



RECONCILIATION MONTH

KEY MESSAGES

BRIEF:

South Africa will mark National Reconciliation Day on 16 December 2022 to focus on promoting social cohesion, healing, unity, nation-building, and renewal. This year's Reconciliation Day will be held under the theme ***“National Unity, Healing, and Renewal”***.

National Reconciliation Day was adopted at the start of our democracy when it was envisioned that reconciliation, peace and stability would be a defining character of our new democratic dispensation. Each year we have an opportunity to reach out to one another to deal with our past, reconcile and build a new nation.

This vision of a nation reconciled is embedded in our democratic Constitution. In South Africa, we not only commemorate Reconciliation Day but also dedicate the entire month of December to reconciliation.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<i>We have a duty to build a united and cohesive nation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 16 December the nation will celebrate Reconciliation Day to continue our drive to foster greater unity and nation building.• Each year we have an opportunity to reach out to one another to deal with our past, reconcile and build a new nation.• Our goal as South Africans should be to promote inclusive nation-building and social cohesion.• This generation must continue to work towards a society free from racial, social, economic and class barriers.• It is an opportunity to celebrate how far we have come in building a cohesive and united society.• Reconciliation is also about each person taking the responsibility to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the country.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><i>Our flag is a symbol of our national unity.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our flag symbolises unity, diversity and our pride as a nation. It should always be flown with pride as it is synonymous with our democracy. • The flag represents our values, our struggles for liberation and our aspirations for a better South Africa. • We must strive for greater social cohesion and nation building. • By working together and harnessing our collective strengths we can build a united and prosperous South Africa. • It is critical for us to address factors that limit reconciliation such as lack of interaction between people of different racial groups, persistent stereotypes, and a lack of safety for all. • We should deal decisively with the obstacles to reconciliation, among them the high levels of inequality in the country and the persistence of racist attitudes and practices. • We should transform our society by broadening the participation of all South Africans in the development of the country. • Speak up when you witness discrimination; interrupt racist talk and make it clear that it has no place in our society. • Changing entrenched perceptions and stereotypes will not be easy but it starts with each one of us.
<p><i>Let's build on the progress we have made under democracy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa has made significant progress in transforming from an apartheid state into a democratic one. • The values of human dignity, non-racialism and non-sexism, and the rule of law remain paramount in our nation. • Each citizen has a responsibility to take charge and play an active role in building the South Africa we want. • Our history of division, injustice and suffering should inspire us to build a better and more united nation. • We must strive to move forward and work to build a nation for everyone.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><i>We need to intensify our fight against GBVF.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We cannot achieve reconciliation as long as the women of our country live in fear of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). • Cases of gender-based violence have continued during this year and government extends condolences to families and friends of women who have suffered at the hands of men. • All South Africans should give effect to our new laws by reporting acts of violence and abuse against women to the police. • We have begun implementing the National Strategic Plan which serves as a roadmap to realise a South Africa free from gender-based violence and femicide and it was one of the key decisions of the recent Presidential Summit on GBVF. • In 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law three pieces of legislation to strengthen the criminal justice system, promote accountability across the state and support survivors. • Furthermore, the number of shelters and care centres for survivors are being increased and adequately capacitated and funded. • We have begun ensuring greater women's financial inclusion and our target is to ensure that at least 40 per cent of goods and services procured by public entities are sourced from women-owned businesses.