEOPLE

Deaf people, who cannot hear well enough to distinguish speech, prefer to use Sign Language to communicate and usually choose to be referred to as "Deaf" with an uppercase 'D'.

'Hard-of-hearing' refers to people who have some hearing ability, ranging from the ability to hear environmental sounds to those who can understand speech even on the phone, usually with the help of a hearing aid.

MORE THAN JUST IN THE HANDS

Facial expressions are an important part of Sign Language. The facial expressions you use while doing a sign will affect the meaning of that sign. For instance, if you sign the word quiet, and add an exaggerated or intense facial expression, you are telling your audience to be very quiet. Facial expressions are an example of a set of behaviours called non-manual markers. Non-manual markers include facial expressions, head tilt, head nod, head shake, shoulder raising, mouth morphemes, and other non-signed signals that influence the meaning of your signs.

sourced from:
Wikipedia.

South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).
National Institute for the Deaf.
Statistics South Africa.

Whats on in September.

Words: Staff writer.
Images: Venda Mamabolo.



September is a jam packed month in relation to commemorative days, weeks and month. In South Africa we celebrate Heritage Month which recognises aspects of South African culture which are both tangible and intangible: creative expression such as music and performances, our historical inheritance, language, the food we eat as well as the popular memory. Here are some other important commemorative days for September.

TOURISM MONTH

SEPTEMBER EACH YEAR

Tourism Minister Ms Mamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane launched Tourism Month on Monday, 31 August 2020 in Cape Town. The launch of Tourism Month follows the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on easing COVID-19 restrictions to level 2. In her launch address Minister Kubayi-Ngubane said: 'Step by step, over time we have managed to convince the sceptics that the tourism sector could operate safely in the midst of a pandemic. By reopening the sector we hope to restore livelihoods to many South Africans who were destitute while maintaining health and safety standards to protect tourists.' Kubayi-Ngubane also said with the virus spreading on a downward trend the reopening of South Africa's borders was imminent.

PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH

SEPTEMBER EACH YEAR

The Minister of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), Mr Senzo Mchunu has named the Public Service Month theme for 2020 as: 'Growing South Africa Together for an Ethical Public Service.' Public Service Month serves as a reminder of what it means to serve communities and to look at the impact that government has, especially around service delivery. Here are some of the ways the DPSA is asking public servants to commemorate this month:

- Roll-up their sleeves and spring clean their service delivery points;
- Unblock the bottlenecks and red-tape in the delivery of services;

- Ensure that the systems and infrastructure are working and use public resources efficiently to the benefit of the citizens; and
- Recommit themselves to belong, to care and to serve the people.

Minister Mchunu will officially launch Public Service Month on Friday, 4 September 2020.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY

5 SEPTEMBER

The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 'for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace.' Mother Teresa devoted herself to helping the destitute through her order, the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata (Calcutta).

WORLD AFRO DAY

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

World Afro Day is part of a movement towards positivity in the black and mixed-race community and it all centers around the afro, a cultural symbol that's been part of history for hundreds of years. By removing the biases associated with the afro, this day is all about making the afro beautiful and accepted. Founder of the commemorative day Michelle De Leon says: 'This day celebrates the afro as a part of a cultural identity and I feel it is important that we change how people see the afro and give it the pride of place it deserves.'

sourced from:
www.tourism.gov.za,
www.un.org
www.dpsa.gov.za



Medical practitioners have bodies that monitor standards and performance. If you feel you have been in harms way at any point as a patient you can contact either the medical practioner's profesional standards body in South Africa. In South Africa the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) regulates healthcare professionals.

WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY

17 SEPTEMBER 2020

Recognising patient safety as a global health priority, all 194 WHO Member States at the 72nd World Health Assembly, in May 2019, endorsed the establishment of World Patient Safety Day (Resolution WHA72.6), to be marked annually on 17 September. The objectives of World Patient Safety Day are to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding, and spur global solidarity and action to promote patient safety.

Patients and their families also need to know their rights in relation to medical care and should exercise them at all times.

WORLD HEART DAY

29 SEPTEMBER 2020

Heart Day is part of an international campaign to spread awareness about heart disease and stroke prevention. This is the perfect day to quit smoking, get exercising and start eating healthy – all in the

name of keeping your ticker in good working order, and improving the health and well being of people the world over.

The World Heart Federation have found that heart disease and strokes are the world's leading cause of death, killing 17.1 million people every year – that's more than victims of cancer, HIV and AIDS and malaria.

Overeating, lack of exercise, unhealthy diets and high blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels are all factors which can trigger heart disease and

THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (HPCSA).

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ADDRESS: 553 Madiba, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0002.

SAVE TODAY FOR YOUR FUTURE SELF

4

Simple ways to
better health
and more
success in the
future

1

Save up something for your
future self.

Start small, even if it is just R50
a week, for example, you can
save by bringing your lunch to
work, instead of buying it.

2

Give your future self a
better retirement fund by
increasing your retirement
savings. If you haven't
started, start by
contributing 5% of your
salary each month. If you
have started, well done,
make it your goal to get to
10% of your salary or
higher.

3

Don't put your future self
in debt. Be realistic
about what you can
afford today.

If you have already put
yourself in debt, pay off
extra now, so your future
self won't have to pay in
years to come.

4

Don't access your
retirement fund – it is
meant for your
retirement. Leave your
savings alone.

Don't take from the
Granny, Gogo, Oupa or
Mkhulu you hope to be
one day.



Access Virtual Financial Coaching
Easy, Confidential and Accessible

For confidential assistance on financial matters, contact your
CAREWAYS EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAMME
on toll-free

0800 004 770
or SMS your name to 31581



FINANCIAL
Assistance

HEALTH
Information

LEGAL
Assistance

PSYCHOSOCIAL
Counselling



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The RTIA News wishes August babies born under the star signs **Virgo** and **Libra** a Happy Birthday. If you were born between the 1st and 22nd of September you were born under the Virgo zodiac sign. Those born in the latter half of September fall under the Libra zodiac star sign and your birth gem stone is sapphire. Virgos are said to be sensitive, loyal and observant. Libras are known to be charming, well-balanced and idealistic.

The lowering of COVID-19 restrictions to level 2 mean you are likely the first group to properly celebrate your birthday - with restrictions of course. A global health pandemic doesn't mean you cannot celebrate your birthday or wish your loved ones a special day. Here are a few innovative ways to mark birthdays in a pandemic:

1. Book a table at your favourite restaurant. But you need to be quick because restrictions mean very few people are allowed in an establishment at a time.
2. Wish someone a happy birthday by sending a celebrity cameo by using www.cameo.com.
3. You can finally go away for a quick weekend break. Most getaway spots have details on their websites on the precautions they are taking to keep guests safe from the COVID-19 during their stay.

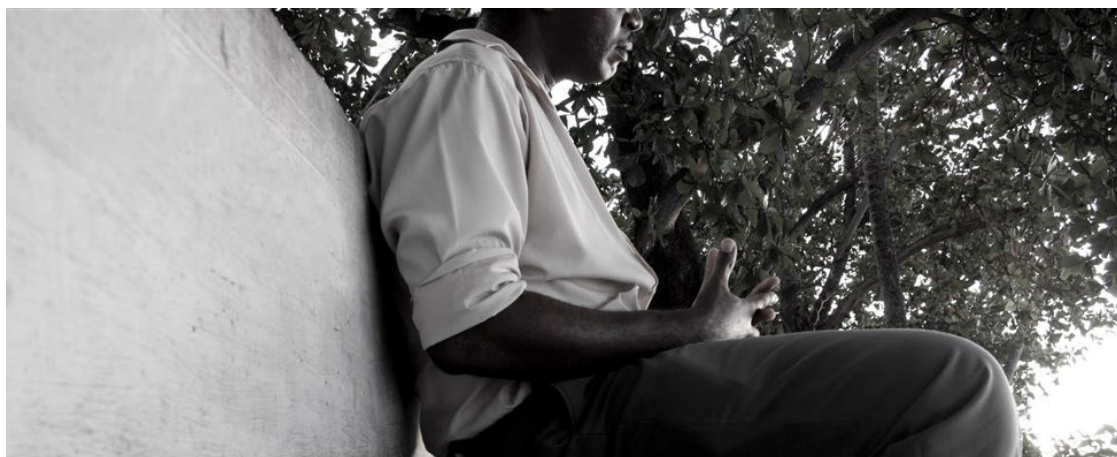
Mankga Mamabolo	01 September	Tsakani Ngoveni	10 September
Kabelo Magongwa	02 September	Basetsana Rikhotso	12 September
Daphney Matlhoko	03 September	Mthunzi Motaung	19 September
Peter Baloyi	03 September	Felicia Bans	20 September
Kgomotso Kwenamore	05 September	Palesa Moalusi	23 September
Tebatso Papo	06 September	Caiphus Matjie	24 September
Matimba Maluleke	07 September	Nonhlanhla Madikologa	27 September
Torence Mashaba	07 September	Saule Ramalo	27 September
Galen Masetlha	09 September	Aaron Mcelu	30 September
Mosiuwa Mositi	10 September		

Suicide rate & lockdown.

Words: Staff Writer.
Images: Ayanda Ntamane.



10 September each year marks World Suicide Prevention Day. A day created to promote worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides. The World Health Organisation (WHO) in a 2016 report estimated that 800 000 people die due to suicide every year, which is one person every 40 seconds. The WHO goes further to say that for every person who completes a suicide, an estimated 20 attempt to end their lives.



The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many social ills to the fore including mental health and suicide. In early August 2020 the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) reported that 1 800 South Africans had taken their own lives during the lockdown with 1 781 of the deaths occurring between 27 March and 27 July.

The province with the most incidents is Gauteng with 482 suicide-related deaths. This is followed by KwaZulu-Natal standing at 392. Eastern Cape had 297 and the Western Cape had 180 people who committed suicide over the four month period. Mpumalanga had 175 suicide-related deaths, Limpopo had 117, followed by North West with 73 people who committed suicide under lockdown.

The Free State had 51 and the Northern Cape had 44 people who died from suicide.

According to the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) the isolation, anxiety and stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic can lead to depression and thoughts of self-harm in both adults and children. That is why it is important to find healthy ways of coping with the stress and anxiety associated with a health pandemic such as COVID-19.

Experts suggest outlets such as:

- Regular exercise;
- Eating healthy;
- Staying in contact with friends and family via video call or voice call;
- Meditation;
- Get help if you are feeling overwhelmed; and
- Educate yourself but ensure you stay away from 'fake news' and misinformation. All information on COVID-19 can be verified through the South Africa government pandemic website.

To reach out to some suicide non-profits on <http://www.suicide.org/hotlines/international/south-africa-suicide-hotlines.html>

*statistics sourced from:
South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).*

We the women of the RTIA.

Words:
Images:

Staff Writer.
Pontsho Masombuka, Basetsana Rikhotso,
Helen Kgamanyane, Amogelang Matebese &
Kgomotso Kwenamore.



Above: Ms Basetsana Rikhotso chose a pretty blue dress for the occasion.



Above: Ms Kgomotso Kwenamore in a velvet floor length dress adorned with white roses.

The women of the RTIA recently held a virtual Women's Day Celebration. The day was aimed at creating a platform for women within the Agency to share ideas and be part of the solution to issues facing women within the Agency. The discussion topics included mentoring women in their careers, the development of a Sexual Harassment Policy for the Agency and an empowerment charter for women.

Speakers included the Deputy Minister of Transport, Ms Dikeledi Magadzi, Ms Maphefo Anno-Frempong and our own Ms Amogelang Matebese. The celebration gave the ladies a day to dust off their glad rags and get dressed up. Ms Pontsho Masombuka was on hand with a make-up tutorial and Ms Mmatebogo Mokale with tips on keeping fit during a pandemic when everyone seems to have gained some padding around their middle.



Above: Ms Amogelang Matebese the picture of elegance and mystery in classic black and red.



Above: Ms Helen Kgamanyane 'HK' in a elegant seafoam green dress paired with guava heels.