

Women's Month 2026: Empowered Women Empower the Nation

**“Empowered women
empower the nation.**

**By helping one another
to rise, South African
women continue to
build a more equal,
inclusive and hopeful
future for all.”**



South Africa commemorates Women's Month in August 2026 under the theme

“Empowered Women Empower the Nation.”

This year marks seventy years since the historic Women's March on 9 August 1956, when more than 20,000 women marched to the Union Buildings in a defining moment in South Africa's struggle for equality and freedom. Its legacy of courage, unity and determination continues to inspire new generations of women across South Africa. The words attributed to Charlotte Maxeke,

“If you can rise, bring someone with you,”

remind us that empowerment is strongest when it creates opportunities for others and reaches across racial, social, economic and geographic lines in the spirit of solidarity and unity.

As South Africa celebrates the 30th anniversary of its Constitution this year, the Constitution continues to provide a strong foundation for the advancement of women in our country. It affirms non-racialism and non-sexism as founding values and protects the rights to equality, dignity, education, fair labour practices, political participation, safety and access to justice.

These constitutional protections have enabled women to assume leadership positions, drive innovation, advance education and research, build businesses, serve communities and play vital roles in strengthening and supporting their families. In these roles, women are making important contributions in government, academia, science, technology, healthcare, business, the arts and civil society. Their achievements demonstrate the enormous value of creating inclusive institutions and investing in women's talents, knowledge and potential.

Women's Month celebrates the progress achieved while renewing the commitment to ensure that every woman can participate fully in society. It challenges institutions, communities and individuals to create opportunities, strengthen mentorship, expand access to education and promote economic opportunity. It also highlights the need to build safe and supportive environments in which women and girls can live with dignity, realise their potential and thrive, while intensifying efforts to address gender-based violence.

When women are empowered and safe, families are strengthened, communities are enriched, institutions become more representative and the country benefits from a broader range of knowledge, skills and leadership.

Empowering women is therefore not only a matter of advancing gender equality; it is an investment in the social, economic and democratic wellbeing of the entire nation.



**science, technology
& innovation**

Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

