



Human Rights Day is celebrated annually on the 21st of March and there are two critical reasons why this day cannot be regarded as just another public holiday. Firstly it is a commemoration of the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 when 69 people, 29 of them children, were shot dead by the police during an anti-pass law demonstration.

Secondly it is an opportunity to celebrate how far we have come as a country in the field of human rights. While there is certainly still some work to do, we have made massive strides in respecting the rights of all South Africans. Our Constitution, specifically chapter 2 which deals with Human Rights must continue to guide us all in this regard.

Human Rights Day 2022 however will be very different to all the other years since the dawn of democracy in 1994. The advent of COVID-19 means that there can be no mass gatherings, no coming together in large numbers to commemorate Sharpeville and to celebrate our wonderful Constitution. But this cannot detract from the importance of this day. In fact, as COVID-19 tightens its grip on the world and brings with it much uncertainty, we must put all our differences and prejudices aside.

If there ever was a time in our modern history to stand together and work together it is now. I am confident that South Africans understand, perhaps more than most, the importance of respecting and protecting each other's rights as we tackle the challenges of COVID-19.

We have far more that unites us than divides us and I call on all South Africans to take some time on Human Rights Day to remember those who paid the ultimate price to get us here today, and to celebrate the rights that we now have and enjoy in our beautiful country.

Thank you Baie Dankie

Mayor. Cllr Tsheko Musolwa

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