



Republic of South Africa

The South African Month of Women

It is our custom in the Republic of South Africa to mark August as Women's month. The **9th of August** is celebrated yearly as a public holiday to pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women.

Special commemoration is extended to pioneers of the women's movement in South Africa, dating back to 1913, when the likes of Charlotte Maxeke, encouraged women to engage in the struggle for freedom.

This year's Women Month will be observed under the theme: **"The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Realising Women's Rights"**. Ensuring and protecting rights for all has been a constant struggle for government and our social partners, as we battle the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

We endorse the active role of women in the ongoing fight against the Covid-19 Pandemic and we advocate the fair and equitable global distribution of vaccines to **ALL**. In the implementation our Nation's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, the inclusivity of women receives great focus as aligned to the priorities of the African Union Agenda 2063.

The Government of the Republic of South Africa also continues with its concerted and dedicated efforts to battle the scourge of Gender Based Violence in order to create an enabling environment where women can live harmoniously and peacefully within their communities.

It is with these brief remarks, that I wish you all a happy and safe women's day.

H.E. AMBASSADOR TOKOZILE XASA