

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

2019

**THE YEAR OF INDIGENOUS
LANGUAGES:
PROMOTING AND DEEPENING
A HUMAN RIGHTS
CULTURE**

Keynote address

PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

Date: Thursday, **21 March 2019**

Time: **09:00**

Venue: **George Thabe Cricket Pitch,
Sharpeville, Gauteng**

#HumanRightsDay

#IndigenousLanguages

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Together we move South Africa forward



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HUMAN RIGHTS MONTHS 2019 COMMEMORATION

South Africa commemorates Human Rights Month in March under the theme: “The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening a Human Rights Culture.”

Human Rights Day will be commemorated on 21 March 2019 in Sharpeville, Gauteng where President Cyril Ramaphosa will address the nation.

The National Human Rights Day in South Africa is associated with the 21st of March 1960; on that day peaceful marchers were mercilessly massacred by the apartheid regime. This was a turning point in the history of South Africa on 21st March 1960 when an anti-pass march to the Sharpeville police station in Vereeniging came to a brutal end with the mass killing of peaceful protesters. Later that day in Langa, a township outside Cape Town, police baton-charged and fired teargas at the gathered protesters, shooting three and injuring several others. The Sharpeville Massacre, as the event has become known, signaled the start of armed resistance in South Africa, and prompted worldwide condemnation of South Africa's apartheid policies.

The 2019 commemorations draw attention to the critical importance of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalise and promote indigenous languages. We must promote and support teaching, preservation and revival of indigenous languages.

The Bill of Rights promotes our linguistic diversity and encourages respect for language rights.

The Constitution mandates equality of the use of official languages throughout the country, and provides respect to all our languages, giving social and political recognition to disadvantaged language groups on the basis of the expressed needs of communities and interest groups.

The South African democratic government promotes a culture of human rights. The languages we use must also seek to promote non-racism and non-sexism and we must guard against those who use language to fan the fires of racism, sexism and all forms of intolerance.

Let us foster social cohesion, nation building, and work together towards socio-economic development. Let us unite in our efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all related intolerances. Let us tell the South African story of those men and women who gave their lives for our liberation.

Let us celebrate the achievements of 25 years of freedom and democracy.

#HumanRightsMonth #HumanRightsDay #IndigenousLanguages #IamTheFlag

Government departments; such as Home Affairs etc will render free services to the public on the day. Bring along your ID and other relevant documents should you wish to make use of the services.

This message is proudly brought to by Government.

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