

**A Reference of Annual
Special Days**

National & International Annual Observances



Devote each day to the object then in time and every evening will find something done.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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In this series

Content is Queen
The Art of Pitching
The Art of Co-production
The Art of Sourcing Content

Annual Observances

A Reference of Annual Special Days

One of the duties of the public broadcaster is to remind people of important events and matters of attention on the days, and at the times, that all nations do. This also applies to national matters when the nation is looking to support something that really matters.

Observance days and weeks are designed therefore to bring important issues to the attention of people as a whole in the little bites that they can absorb. Some are followed internationally, and some within a nation or community. They are an essential element to nation-building.

Every family has connection with most of the matters that these times bring to their attention. It is important to them, helps them make sense of their lives and the world around them. It gives them hope for the future, and practical advice on how to handle things that concern them.

These days, weeks and events also provide important material for broadcaster content. It should be more than just the broadcast of Public Service Announcements, the public broadcaster should support the announcements with programme content.

This booklet lists all the observances that are supported in South Africa as a service to content providers, programme acquirers, schedulers, events managers and independent producers. We hope that it helps you to plan ahead, budget and provide content that matters.

National & International Annual Observances

Commissioned by
SABC Content Enterprises
Innovation and Editorial



January

- 1 Global Family Day**
You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them
 ~ Desmond Tutu
- 1 World Day of Peace**
 Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day**
God must have been on leave during the Holocaust ~ Simon Wiesenthal
- 3rd Sunday World Religion Day**
Religion is to do right. It is to love, it is to serve, it is to think, it is to be humble ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

February

- 2 World Wetlands Day**
Let us endeavour to restore wetlands throughout South Africa so our children and their children can also enjoy them ~ Kobus Slatter
- 4 World Cancer Day**
Cancer is a word, not a sentence ~ John Diamond
- 6 International Day Against Female Genital Mutilation**
Female genital mutilation is torture, not a culture ~ Alice Walker
- 11 World Day of the Sick**
When you treat a disease, first treat the mind ~ Chen Jen
- 12 Darwin Day**
A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life
 ~ Charles Darwin

Interesting Facts

The oldest calendar may be 30,000 years old. An engraved bone plaque found at Blanchard, in the Dordogne region of France, contains a series of 69 engravings arranged on a curved line. The shape of the engravings resembles the phases of the moon, and some archaeologists believe that that is what the marks represent.

The Egyptian calendar, which was 365 days long and started on the day that Sirius rose in line with the sun, was instituted around 4,241 B.C.

The year 46 B.C. was the longest year on record. By this year, the Roman calendar had fallen 90 days behind the seasons, so in order to make up for the accumulated slippage, Julius Caesar added two extra months to the year as well as 23 additional days in February. Thus, 46 B.C. was 455 days long.

July is named after Julius Caesar, and August after Augustus Caesar.

September, October, November, and December come from the Latin words for seven, eight, nine, and ten, despite being the ninth through twelfth months. Originally the Romans had ten months, from March to December. Around 700 B.C., Numa Pompilius added the months of January and February.

Months have different numbers of days, between 28 and 31, because of the Romans. Numa Pompilius assigned 29 days to seven months, 31 days to four months, and 28 days to one month, because Romans thought that even numbers were bad luck. This only totalled 355 days, so later on various days were added to certain months.

Origins of the Months of the Year

July

It was the month in which Julius Caesar was born, and named Julius in his honor in 44 BCE, the year of his assassination. Also called Quintilis (fifth month).

August

Originally this month was called Sextilis (from *sextus*, "six"), but the name was later changed in honor of the first of the Roman emperors, Augustus (because several fortunate events of his life occurred during this month).

September

The name comes from *septem*, "seven".

October

The name comes from *octo*, "eight"

November

The name comes from *novem*, "nine".

December

The name comes from *decem*, "ten".

14 Valentine's Day

True love comes quietly, without banners or flashing lights. If you hear bells, get your ears checked ~ Erich Segal

20 World Day of Social Justice

Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained ~ Helen Keller

21 International Mother Language Day

One should respect his motherland, his culture and his mother tongue because they are givers of happiness ~ Rig Veda

21 International Mother's Day

Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs in my field, since the payment is pure love ~ Mildred B. Vermont

March

8 United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, "She doesn't have what it takes." They will say, "Women don't have what it takes" ~Clare Boothe Luce

8 International Women's Day

Modern invention has banished the spinning wheel, and the same law of progress makes the woman of today a different woman from her grandmother ~ Susan B. Anthony

15 World Consumer Rights Day

We as consumers will not tolerate a poor product or service, then why do we allow and in fact manage and lead a business that allows less then tolerable product or service to exist? ~ Jonathon J. Salomon

21 – 27 Week of Solidarity with the peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination

Racism is man's gravest threat to man - the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason ~ Abraham J. Heschel

21 SA Human Rights Day

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world - indeed it is the only thing that ever does ~ Margaret Meade

21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings ~ Franklin Thomas

21 World Poetry Day

Poetry is a deal of joy and pain and wonder, with a dash of the dictionary ~ Kahlil Gibran

22 World Water Day

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry ~ Thomas Fuller

23 World Meteorological Day

Meteorology has ever been an apple of contention, as if the violent commotions of the atmosphere induced a sympathetic effect on the minds of those who have attempted to study them ~ Joseph Henry

24 International Day for Achievers

You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else ~ Albert Einstein

24 World Tuberculosis Day

Why, in this day and age, are people dying of TB? ~ Sandra Lovington

Origins of the Months of the Year

January

Named after the Roman god of beginnings and endings Janus (the month *Januarius*).

February

The name comes either from the old-Italian god Februus or else from *februa*, signifying the festivals of purification celebrated in Rome during this month.

March

This is the first month of the Roman year. It is named after the Roman god of war, Mars.

April

Called Aprilis, from *aperire*, "to open". Possible because it is the month in which the buds begin to open.

May

The third month of the Roman calendar. The name probably comes from Maiesta, the Roman goddess of honor and reverence.

June

The fourth month was named in honor of Juno. However, the name might also come from *iuniores* (young men; juniors) as opposed to *maiores* (grown men; majors) for May, the two months being dedicated to young and old men.

Origins of the Days of the Week

Monday

The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon *monandaeg*, "the moon's day". This second day was sacred to the goddess of the moon.

Tuesday

This day was named after the Norse god Tyr. The Romans named this day after their war-god Mars: *dies Martis*.

Wednesday

The day named to honor Wodan (Odin). The Romans called it *dies Mercurii*, after their god Mercury.

Thursday

The day named after the Norse god Thor. In the Norse languages this day is called *Torsdag*. The Romans named this day *dies Jovis* ("Jove's Day"), after Jove or Jupiter, their most important god.

Friday

The day in honor of the Norse goddess Frigg. In Old High German this day was called *frigedag*. To the Romans this day was sacred to the goddess Venus, and was known as *dies veneris*.

Saturday

This day was called *dies Saturni*, "Saturn's Day", by the ancient Romans in honor of Saturn. In Anglo-Saxon: *sater daeg*.

- 25 **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade**
The moment the slave resolves that he will no longer be a slave, his fetters fall. Freedom and slavery are mental states ~ Mahatma Gandhi
- 25 **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade**
The moment the slave resolves that he will no longer be a slave, his fetters fall. Freedom and slavery are mental states ~ Mahatma Gandhi

April

- 2 **World Autism Awareness Day**
Autism is not a puzzle, nor a disease. Autism is a challenge], but certainly not a devastating one ~ Trisha Van Berkel
- 3 **World Press Freedom Day**
Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost ~ Thomas Jefferson
- 4 **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**
Mining is like a search-and-destroy mission ~ Stewart Udall
- 7 **World Health Day**
The patient should be made to understand that he or she must take charge of his own life. Don't take your body to the doctor as if he were a repair shop ~ Quentin Regestein
- 17 **World Hemophilia Day**
I am 16 years old, have AIDS and am a Hemophiliac. I wonder which one will kill me first ~ Ryan White
- 22 **International Mother Earth Day**
We're sitting on our blessed Mother Earth from which we get our strength and determination, love and humility - all the beautiful attributes that we've been given. So turn to one another; love one another; respect one another; respect Mother Earth; respect the waters – because that's life itself ~ Phil Lane Sr.

23 World Book and Copyright Day

A good book on your shelf is a friend that turns its back on you and remains a friend ~Author Unknown

25 World Malaria Day

Basically (the locals) can't afford the treatment for malaria—it's too expensive—so we thought it would be smarter to emphasise how to prevent them from getting it in the first place—John Madean

26 World Intellectual Property Day

Intellectual property has the shelf life of a banana ~ Bill Gates

27 SA Freedom Day

You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom. You can only be free if I am free ~ Clarence Darrow

28 International Workers' Memorial Day

Workers are the backbone of our society ~ Jacques Delors

28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The door to Safety swings on the hinges of common sense – Anonymous

29 World Dance Day

There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good ~ Edwin Denby

May

1 SA Worker's Day

Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains ~ Karl Marx

3 World Press Freedom Day

Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost ~ Thomas Jefferson

Traditional Wedding Anniversaries

1	Paper
2	Calico / Cotton
3	Leather / Muslin
4	Silk
5	Wood
6	Iron
7	Copper / Wool
8	Electrical / Bronze
9	Pottery
10	Tin / Aluminum
11	Steel
12	Linen / Silk
13	Lace
14	Ivory
15	Crystal
20	China
25	Silver
30	Pearl
35	Coral / Jade
40	Ruby
45	Sapphire
50	Gold
55	Emerald
60	Diamond
75	Platinum

Birthstones and Flowers

	Birthstone	Flower
January	Garnet	Carnation
February	Amethyst	Violet
March	Bloodstone	Jonquil
April	Diamond	Sweet Pea
May	Emerald	Lily of the Valley
June	Pearl	Rose
July	Ruby	Larkspur
August	Sardonyx	Gladiolus
September	Sapphire	Aster
October	Opal	Calendula
November	Topaz	Chrysanthemum
December	Turquoise	Narcissus

Useful Websites

Currency Convertor	www.xe.com
World Weather	www.weather.com
Time and Date	www.timeanddate.com
General South African Related information	www.infoplease.com
Restaurants	www.wheretoeat.co.za
Accommodation	www.wheretostay.co.za
Street Maps	www.streetmaps.co.za
Route Maps	www.co.za
Distance Calculator	www.saexplorer.co.za
Driving Distance between Cities	www.travelmath.com
The Picture Gallery of South Africa	www.thesafaricompany.co.za

1st Tuesday

World Asthma Day

Asthma research is a lot better and new medicines are always coming out to help young people ~ Dominique Wilkins

4 International Firefighters' Day

When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work - Edward F. Croker

5 World Athletics Day

One of the great lessons I've learned in athletics is that you've got to discipline your life. No matter how good you may be, you've got to be willing to cut out of your life those things that keep you from going to the top ~ Bob Richards

5 International Midwives Day

Midwives see birth as a miracle and only mess with it if there's a problem; doctors see birth as a problem and if they don't mess with it, it's a miracle!" Barbara Harper in Gentle Birth Choices

2nd Sunday

Mother's Day

Mother carries the child in her womb for nine months and in her heart for the rest of her life ~ Anonymous

8 World Red Cross / Red Crescent Day

Everyone is giving them food and clothes but they need money to buy what they need. We will send the money to the Red Cross—Ashlee Johnson

8 Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those who Lost Their Lives during the 2nd World War

Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few ~ Winston Churchill

9 World Migratory Bird Day

Oh the wonders of a travelling bird ~ Gale Norton

12 International Nurses Day

Nurses are angels in comfortable shoes. ~Author Unknown

- 2nd Saturday** **World Fair Trade Day**
Working together is the answer ~ Anonymous
- 15** **International Day of Families**
You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them ~ Desmond Tutu
- 17** **World Information Society Day**
To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others ~ Anthony Robbins
- 18** **International Museum Day**
In museums and palaces we are alternate radicals and conservatives ~ Henry James
- 19** **World Hepatitis Day**
Hepatitis doesn't always present symptoms ~ Karen Gonzales
- 21** **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**
Despite the ethnic diversity within each nation, the social fabric of the region by and large is one ~ Bashar al-Assad
- 22** **International Day for Biological Diversity**
We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity ~ E.O. Wilson
- 23** **World Turtle Day**
We need to protect the turtles ~ Jamie Peterson (Aged 5)
- 25-31** **Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories**
It is thus a time to renew the commitment of the world community to support the aspirations of the peoples of the remaining Territories ~ Harri Holkeri
- 25** **Africa Day**
When you've acquired a taste for dust. The scent of our first rain. You're hooked for life on Africa ~ Emily Dibb

Traditional Chinese Holidays

Last day of lunar month	Chinese New Year Eve
1 st day of 1 st lunar month	Spring Festival (Chinese New Year)
15 th day of 1 st lunar month	Lantern Festival
2nd day of 2nd lunar month	Zhonghe / Blue Dragon Festival
3 rd day of the 3 rd lunar month	Shangsi Festival
On solar longitude (15 degrees, 104 days after winter solstice (± April 5)	Tomb Sweeping Day / Mourning Day
5th day of 5th lunar month	Dragon Boat Festival
7th day of 7th lunar month	Night of Sevens / Magpie Festival
15th day of 7th lunar month	Spirit Festival (Ghost Festival)
15 th day of the 8 th lunar month	Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival)
9th day of 9th lunar month	Double 9 th Festival
15th day of the 10th lunar	Spirit / Water Lantern Festival
21 st or 22 nd of December	Winter Solstice / Mid-Winter Festival
8 th Day of 12 th lunar month	Laba Festival / Congee Festival

NB: Most religious days of celebration are based on fixed dates, phases of the moon, timing of the equinoxes, and solstices (solar calendar)

Muslim Calendar

15 February	Meelaad-un Nabee Muhammad (S.A.W.)
9 June	Laylatul Meeraj (eve)
15 July	Laylatul Baraat (eve)
1 August	Commencement of Ramadan
31 August	Eid-ul-Fitr
5 October	Youmi Arafah
6 November	Eid-ul-Adgha
26 November	1 st Muharram (1432)
5 December	10 th Muharram

Rastafari Holy Days

7 January	Ethiopian Orthodox Christmas
6 February	Bob Marley's birthday
25 March	Empress Menen's birthday
21 April	Groundation Day
25 May	African Liberation Day
23 July	Emperor Haile Selassie's birthday
17 August	Marcus Garvey's birthday
11 September	Ethiopian New Year
2 November	Haile Selassie Coronation

29 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

UN peacekeeping operations are now increasingly complex and multi-dimensional, going beyond monitoring a ceasefire to actually bringing failed States back to life, often after decades of conflict ~ Kofi Annan

31 World No Tobacco Day

A cigarette is the only consumer product which when used as directed kills its consumer ~ Anonymous

June

3rd Sunday Father's Day

A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms - when his hands are empty ~ Anonymous

1 International Children's Day

Children are our Future. Let's protect them ~ Anonymous

4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

Aggression only moves in one direction - it creates more aggression ~ Margaret J. Wheatley

5 World Environment Day

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children ~ Native American Proverb

8 World Brain Tumour Day

Know, then, whatever cheerful and serene supports the mind supports the body too ~ John Armstrong

8 World Ocean Day

How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly Ocean ~ Arthur C. Clarke

12 World Day Against Child Labour

We are the world's children. We are the victims of exploitation and abuse. We are street children. We are the children of war. We are the victims and orphans of HIV/AIDS. We are denied good quality education and health care. We are victims of political, economic, cultural, religious and environmental discrimination. We are children whose voices are not being heard ~ Statement from the Children's Forum to the United Nations, May 2002

14 World Blood Donor Day

Be a blood and organ donor. All it costs is a little love ~ Author Unknown

16 SA Youth Day

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth ~ Diogenes Laertius

17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Forests precede people and deserts follow ~ Chateaubriand

19 World Sickle Cell Anaemia Awareness Day

Health is not valued till sickness comes ~ Dr. Thomas Fuller

20 World Refugee Day

On this World Refugee Day, let us remember that refugees too are real people with real needs. Helping them to rebuild their lives and their communities benefits us all ~ UNHCR High Commissioner António Guterres

21 World Music Day

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life ~ Berthold Auerbach

23 United Nations Public Service Day

My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation.... ~ Margaret Chase Smith

26 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Illicit drugs destroy innumerable individual lives and undermine our societies. Confronting the illicit trade in drugs and its effects remains a major challenge for the international community ~ Kofi Annan

African Calendar

The Solar Calendar

The African Calendar is divided into two solstices (June 21 and December 21) and two equinoxes (21 March and 21 September). These quarters are used to establish the Solar Calendar and Holy Days such as First Fruits Celebrations

The Lunar Calendar

The African Lunar Year is divided into three seasons of four months each. These seasons correspond with the main spiritual and cultural festivals:

- New Year Festival (23 December)
- First Fruits Festival (21-25 December)
- Harvest Festival (21 March to 21 April)
- Initiation Festival (May)

Other Holidays (May 1- Mohale: Universal Mother's Day) and May 25 Birth of the Spiritual Word)

These festivals play a critical role in the cultivation of moral, social and economic values.

Africans are known for their precision in aligning themselves with nature and the cosmic world for sustainable development.

Jewish Holy Days

20 January	Tu-B'Shvat
17 March	Fast of Esther
20 March	Purim
19/20 April	Pesach (1 st & 2 nd Day)
25/26 April	Pesach (7 th & 8 th Day)
8 May	Yom Hazikaron
9 May	Yom Ha'atzmaut
22 May	Lag B'Omer
8/9 June	Shavuot
19 July	Fast of Tammuz 17 th Tammuz
9 August	Tish B'Av (Fast of 9 th of Av)
29/30 September	Rosh Hashanah
2 October	Fast of Gedalya
8 October	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
13/14 October	Succot
19 October	Hoshana Rabba
20 October	Shmini Atzeret
21 October	Shimchat Torah
21-28 December	Channukah
5 January 2012	Fast of 10 th of Tevet

Hindu Festivals

14 January	Makar Sankranti
3 March	Maha Shivratri
4 April	Ramayana Week (Commence)
12 April	Ramanvami
22 August	Krishna Janmashtami
13 September	Pitr-paksha
28 September	Navaratri
26 October	Deepavali / Diwali

26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

This is a day on which we pay our respects to those who have endured the unimaginable. This is an occasion for the world to speak up against the unspeakable. It is long overdue that a day be dedicated to remembering and supporting the many victims and survivors of torture around the world ~ Secretary-General Kofi Annan

July

2 International Day of Co-operatives

Ethics is in origin the art of recommending to others the sacrifices required for cooperation with oneself ~ Bertrand Russell

2 World Sports Journalists Day

The smarter the journalists are, the better off society is. [For] to a degree, people read the press to inform themselves-and the better the teacher, the better the student body ~ Warren Buffett

6 World Zoonoses Day

This can be cured if we all work together ~ Robert Dason

11 World Population Day

A finite world can support only a finite population; therefore, population growth must eventually equal zero ~ Garrett Hardin

11 World Pasta Day

As long as there's pasta..... in the world, I'm okay ~ Michael Chang

18 Nelson Mandela International Day

Mandela is a living embodiment of the highest values of the United Nations. His commitment to a democratic, multi-racial South Africa; his steadfast pursuit of justice; his willingness to reconcile with those who persecuted him most – these are just some of the hallmarks of a remarkable man ~ Ban Ki-moon

August

- 2 – 7 SA National Science Week**
Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science ~ Edwin Powell Hubble
- 9 SA National Women's Day**
Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression ~ Nelson Mandela
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People**
I support the indigenous people anywhere in the planet ~ Edward James Olmos
- 12 International Youth Day**
Youth is the trustee of prosperity ~ Benjamin Disraeli
- 12 – 18 World Water Week**
Water is life's mater and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water ~ Albert Szent-Gyorgyi
- 13 International Lefthanders Day**
Everyone is born right-handed. Only the greatest overcome it ~ Author unknown
- 19 World Humanitarian Day**
We are afraid to care too much, for fear that the other person does not care at all ~ Eleanor Roosevelt
- 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**
What makes it right to 'possess' a slave? ~ Brand Hopkins

Christian Observances

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 9 March | Ash Wednesday |
| 17 April | Palm Sunday |
| 18 April | Holy Week (Commence) |
| 22 April | Good Friday |
| 24 April | Easter Sunday |
| 2 June | Ascension Day |
| 12 June | Pentecost |
| 13 June | Whit Monday |
| 6 November | All Saints' Day |
| 10 November | Christ the King |
| 27 November | Advent Sunday (Commence) |
| 25 December | Christmas |

Bahá'i Observances

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 21 March | Naw-Ruz (The New Year) |
| 21 April | Feast of Ridvan (1 st Day) |
| 29 April | Feast of Ridvan (9 th Day) |
| 2 May | Feast of Ridvan (12 th Day) |
| 23 May | Declaration of the Bab |
| 29 May | Ascension of the Baha'u'llah |
| 9 July | Martyrdom of the Bab |
| 20 October | Birth of the Bab |
| 12 November | Birth of Bah'u'llah |

5 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual ~ Albert Einstein

7 International Civil Aviation Day

When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return ~ Unknown

9 International Anti-Corruption Day

The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference ~ Bess Myerson

10 International Human Rights Day

Nations will rise and fall, but equality remains the ideal. The universal aim is to achieve respect for the entire human race, not just for the dominant few ~ Carlos P. Romulo

11 International Mountain Day

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings ~ John Muir

16 SA Day of Reconciliation

In history, the moments during which reason and reconciliation prevail are short and fleeting ~ Stefan Zweig

18 International Migrants Day

The time has come for urgent measures to fundamentally restructure the whole way of how asylum seekers and migrants are dealt with ~ Unknown

19 United Nations Day for South-South Co-operation

The South will rise again - Unknown

20 International Human Solidarity Day

Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking ~ Mahatma Gandhi

September

1 – 7 SA National Arbor Week

A few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing their branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease ~ John Muir

7 Secretaries' Day

Always be nice to secretaries. They are the real gatekeepers in the world ~ Anthony J. D'Angelo

8 International Literacy Day

No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance ~ Confucius

10 World Suicide Prevention Day

How bad must things be for you to believe that taking your own life is better than living it? ~ Francis Beating

14 World Stroke Day

Why must people be incapacitated by a stroke before they seek treatment for the cause? ~ Catherine Muller

15 International Day of Democracy

Democracy works when people claim it as their own ~ Bill Moyers

16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

It's absolutely stupid that we live without an ozone layer. We have men, we've got rockets, we've got saran wrap—fix it! ~ Lewis Black

21 International Day of Peace

Simply the absence of war is not peace ~ Anam Prem

21 World Alzheimer's Day

In Alzheimer's the mind dies first: Names, dates, places—the interior scrapbook of an entire life—fade into mists of non-recognition ~ Matt Clark

22 World Car Free Days
Restore human legs as a means of travel. Pedestrians rely on food for fuel and need no special parking facilities ~ Lewis Mumford

24 SA Heritage Day
A civilization is a heritage of beliefs, customs, and knowledge slowly accumulated in the course of centuries, elements difficult at times to justify by logic, but justifying themselves as paths when they lead somewhere, since they open up for man his inner distance ~ Antoine de Saint-Exupery

24 World Maritime Day
Respect is what is needed in the maritime world ~ Callum McDougal

26 World Heart Day
Look after your heart. It is the only one you've got ~ Maria Dobson

27 World Tourism Day
Tourism is like sharing your country ~ Jill Bennet

28 Right to Know Day
Life is filigree work. What is written clearly is not worth much, it's the transparency that counts ~ Louis-Ferdinand Celine

28 World Rabies Day
The most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people is by eliminating rabies in dogs through animal vaccinations ~ Anonymous

October

1 International Day of Older Persons
Learning acquired in youth arrests the evil of old age; and if you understand that old age has wisdom for its food, you will so conduct yourself in youth that your old age will not lack for nourishment ~ Leonardo da Vinci

20 Universal Children's Day
We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today ~ Stacia Tauscher

21 World Hello Day
Saying hello doesn't take much time. It's just one word, two if you include the name of the person. It's easily done in just one breath ~ Anonymous

21 World Television Day
It's the menace that everyone loves to hate but can't seem to live without ~ Paddy Chayevsky

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
I think we're at a time where people just want to join together and cause change. People don't want to live like this any more ~ Charlize Theron

25 Nov – 10 Dec 16 days of Activism
We must unite. Violence against women cannot be tolerated, in any form, in any context, in any circumstance, by any political leader or by any government ~ Ban Ki-Moon

December

1 World AIDS Day
History will judge us on how we respond to the AIDS emergency in Africa....whether we stood around with watering cans and watched while a whole continent burst into flames....or not ~ Bono

2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
As long as the mind is enslaved, the body can never be free. Psychological freedom, a firm sense of self-esteem, is the most powerful weapon against the long night of physical slavery ~ Martin Luther King

3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
There are so many opportunities in life, that the loss of two or three capabilities is not necessarily debilitating ~ Jim Davis

8 World Radiography Day

I must confess that I am privileged to be in the best profession in the world as far as medical practice is concerned ~ Augustine Obi

10 World Science Day for Peace and Development

There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesale returns of conjecture out of such a trifling investment of fact ~ Mark Twain

14 World Diabetes Day

Life is not over because you have diabetes. Make the most of what you have, be grateful ~ Dale Evans

16 International Day for Tolerance

The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority ~ Ralph W. Sockman

17 International Students Day

Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new ~ Og Mandino

3rd Thursday**World Philosophy Day**

Let no one delay the study of philosophy while young nor weary of it when old ~ Epicurus

19 World Toilet Day

The invention of the toilet is probably the best invention ever ~ Douglas Mortimer

19 World COPD Day

What light is to the eyes - what air is to the lungs - what love is to the heart, liberty is to the soul of man ~ Robert Green Ingersoll

3rd Sunday**World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims**

Better a thousand times careful than once dead. ~Proverb

20 Africa Industrialisation Day

To illuminate our real African History, to clarify our African Present, to brilliantly project our African Future ~ Mama Kefa Nephthys

1 World Vegetarian Day

Man is the only animal that can remain on friendly terms with the victims he intends to eat until he eats them. ~Samuel Butler

2 World Farm Animals Day

It's bad enough that we eat them but do we need to be so cruel to them beforehand? ~ John Christiansen

2 International Day of Non-Violence

We challenge the culture of violence when we ourselves act in the certainty that violence is no longer acceptable, that it's tired and outdated no matter how many cling to it in the stubborn belief that it still works and that it's still valid ~ Gerard Vanderhaar

1st Monday**World Habitat Day**

A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams ~ Anonymous

4 World Animal Day

I have developed a deep respect for animals. I consider them fellow living creatures with certain rights that should not be violated any more than those of humans ~ Jimmy Stewart

4 - 10 World Space Week

One small step for man. One giant leap for mankind ~ Neil Armstrong

5 World Teachers' Day

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires ~ William Arthur Ward

7 World Smile Day

A smile is an inexpensive way to change your looks ~ Charles Gordy

9 World Post Day

The perfect love affair is one which is conducted entirely by post ~ George Bernard Shaw

10 World Mental Health Day

Mental illness is no myth, as some have claimed. It is a disturbance in our sense of possession of a stable inner self that survives its personae ~ Camille Paglia

2nd Wednesday International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

Calamity is the perfect glass wherein we truly see and know ourselves ~ Sir William D'Avenant

2nd Thursday World Sight Day

How can your eyes be the window to your soul if they are blank and sightless? ~ Peter Radcliffe

14 World Standards Day

Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you ~ Henry Ward Beecher

2nd Friday World Egg Day

For centuries, eggs have played a major role in feeding families around the world ~ Anonymous

15 Global Handwashing Day

We've always said that hand washing is one of the most important things you can do to keep from getting sick ~ Julia Smith

15 International Day of Rural Women

Women in rural areas bear the burden of a large part of the tasks and work ~ Janet Hardy

16 World Food Day

I can't talk religion to a man with bodily hunger in his eyes ~ George Bernard Shaw

17 Bosses' Day

One measure of leadership is the caliber of people who choose to follow you ~ Dennis A. Peer

17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Poverty is the biggest killer of them all ~ Janice Hunny

20 World Statistics Day

Statistics are like bikinis. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital ~ Aaron Levenstein

24-30 Disarmament Week

Disarmament requires trust ~ Gustav Heinemann

24 United Nations Day

We have actively sought and are actively seeking to make the United Nations an effective instrument of international cooperation ~ Dean Acheson

24 World Development Information Day

The effective use of information and communication technologies holds the potential of boosting economies, improving healthcare delivery, enhancing education and learning processes, and strengthening democratic processes ~ Secretary General: Commission on Science and Technology for Development

27 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

It is vitally important to preserve tapes and various recordings of our history before it is too late ~ Bob Chuknell

November

1 World Vegan Day

How can you eat anything with eyes? ~ Will Kellogg

6 International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War & Armed Conflict

We must all work together in order to save the environment and the world that we live in from further change ~ Dave Foreman