



women, youth &
persons with disabilities

Department:
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS MONTH

2019

CONCEPT NOTE

THEME

Together building South Africa inclusive of Disability Rights
#DisabilityInclusiveSA

Sub Themes

Week 1 (03-09 Nov)

Sub-Theme: Children and young people with disabilities empowered to chart their own destiny through access to quality lifelong learning

Week 2 (10-16 Nov)

Sub-Theme: A built environment accessible to all persons with disabilities

Week 3 (17-23 Nov) –

Sub-Theme: Persons with disabilities as equal players in building inclusive economies

Week 4 (24Nov-3Dec) –

Sub-Theme: Children and women with disabilities – feeling and being safe as equal citizens in their communities

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1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1992 Disabled People South Africa launches the Disability Rights Charter of South Africa
- 1995 Presidency establishes the Disability Programme in the RDP Ministry
- 1997 White Paper on an Integrated National Disability Strategy is approved
- 1997 Presidency establishes the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons (OSDP)
- 1998 The Employment Equity Act is promulgated and Cabinet sets a 2% target for employment of persons with disabilities in all national and provincial government departments
- 2000 Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act is promulgated
- 2001 White Paper 6: Special Needs Education, Building an Inclusive Education is released
- 2007 South Africa ratifies the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its Optional Protocol without reservation¹
- 2009 The OSDP in the Presidency is relocated to the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities
- 2013 Cabinet proclaims 03 Nov – 03 Dec as Disability Rights Awareness Month, and 03 December as the National Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 2014 South Africa deposits the Baseline Country Report to the UNCRPD with the United Nations
- 2014 The disability coordination function is relocated to the Department of Social Development
- 2014 Adoption of the Woodstock Declaration mid-2014, in which the sector suspended all communication with government until government addresses the location issue.
- 2015 Cabinet approves the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 2016 The Presidential Working Group on Disability, chaired by the President, meets once only
- 2018 The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities engages South Africa on its Baseline Report to the UNCRPD and issues its Concluding Observations
- 2019 President Ramaphosa revives the Presidential Working Group on Disability and convenes the Working Group on 26 February
- 2019 South Africa signs the AU Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

¹ A multi-party delegation (Parliament, Presidency, Disabled People Organisations) participated from 2001-2006 with the drafting of the UNCRPD.

2. HOW IS THE DISABILITY SECTOR ORGANISED?

The sector can be distinguished as two main groups:

- 1) Organisations **of** Persons with Disabilities (DPOs) – these are managed and controlled by disabled persons/parents of children with disabilities themselves
- 2) Organisations **for** Persons with Disabilities – these are managed and controlled by able-bodied professionals, often with some participation of disabled people in the management

Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) constitutes the largest DPO and was a member of the Patriotic Front and Mass Democratic Movement pre-democracy, and has aligned itself with the African National Congress. DPSA resigned from SADA in 2017 due to ideological difference.

The **South African Disability Alliance (SADA)** brings together 8 out of 16 DPOs; 9 out of 9 organisations for persons with disabilities and some professional associations (therapists, social workers etc).

The other 7 DPOs outside of SADA either do not meet SADA's membership criteria, or cannot pay the annual subscription fee, or has ideological differences with SADA.

It is estimated that the total membership of the approximately 25 national organisations of and for persons with disabilities, with their provincial and local affiliates, constitute approximately 200,000 – 300,000 persons with disabilities and/or parents/care-givers of children with disabilities (against the more than 2,8m counted in Census 2011), with some voices almost completely silent, e.g. homeless persons with disabilities, refugees/asylum-seekers with disabilities, persons with severe communication difficulties, etc.

Government, in line with the WPRPD, has been assisting **under-represented groups** such as persons with albinism, young people with dyslexia, Deafblind persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities and lately persons of short stature, to strengthen their collective voice.

Ideological differences such as distinguishing between organisations of and for, and what self-representation (**#NothingAboutUsWithoutUs**) means in practice, as well as broader transformation issues informed by race, continue to fracture unity in the sector. The sector towards the end of 2018 nominated a smaller task team to work towards strengthening unity in the sector, as well as serving as a think tank in identifying cross cutting priorities for the 6th Administration. This task team convened twice over a total of 6 days in February and April 2019.

The disability sector engages with government through the following consultative platforms:

- 1) Executive/Strategic Level: **Presidential Working Group on Disability (PWGD)**, which consists of 45 sector representatives (there are currently 4 vacancies), inclusive of representatives from the majority of DPOs nationally, a few DPOs at local level (geographical/impairment) representation; as well as individual experts with disabilities/parents of children with disabilities.
- 2) **National Disability Rights Machinery**, which brings together all national departments, provinces, SALGA, Chapter 9 institutions and the sector. Similar structures exist in 8 of 9 provinces (Western Cape has none)
- 3) **Municipal Disability Fora** in many municipalities provide a platform at local level.

3. TWENTY FIVE YEAR REVIEW

Persons with disabilities continue to experience unacceptable levels of exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination. This is attributed to the entrenched negative beliefs and attitudes about the causes of disability; about the capabilities of persons with disabilities; and about the need to protect persons with disabilities through segregated programmes; and

Persons with disabilities are in the main unable to take up/access affirmative action opportunities or access public services provided for the general population.

Causal and contributing factors to the relative slow progress made in changing the lives of persons with disabilities include –

- Lack of ownership (accountability) by public service programme managers and accounting officers that inclusion of persons with disabilities in ALL government programmes is EVERYONE's responsibility;
- Disability specific services are limited and available predominantly in main urban metropolitan centres;
- Persistent challenges in access to basic education and high drop-out levels among students with disabilities due to inaccessible public transport, lack of accessible scholar transport, lack of access to assistive devices etcetera.
- Children with disabilities do not effectively articulate between their development phases and appropriate services as a result of, among others harmful beliefs and stigma attached to disability result in parents hiding children with disabilities, especially in areas where there are no services; lack of early identification and intervention services; lack of a tracking system to ensure that children with disabilities access ECD, compulsory education ; and lack of accessible and relevant information on disability related services and rights to parents and families of children with disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities are unable to exercise choice about where and with whom they want to live, and are often deprived of decision-making powers over their own lives. This is caused by a legislative framework which does not recognise decision-making rights for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities; lack of accessible community services as well as disability-specific services supporting independent living force persons with disabilities requiring personal assistance into institutions; and inconsistent funding and costing models for disability-related services, including those provided by NGOs.

4. DISABILITY STATISTICS

The Census 2011 Disability Report estimates that there are approximately 2,8million (7,4%) persons with disabilities living in South Africa

This excludes those living in institutions; children under 5 as well as persons with psychosocial disabilities which is difficult to identify using the Washington Group model.

The *Community Survey 2016: Profiling socio economic status and living arrangement of persons with disabilities in South Africa* highlights the stark inequalities within the disabled population -

- Approximately 36% of persons with disabilities were from households of poor socioeconomic status (17,7% poorest; 18% poorer). (no gender differences)
- Massive inequalities across population groups.
 - Persons with disabilities belonging to white or Indian/Asian population groups were mostly concentrated within the upper wealth quintile (86,8% and 71,9% respectively).
 - Black African persons with disabilities most vulnerable depicted by the low socioeconomic status,
 - Approximately half in ten black African persons with disabilities (44,7%) were concentrated in the 40% lower quintile, which represent the poor households contrary, less than 5% of persons with disabilities from the Coloured, Indian/Asian and white population groups were in the lowest wealth quintile.
- Provincial variations in socioeconomic status of persons with disabilities showed that Western Cape and Gauteng provinces had the highest proportion of persons with disabilities in the upper quintile that represents well off households (40,7% and 34,9% respectively)
- Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal provinces had the largest share of persons with disabilities concentrated in low socioeconomic status households (40%, 30,1% and 29,7% respectively).
- Almost two thirds of persons with disabilities in Limpopo and Eastern Cape were concentrated in the 40% poor households (63,8% and 62,9% respectively).
- More than two thirds (70,7%) of persons with disabilities in traditional/tribal areas were concentrated within poor households. Only about 2% of persons with disabilities in tribal/traditional areas were from wealthy households.
- The largest percentage of persons with disabilities who resided in non-urban areas (73,6%) were part of households classified as poor. In contrast, about 9,3% were part of wealthy households.
- The urban population profile on contrary showed that more than 60,7% of persons with severe disabilities were part of 20% households regarded as rich. About 17% of persons with severe disabilities in urban areas were residing in households classified as poor. The results showed a clear divide between urban and non-urban areas.

5. SECTOR PRIORITIES

The disability sector, in its participation in the PWGD, through its submissions to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and during its engagement with Minister Susan Shabangu in November 2018, have consistently raised the following priorities for the sector which they believe government should focus on:

1. Capacitating the **disability coordination function** at the epicentre of all spheres of government
2. Accelerating **domestication** of the UNCRPD, inclusive of ratification and domestication of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Marrakesh Treaty on Access to Print Materials for Persons with Print Disabilities, and taking the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into law.
3. Transformation and strengthening of the **National Disability Rights Machinery** as a meaningful platform for strategic engagement and collaboration needs to be fast-tracked.
4. The creation of a predictable and sustainable **funding mechanism for the sector** to increase footprint and impact of programmes of national organisations. President Ramaphosa has indicated that he supports the establishment of a **Disability Development Agency** as proposed by the PWGD in February 2019.
5. Strengthening the extent of **self-representation** by persons with disabilities across strategic institutions, inclusive of representation on governance structures, but also strengthening consistency in meaningful involvement of representative organisations from design and conceptualisation phase of policies and services and monitoring processes – doing justice to *'Nothing about Us without Us'*.
6. Accelerating the pace of providing access to **quality inclusive education** for the estimated 500,000 children with disabilities out of school; and improving education outcomes by strengthening reasonable accommodation support measures for learners in both special and ordinary schools, inclusive of making ordinary schools accessible and ensuring that all learning materials are accessible, regardless of where the learner is located
7. Accelerating the pace of meaningful and sustainable **economic liberation** of persons with disabilities.
 - Employment of persons with disabilities
 - Reversing the trend of learnerships replacing decent work opportunities
 - SMME development, and linked to this, public sector procurement
8. Strengthening **community based independent living support services** through the development of personal assistance services, among others
9. Finding sustainable solutions for the huge **backlogs in the provisioning of assistive devices** which deprives children with disabilities from effective development and learning and which detract from gainful economic activity
10. Accelerating access to the right of **autonomy and legal capacity for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities**, inclusive of review of the Mental Health Care Act, quality of care in mental health institutions and developing community-based services as alternatives to institutional care
11. Accelerating the **recognition of South African Sign Language** as an official language.

6. DRAM2019 FOCUS AREAS

6.1. Week 1 (03-09 Nov) - Children and young people with disabilities empowered to chart their own destiny through access to quality lifelong learning

National Priorities 2 and 3: Education, Skills, Health, Social Wage

Status Quo:

- Approximately 500,000 children with disabilities of school-going age remain out of school, with reported high drop-out rates of learners with disabilities
- Disability-related health services (community based mental health care services; rehabilitation services) remain largely unavailable in impoverished and rural communities
- SASSA's SOCPEN system as at December 2018 shows that:
 - 1 058 263 beneficiaries receive a disability grants.
 - 149 745 children with disabilities receive care dependency grants.
 - 215 268 social grant beneficiaries access grants-in-aid
- SARS provide a 33,3% disability tax rebate for all disability related household costs to income taxpayers

Achievements:

- Enrolment of learners with disabilities in ordinary schools went up from 77,000 (2002) to 121,461 (2015) (63% increase)
- Special School enrolment went up from 64,000 (2002) to 119,559 (2015) (53% increase)
- Introduction of the Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (SIAS) policy strengthens determination of support needs and placement
- Introduction of South African Sign Language (SASL) as medium of instruction and grade 12 subject
- NSFAS allocated R76,6m for reasonable accommodation support for students with disabilities at public universities and TVET colleges in 2017
- South Africa's first Deaf law graduate in 2019

Challenges:

- No plans exist to enrol the estimated 500k out-of-school children with disabilities in formal education programmes
- 95-97% of ordinary primary and secondary schools remain physically inaccessible
- Accessible and available scholar transport continues to keep large numbers of children out of school
- The backlog in wheelchairs, hearing aids, artificial limbs and other assistive devices has exponentially increased over the past 9 years, mainly due to insufficient budget allocations

- Persons with disabilities in poor and rural communities, upon diagnosis of disability, still tend to ‘retire’, ie they are put onto a grant for life
- Persons with disabilities and their families have insufficient support to off-set the cost of disability to household income
- NGOs delivering essential family support services are under-resourced and are often not integrated into the service delivery network

MTSF priority interventions:

- Retrofitting all public education infrastructure to comply with norms and standards contained in Part S Code 0040 of the Building Regulations
- Zero rejection system in place that allows children with disabilities of compulsory school-going age to be diverted from formal education
- Costed plan of action to enrol all out-of-school children with disabilities of compulsory school-going age in formal education programmes
- Provide affordable vocational rehabilitation and related skills programmes to persons with disabilities after onset of disability
- Develop a national integrated referral and tracking system for children with disabilities 0-18 years
- Integrated and holistic basket of accessible and affordable healthcare and rehabilitation services at a district and community level, as well as access to higher levels of care, must be provided to all persons with disabilities
- A more responsive system to eradicate backlogs of assistive devices, expand the range of assistive devices to all persons with disabilities, and improve on turnaround times for issuing of assistive devices at community level
- Introduce measures to ensure early development screening for all children, and clearly defined eligibility criteria to reduce exclusion errors for social assistance support for children with disabilities
- Ensure roll-out of basket of social services to families caring for children and adults of disabilities regardless of geographical location
- Ensuring access to by all persons with disabilities to integrated community-based personal assistance services supporting independent living in community regardless of geographical location

Call to Action:

- To the education sector (MECs; HODs; school principals; SGB chairpersons; university and college principals): take action now to ensure that every child and young person with a disability is enrolled in a formal education programme; that they receive the required education support services; that our education institutions embrace disability as part of the diversity of our school, university and college communities.

- To the health sector (MECs; HODs; CEOs of hospitals): let us ensure that every child and adult in need of an assistive device that will enable them to play, learn, work and socialise, is issued such device within 3 months of application.
- To the social welfare sector (Minister; MECs; HODs; NGOs): we must ensure that every child and adult with a disability, regardless where they live and with whom they live, have access to family and independent living support services.
- To the academic sector – liberate children and adults with disabilities by ensuring that the training of educators, engineers, architects, information and communication specialists etc. are enskilled in universal design and disability access.
- To parents: insist on having your child screened regularly during the child’s first 1000 days for hearing loss, eyesight challenges and other developmental delays; insist on intervention services to enable your child to grow and learn; ensure that you enrol your child with disability in school before they turn 7 years of age.
- To community based early childhood development centres: embrace all children in your community, regardless of their race, culture, religion or abilities. Diversity strengthens, not weakens!

Oversight Visits

Members of the Executive will join Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Legislatures and leaders of disabled people organisations on visits to relevant institutions to the thematic focus of each week.

The purpose of these visits will be to familiarise themselves with the extent of disability access for service users with disabilities, the identification of access challenges and learning from good practice.

Oversight visits could include

- Community early childhood development centres and stimulation centres
- Ordinary and special primary and secondary schools
- Post school education and training institutions
- Hospitals, community-based mental health facilities, clinics and rehabilitation centres

6.2. Week 2 (10-16 Nov) - A built environment accessible to all persons with disabilities

National Priority 4: Spatial Integration, Human Settlements and Local Government

Status Quo:

- The hostile, unsafe and inaccessible built and public transport environment remains one of the largest obstacles to persons with disabilities’ ability to self-actualise.

Achievements:

- DHS provides a top-up to RDP subsidies to cover additional disability-related costs (e.g. larger doorways, more floor space, fittings for Deaf and blind home owners)
- The Dept of Transport has in principle (intention) embedded universal design in its transport value chain design, planning. South Africa was commended for the progress made in this regard by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Challenges:

- Very poor compliance with, and enforcement of, Building Regulations Part S Code 10400
- The 11 municipalities participating in the Integrated Transport Node Programme are required to ensure that the BRT systems are universally designed, but commuters cannot get to the transport nodes (from home/to work), therefore continuing to rely on privately hired transport at extremely high cost

MTSF priority interventions:

- All infrastructure and neighbourhood development grants and tax rebate programmes must incorporate a universal design requirement
- Development of a financing strategy to retrofit existing public and privately owned buildings rendering services to the public
- Finalisation of the review of existing and development of new standards promoting universal design in the built environment, transport systems and ICT and strengthen enforcement mechanisms
- Public and private transport systems must be designed and retrofitted to enable persons with disabilities to utilise the entire transport value chain without barriers
- Minimum norms and standards for universal design requirements for all public and private transport infrastructure, fleet and programmes developed

Call to Action:

- To transport operators: ensure that your services are fully disability accessible and responsive
- To the Council for the Built Environment: strengthen measures and programmes that will ensure that built environment professionals are knowledgeable and equipped to design, plan and construct disability accessible and universally designed infrastructure.
- To the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications: strengthen measures to ensure compliance with Part S Code 10400 of the National Building Regulations
- To engineers, architects and contractors: design and build in such a way that your products are safe and accessible for everyone; also for you should you ever need to make use of a wheelchair, a white cane or a pram.
- To the national and provincial Departments of Public Works: let us accelerate the retrofitting of all public facilities to comply with Part S Code 10400 of the National Building Regulations

- To municipalities: empower and enable your engineers, town planners and building inspectors to enforce Part S Code 10400 of the National Building Regulations, and then hold them accountable if they fail in their duty

Oversight Visits

Members of the Executive will join Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Legislatures and leaders of disabled people organisations on visits to relevant institutions to the thematic focus of each week.

The purpose of these visits will be to familiarise themselves with the extent of disability access for service users with disabilities, the identification of access challenges and learning from good practice.

Oversight visits could include

- Government buildings
- Bus rapid transport systems
- Commuter rail
- Integrated housing projects built over the 10 years

6.3. Week 3 (17-23 Nov) - Persons with disabilities as equal players in building inclusive economies

National Priority 1: Economic Transformation & Job Creation

Status Quo:

- Very little movement on improving the employment status of persons with disabilities since Employment Equity Act was passed in 1999
 - **19th Annual Report from the Commission on Employment Equity** for the period 2018/19, indicates an average of 1,1% disability equity achieved by designated employers.
 - The **2017/18 Employment Equity Report for the Public Sector** indicates that as at 31 March 2018 there were 1 233 653 employees in the Public Service of which 11 068 (0.90%) were employees with disabilities. The representation of persons with disabilities increased by 260 (0.02%) between March 2017 and March 2018.
- With regards BBEE and preferential procurement –
 - 3,868 suppliers who are both black and disabled registered their entities on the Central Supplier Database by March 2018.
 - Payments totalling R239m was received by 245 of these suppliers during 2017/18.

Achievements:

- 32 provincial departments and 16 national departments achieved the 2% target, which is an increase of 6 departments from March 2017 to March 2018. Gauteng province is still the only province to exceed the 2% representation of persons with disabilities at 2.11%.

- Standard Bank South African was one of the first 13 companies to sign the ILO Global Business & Disability Network Charter in 2017. A number of other companies with offices and products in South Africa have also signed.
- The Amavulandela Funding Scheme², launched in 2016, focuses on servicing entrepreneurs with disabilities through both financial and non-financial business development support services. (R24 million loan funding component and a R6 million business support grant component).
- NGOs which do positive work in the SME arena include the Medunsa Organisation of Disabled Entrepreneurs (MODE) and the Disability Workshop Development Enterprise (DWDE)

Challenges:

- General high youth unemployment rates in the country
- Extremely high rates of ‘recycling’ learnerships especially in urban areas with little impact on skills levels or employability of young job-seekers with disabilities (linked to BBBEE scorecard awarding higher points for skills development than employment).
- High percentages of job-seekers with disabilities are not ‘employable’ (lack of technical, life skills and academic qualifications)
- Employers with less than 50 employees, where majority of jobs must be created, cannot afford reasonable accommodation/disability support costs for disabled employees
- Skills development and adult learning remains an important pillar to equip persons with disabilities with the required skills that enable them to participate in the economy. The current learnership programme, due to incentives available through the BBBEE score cards, have had the unintentional consequence of learnerships becoming more about earning a stipend than acquiring requisite skills for economic independence to lack of exit strategies.
- Majority of entrepreneurs with disabilities in survivalist category, which has limited support packages

MTSF priority interventions:

- Launch of Disability Development Agency with a programme focusing on improving employability of persons with disabilities (inclusive of disability self-management, skills development), targeting job-seekers registered on the Department of Employment and Labour’s ESSA database
- Stricter enforcement of employment equity target achievements
- Targeting National Treasury’s Central Supplier Database for SME support
- Strengthen return-to-work programmes post disability (Compensation Commissioner has launched a programme)

² <http://sefa.org.za/Content/Docs/Amavulandlela%20Funding%20Scheme%20Brochure.pdf>

Call to Action:

- To the corporate sector – invest in the abilities of persons with disabilities; and liberate persons with disabilities through universally designed products, services and information and communication technology innovation!
- To employers – employees with disabilities is an asset, not a liability; employment of persons with disabilities makes business sense; procurement from service providers owned by persons with disabilities makes business sense; investing in reasonable accommodation support increases productivity and occupational health and safety
- To entrepreneurs with disabilities – focus on focusing and expanding your business into products and services your local economy needs
- To government institutions – it is your responsibility to ensure that 7% of your supply chain is allocated to service providers belonging to persons with disabilities

Oversight Visits

Members of the Executive will join Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Legislatures and leaders of disabled people organisations on visits to relevant institutions to the thematic focus of each week.

The purpose of these visits will be to familiarise themselves with the extent of disability access for service users with disabilities, the identification of access challenges and learning from good practice.

Oversight visits could include

- Enterprises that have benefitted from Amavulandlela Disability Fund and other SME support disbursements
- Organisations offering work readiness and enterprise development programmes and services to young people, inclusive of young people with disabilities (e.g. Harambee, YES, NYDA, Medunsa Organisation for Disabled Entrepreneurs; Disability Workshop Development Enterprise; Self Help Association of Paraplegics; Deaf Empowerment Firm; Brownies and Downies; etc)
- Supported Employment Enterprises (factories)
- In workplaces, by leadership with employees with disabilities

6.4. Week 4 – 5 (24Nov – 03 Dec): Children and women with disabilities – feeling and being safe as equal citizens in their communities

National Priority 5: Social Cohesion and Safe Communities

The final week (10days) coincide with the 16 Days of Activism

Status Quo:

- Persons with disabilities often report that they do not feel and are not safe, predominantly due to the negative and harmful associations with disability, which push them to the fringes of society.

- They also do not believe that they have access to justice, due to lack of consistent and predictable reasonable accommodation support measures in police stations and in courts, as well as the cost associated with accessing the higher courts.

Achievements:

- The inclusion of disability and albinism in the National Action Plan to combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as Hate Speech and Hate Crime Bill
- SAPS has just approved its Disability Strategy as well as Disability Access Implementation Plan
- The Department of Justice has a systematic plan in place to address disability access challenges in the court system
- Five Court Judgements related to discrimination against persons with disabilities
- The SAVE model of the Western Cape (partnership between Cape Mental Health, UWC, WC DSD; First for Women) provides recourse through the justice system for children and women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities who have survived GBV.

Challenges:

- Slow response rate and poor enforcement of court judgements
- Reasonable accommodation support in court system is inconsistent and unpredictable
- Women with disabilities do not want to report GBV as their experiences are one of not being believed; not being trusted to give reliable evidence in court, or fearing ostracisation from the only support systems/community they have
- Persons with print and other communication disabilities do not have equitable access to information and communication, leaving them behind in an information society
- Current disability awareness campaigns are disjointed with little overarching strategy re outcomes and impacts

MTSF priority interventions:

- Develop a coherent and comprehensive national strategy to conscientise society and media about the negative effects of stigmatisation of, prejudices and stereotypes about persons with disabilities
- Increasing equitable access to communication, information and community public participation platforms for all persons with disabilities by strengthening existing and developing new measures that remove barriers to information and communication (this is inclusive of mobile technology, telecommunications relay services, interpreter services, augmentative and alternative communication, closed captioning and sub titles, text readers etc)
- Develop a system to ensure consistent barrier free access for persons with disabilities to justice across the justice value chain

- Strengthened and expanded protection measures in place to protect children and adults with disabilities in institutionalised settings such as special school boarding facilities, mental health care facilities, residential facilities

Call to Action:

- DWYPD, in partnership with the DoJ&CD, the DSAC and the SAHRC, is committed to put in place a coordinated framework for disability conscientisation programmes
- To magistrates, court managers, police station commanders: take responsibility for ensuring that persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairment, will have equitable access to your services by putting in place and making known what reasonable accommodation support is available
- To predators who target children and women with disabilities: we will catch you; we will prosecute you; we will believe the survivors, regardless of their disability
- To communities and families: let us protect in particular vulnerable children and women with disabilities by standing up for them; by being vigilant; and by supporting them in reporting abuse
- To principals and boarding facility heads at special schools: we call on you to strengthen measures to protect the children in your care; to report abuse; and to ensure that perpetrators face the consequences

Oversight Visits

Members of the Executive will join Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Legislatures and leaders of disabled people organisations on visits to relevant institutions to the thematic focus of each week.

The purpose of these visits will be to familiarise themselves with the extent of disability access for service users with disabilities, the identification of access challenges and learning from good practice.

Oversight visits could include

- Thuthuzela Centres
- Shelters for Abused Women
- Residential facilities for children and adults with severe disabilities
- Police stations
- Courts

6.5. Cross Cutting Themes

- National Priority 6: Capable, Ethical, Developmental State
- “Nothing About Us Without Us” : Pillar 6 of the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Unity in Diversity – persons with disabilities is not a homogeneous group: race, gender, age, type and severity of impairment, sexual identity, sexual orientation, geographical location and socio-economic status are all inter-sectionalities which must shape interventions.

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Innovation as a game-changer for persons with disabilities

Status Quo:

The quality of life of persons with disabilities and therefore families have improved marginally over the past 25 years, mainly for the following reasons:

- Embedding disability mainstreaming in the planning, budgeting, programming and reporting systems across government over the past 25 years have been very slow, with the majority of programme managers not taking responsibility for putting measures in place to ensure equitable access for persons with disabilities
- Lack of accountability and consequence management when decisions and practice exclude, marginalise or discriminate against persons with disabilities, mainly due to the lack of a legislative framework with effective and consistent enforcement mechanisms
- Lack of institutional capacity to effectively coordinate and provide technical support for innovation, disability inclusion and universal design and access.

Achievements:

- A responsive President who listened to the calls from the sector and his Working Group on Disability, and relocated the disability coordination function to the Presidency in the 6th Administration
- The creation of the Ministry in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities has elevated persons with disabilities as one of three prioritised groups in the current administration
- The White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is supported by a detailed Implementation Matrix which directs action and requires annual reporting on progress made

Challenges:

- The lack of consistency in measurement of disability hampers the piloting the Disability Inequality Index developed in 2018. Measurement of disability is complex, and varies according to the purpose and application of the data, the conceptualisation of disability, the aspects of disability (impairment, barriers or the interaction between these two aspects) being examined, definitions, question design and data collection methods, among others. A primary goal of collecting population data on persons with disabilities must be to identify strategies to improve their well-being and to track trends in changes over time.
- Persons with disabilities currently have limited recourse if their rights are violated, and there are limited consequences for those who fail to implement the policies and adhere to the laws aimed at promoting equality and preventing discrimination.
- Progress in mainstreaming innovation in the ICT environment and making innovations accessible to children and adults with disabilities and affordable on a sustainable and continuous basis, have also been slow.
- Society in general, inclusive of policy-makers, still approach persons with disabilities as a relatively homogeneous group of people, associating disability in the main with wheelchair

users, white cane and braille users, and sign language users. Interventions therefore often exclude many with different disabilities, and also seldom are designed for rural contexts.

MTSF priority interventions:

- Strengthen the capacity of the state to effectively and equitably implement the White Paper on the Rights with Disabilities
 - The development of draft disability legislation that will domesticate the UN CRPD by 2024
 - The establishment of a National Disability Agency by 2024
 - Embedding the national disability rights machinery architecture in organisational design as well as decision-making processes by 2022
 - All public sector middle and senior management as well as frontline staff must be equipped to effectively respond to disability mainstreaming challenges and opportunities
- Disability statistics and admin data must be standardised and embedded by 2021, with annual measurement of changes in inequality between people with and without disabilities tracked through Disability Inequality Index.

Call to Action:

- The DWYPD, in partnership with the SALRC, the DoJ&CD, the SAHRC and the PWGD will ensure that draft disability legislation is developed over the next five years
- To Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Premiers, MECs, Mayors, Speakers and Traditional Leaders: Champion the rights of persons with disabilities by ensuring that they have equitable access to your services, opportunities; that they can live and self-actualise in a barrier-free environment; and hold officials who fail to put measures in place accountable
- To Accounting Officers: ensure that officials are held accountable if they fail to put measures in place to ensure full implementation of the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

‘Nothing about Us without Us’

It is important that activists with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities, either as designated representatives of disability organisations, or in their capacity as experts and champions,

- participate in all aspects of conceptualization, planning, implementation and post-event/campaign analysis/evaluation at all levels;
- be provided with platforms to represent the viewpoints of rights-holders in the media as well as during events.

A contact list is attached to assist in identifying organisations and/or activists for this purpose.

7. DRAM2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

7.1. Executive Engagement with Disability Sector

Members of the Executive will engage with the leadership of national disability organisations as well as members of the Presidential Working Group on Saturday 2 November.

The meeting is being convened by Minister and Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to

- For the sector to introduce themselves to the new leadership and vice versa
- Reach consensus on 5 national priorities for the next five years
- Agree on the proceedings for the national celebrations of the National Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3
- Agree on key messages during DRAM2019

It is envisaged that a joint statement between Government, led by the Ministry in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, and the Sector will be issued at a media conference during the launch of DRAM2019 on the 3rd of November.

7.2. Launch of DRAM2019 on Sunday 3 November 2019

The national media launch of Disability Rights Awareness Month 2019 will take place as follows:

- Date: Sunday 03 November
- Time: 11h00 – 12h00 (Communications to advise)
- Venue: Tshedimoseiso House (GCIS), City of Tshwane

The purpose of the national launch is to

- Release of a joint Government-Sector Statement on national disability rights agenda priorities for 2019-2024
- Inform South Africa about the DRAM2019 theme, focus areas and programme
- Release of a message by the Executive on 6th Administration Disability Inclusion Commitments. This message will play on the airwaves throughout DRAM2019
- Release of a disability inclusion poster series calling South Africa to action in promoting, protecting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities

The media conference will be led by the Minister and Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, joined by other members of the Executive, as well as representatives nominated by the sector

All print and broadcasting media houses are invited, as well as a few smaller disability owned publications.

7.3. National Day of Persons with Disabilities on Tuesday 3 December 2019

The National Disability Rights Machinery (NDRM) plenary endorsed previous decisions that the focus for the (Inter) National Day of Persons with Disabilities be on provincial and district-based large participatory events, rather than a large national event.

Provinces have confirmed that they are in advanced stages of planning a range of provincial events, ranging from Provincial Disability Parliaments, Summits and Conferences.

The ArtsAbility Festival is an annual event occurring from the 28th November to the 3rd December, celebrating its 5th edition in 2019. It is a collaboration between ArtsCape and the Unmute Dance Company, an ensemble consisting of artists with and without disabilities promoting social inclusion through the arts. The ArtsAbility has for 2019 partnered with SociGO for the 2019 ArtsAbility Festival. SociGO is an NGO which brings people together through social events and festivals promoting the use of South African Sign Language,

National leadership – both public and NGO sector – will be deployed to provincial and/or district events.

National Celebrations (03 December)

The sector engagement on the 2nd of November will finalise the proceedings for the national celebrations of the National Day of Persons with Disabilities. It is proposed that the focus be on high media coverage to reach as many as possible households across South Africa.

7.4. Oversight Visits during the Thematic Weeks

Members of the Executive will join Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Legislatures and leaders of disabled people organisations on visits to relevant institutions to the thematic focus of each week.

The purpose of these visits will be to familiarise themselves with the extent of disability access for service users with disabilities, the identification of access challenges and learning from good practice.

7.5. Events Calendar

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is developing an integrated Events Calendar through which stakeholders can advertise their events. Submissions can be submitted to DisabilityRights@dspd.gov.za.

An updated Events Calendar will be released on a weekly basis.

7.6. Responsibilities

Disability Rights Coordinators (focal points) as well as Communication Units of public institutions will take joint responsibility for implementation of institutional events and media campaigns. This will be done in partnership with disability organisations working in that specific context.

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, working with Provincial Transversal Disability Rights Coordination Units and their respective Communication Units as well as GCIS, will be responsible for overall coordination of the DRAM2019 Events Calendar and media campaigns at national and provincial level.

Municipalities working with their provincial SALGA Disability Rights Focal Points, will coordinate and support participation of persons with disabilities and their families in municipal, provincial and national events.

“It always seems impossible until it is done”
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Annexure A – List of National Organisations of and for Persons with Disabilities

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DPOs)

| | ORGANISATION | SURNAME | NAME | DESIGNATION | TITLE | TEL | EMAIL |
|-----|---|----------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. | Albinism Society South Africa | Mazibuko | Nomasonto | National Director | Ms | 0827553884 | mazibukong@gmail.com |
| 2. | Association for Hearing Loss Accessibility and Development | Tonks | Michele | Chairperson | Ms | 021 552 4786; 0827817715 | admin@ahlad.org |
| 3. | BlindSA | Nair | Jace | CEO | Mr | (011) 839-1793 | ceo@blindsa.org.za ; pa@blindsa.org.za |
| 4. | Disability Association of South Africa National Military Veterans | Mrwata | Dumisa Witness | Chairperson | Mr | 071 984 8255 | dmrwata@yahoo.com |
| 5. | Deafblind SA | Dobson | Philip | National Development Administrator | Mr | 0824489455 ((sms)) | n.d.a@deafblindsa.co.za |
| 6. | DeafSA | Druchen | Bruno | National Director | Mr | 0823334442 / 0824681032 | brunodruchen@deafsa.co.za |
| 7. | Disabled Children Action Group | Mbusi | Nzimande | Secretary General | Mr | 061 439 0650 | info@dicag.co.za mbusi.nzimande@icloud.com |
| 8. | Disabled People South Africa | Matoto | Looks | Deputy Chairperson Human Rights | Mr | 0829487593 | looksmatoto@yahoo.com ; ceo@dpsa.org.za |
| 9. | Down Syndrome SA | Ramjas | Ancella | National Executive Director | Ms | 082 478 9741 | Dssa.ned@icon.co.za |
| 10. | National Albinism Task Team | Thabethe | Bhekisisa Maxwell | Interim Chairperson | Dr | 084 555 4994 | director@national-albinism-society.org ; assakzn@gmail.com |
| 11. | National Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted Persons | Malatsi | Joel | President | Mr | 064 630 8959 | Joel.Malatsi@dhs.gov.za ; admin@sanabp.co.za |
| 12. | QuadPara Association of SA | Benny | Raven | COO | Mr | 031 7670352/48 | coo@qasa.co.za ; info@qasa.co.za |
| 13. | SA National Deaf Association | Blose | Jabulane | CEO | Mr | +27 82 572 0947 (sms) | jabulane@sanda.org.za |
| 14. | Ubuntu Centre | Robb | Annie | Organiser | Ms | | theubuntucentre@gmail.com |

Annexure A – List of National Organisations of and for Persons with Disabilities

| | ORGANISATION | SURNAME | NAME | DESIGNATION | TITLE | TEL | EMAIL |
|--|--|-----------|------------|-------------|-------|--------------------------------------|--|
| EMERGING UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS | | | | | | | |
| 15. | Dyslexia Network South Africa | Mabaso | Njabulo | Chairperson | Mr | 083 656 3471 | velanjabulofoundation@gmail.com |
| 16. | Dyslexia Network South Africa | Maluleke | Masingita | NEC | Ms | 072 232 5928 | masingitamaluleke893@gmail.com |
| 17. | DSSA Self Advocate Movement South Africa | Ndebele | Thenjiwe | Chairperson | Ms | 011 615-2990 | dssa.ned@icon.co.za |
| 18. | Epilepsy SA Self Advocates | Robinson | Karen | Coordinator | Ms | | socdev.no@epilepsy.org.za |
| 19. | South African Mental Health Advocacy Movement (SAMHAM) | Mkhasibe | Sifiso | Coordinator | Mr | 063 239 9146 | sifiso@safmh.org |
| 20. | Short-Staturred Persons South Africa | Nel | Piet | CEO | Mr | 081 526 4114 | piet.n@sspsa.co.za |
| SECTOR-BASED DPO's | | | | | | | |
| 21. | Disabled Women South Africa | Mocumi | Poppy | Chairperson | Ms | 082 927 0594 | mocumipoppy@gmail.com |
| 22. | Deaf Women South Africa | Zuma | Zamokuhle | | Ms | 0716777100 (Whatsup) | ZumaZM@sabc.co.za ; zumamill@live.co.za |
| 23. | South African Deaf Women Association | Blose | Olga | Chairperson | Ms | 012 343 0661 079 898 0364 | info.sadwa@gmail.com |
| 24. | South African Blind Women in Action | Dreyer | Sandra | Chairperson | Ms | 082 787 1350 | sandra@ctsb.org.za |
| 25. | Disabled Youth South Africa | Qaji | Wonderboy | Chairperson | Mr | 078 179 3241 | wonderqaji@gmail.com |
| 26. | Deaf Youth South Africa | Bell | Ivy | Chairperson | Ms | | ivybell95@yahoo.com |
| 27. | SA Deaf Youth Development Project | Ndlovu | Nkosinathi | CEO | Mr | 079 078 2311 SMS or WhatsApp only | nkosinathifreddy.ndlovu@gmail.com ; sadydp.president@gmail.com |
| 28. | South African Blind Youth Organisation | Mathebula | Lester | Chairperson | Mr | 079 299 5178 | lesterm@webmail.co.za |

Annexure A – List of National Organisations of and for Persons with Disabilities

| | ORGANISATION | SURNAME | NAME | DESIGNATION | TITLE | TEL | EMAIL |
|-----|---|----------|--------|-------------|-------|--------------|--|
| 29. | Transport Users Group of People with Disabilities in SA | Magagula | Jerry | NEC | Mr | 011 493 8207 | Tugsa63@gmail.com JerryMag@joburg.org.za |
| 30. | Parents for Children with Special Education Needs | Hoff | Jennie | Director | Mrs | 012 333 0149 | pacsengauteng@absamail.co.za |

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

| | ORGANISATION | SURNAME | NAME | DESIGNATION | TITLE | TEL | EMAIL |
|-----|---|-----------------|---------|------------------------|-------|--|--|
| 31. | Autism South Africa | Carter | Juliet | National Director | Ms | 011 484 9909 | director@autismsouthafrica.org |
| 32. | Cheshire Homes SA | Naidoo | Shamla | Administrator | Ms | | shamla.naidoo@cheshirehomes.org.za |
| 33. | Dementia SA | Borochowitz | Karen | Executive Director | Ms | (021) 421-0077 0832648000 | director@dementiasa.org |
| 34. | Epilepsy South Africa | Clarke | Marina | National Director | Ms | 0860EPILEPSY 021 556 3753/ 0828534860 | nationaldirector.no@epilepsy.org.za |
| 35. | Muscular Dystrophy Foundation of SA | Brown | Gerda | General Manager | Ms | | gmnational@mdsa.org.za |
| 36. | National Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy | Woods | Elizma | National Administrator | | 082 349 9630 | elizma.woods@napcp.org.za |
| 37. | National Council for and of Persons with Disabilities | Wentzel-Du Toit | Therina | National Director | Mrs | 0114522774 / 083 255-6854 | therina@ncpd.org.za |
| 38. | South African Federation for Mental Health | Patel | Bharti | National Director | Ms | 0117811852 0742610861 | bharti@safmh.org |
| 39. | South African National Council for the Blind | Ramlaul | Anisha | Executive Director | Ms | 012-452-3811 063-686-8098 | ned@sancb.org.za ; jenny@sancb.org.za |
| 40. | South African Disability Alliance | Lubbe | Melanie | Secretariat | Ms | 083 320 2267 | secretariat@sada.org.za |

Annexure B – Ensuring Universal/Full Disability Access to All DRAM2019 Activities

ENSURING DISABILITY ACCESS AT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Hosts of events must ensure that all persons with all disabilities have full access to all campaign information and all activities during DRAM2019.

Universal/Disability Access, inclusive of the importance of reasonable accommodation support measures must also be a focus of content across all thematic weeks.

This is inclusive of

1) *Physical Access across the value chain*

Venue selection must be determined by –

- Public transport access if participants are expected to get to the venue by themselves
- Wheelchair access meeting Part S Code 10400 standards (parking, entrance, walkways, all meeting/dining venues, accommodation etc) (<https://www.sans10400.co.za/facilities-for-disabled-people/>)
- The quality and versatility of lighting in meeting venues must allow for adjustment and daylight/white lighting (yellow banquet lighting creates barriers)
- A facility accessibility questionnaire can be requested from DisabilityRights@dsd.gov.za

2) *Communication Access*

Communication access is inclusive of:

- Qualified SASL interpreters for all events/press conferences
- Ensuring that SASL interpreters as well as closed captioning (for hard-of-hearing persons who cannot hear the sound, but also do not follow SASL) are visible all the time for television broadcasting
- Ensuring that visuals of participants have someone describing what is happening in the 'silence' on the screen for those who cannot follow the visuals
- Ensuring that all photos/graphics posted on social media have a text descriptor for those unable to see the visuals and who rely on screen readers to read the descriptor text
- Ensuring that all video's posted on social media contain at least closed captioning, but preferably both closed captioning and SASL
- Advocating that there are many ways of reading – “reading with eyes, ears and fingers”. All printed materials must therefore be available in alternative formats such as audio, braille, e-text and large print.

3) *Facilitating full participation in meetings*

The South African Disability Alliance (SADA) has developed a meeting protocol to assist convenors to put the necessary measures in place to ensure full participation by persons with disabilities. A copy of the meeting protocol can be accessed from the SADA secretariat, Ms Melanie Lubbe, on secretariat@sada.org.za.



Annexure C– Additional Background Information

INTRODUCTION

Cabinet in 2013 approved that November 3 – December 3 be celebrated as National Disability Rights Awareness Month, and that 3 December be celebrated as the National Day of Persons with Disabilities, with the objective of showcasing the abilities and talents of persons with disabilities as productive members of society.

The national disability sector in February 2019 called on government to expand the Disability Rights Awareness Month to a year round campaign, culminating the National Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December. The National Disability Rights Machinery, constituted by government, civil society and Chapter 9 institutions, recommended that the 365 Campaign take the following format –

- South Africa’s Annual Events Calendar, led by government, be transformed to reflect on a more diverse and disability inclusive South Africa, e.g. that Human Rights Month, Freedom Month, Youth Month, Women’s Month; Transport Month, Heritage Month etc includes activities and a specific focus on disability inclusion;
- Disability specific commemorative days and months, e.g. World Autism Awareness and Acceptance Day, National Month of Deaf People, Albinism Awareness Month etc are led and coordinated by disability organisations, supported by relevant government departments;
- Disability Rights Awareness Month (3 November – 3 December) focuses in particular (i) as a platform of report back by government on measures taken/to be taken to equalise opportunities for persons with disabilities, and (ii) on celebrating the achievements and contributions persons with disabilities make to socio-economic development and nation-building; and that
- The focus of (Inter) National Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3 be on mass-based public events at provincial and local level.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (OP)** ([A/RES/61/106](#)) was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the Convention. This is the highest number of signatories in history to a UN Convention on its opening day. It is the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century and is the first human rights convention to be open for signature by regional integration organizations. The Convention entered into force on 3 May 2008. The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with explicit human rights as well as development dimensions. It reaffirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It clarifies and qualifies how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and identifies areas where adaptations have to be made for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights and areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced.

South Africa became a signatory of both the CRPD and the OP on 30 March 2007, on the first day when the CRPD and OP was opened for signing, and ratified both the CRPD and OP without reservation/declaration on 30 November 2007.

Annexure C– Additional Background Information

African Union Heads of State adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa on 29 January 2018 at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The AU Disability Protocol aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human and people's rights by all persons with disabilities, and to ensure respect for their inherent dignity. It constitutes an African instrument to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, cognisant of the obligations contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by South Africa in 2007.

South Africa signed the AU Disability Protocol on 29 April 2019, thereby signalling the country's support and intention to ratify the AU Disability Protocol.

WHITE PAPER ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Cabinet approved the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([WPRPD](#)) in December 2015. The foundation for the WPRPD was laid by socio-political activists with disabilities, who, after an extensive community-based consultative process, adopted the Disability Rights Charter of South Africa in 1992. This Charter, founded on the principles enshrined in the 1955 Freedom Charter, informed, and continues to inform, the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in South Africa.

The policy is aligned with the National Development Plan vision and objectives and incorporates the obligations contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also advocates that conscious and specific measures be taken to remove barriers and foster equitable access by all persons with disabilities to budgets, services and opportunities, and place the responsibility for disability inclusion with every duty-bearer.

The WPRPD is built on nine (9) Strategic Pillars:

- Strategic Pillar 1: Removing Barriers to Access and Participation
- Strategic Pillar 2: Protecting the Rights of Persons at risk of Compounded Marginalisation
- Strategic Pillar 3: Supporting Sustainable Integrated Community Life
- Strategic Pillar 4: Promoting and Supporting the Empowerment of Children, Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
- Strategic Pillar 5: Reducing Economic Vulnerability and Releasing Human Capital
- Strategic Pillar 6: Strengthening the Representative Voice of Persons with Disabilities
- Strategic Pillar 7: Building a Disability Equitable State Machinery
- Strategic Pillar 8: Promoting International Co-operation
- Strategic Pillar 9: Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy directives under each of the nine strategic pillars task duty-bearers with the responsibility of eradicating the persistent systemic discrimination and exclusion experienced by persons with disabilities, and is unpacked for purposes of annual progress reporting to Cabinet in the Implementation Matrix.

The Implementation Matrix of the WPRPD has informed the disability inclusion interventions, targets and indicators for the 2019-2024 Medium Term Strategic Framework.

Annexure C– Additional Background Information

SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Concluding Observations

South Africa's appearance before the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Committee) in August 2018 provided an opportunity to reflect as government as well as civil society on progress made in changing the lives of persons with disabilities over the past 25 years in general, and the past 10 years since ratification of the CRPD, in particular.

The Committee commended South Africa for the following positive measures taken:

- The Deaf Access facility, allowing for video calling the National Gender Based Violence Command Call Centre;
- The prompt and comprehensive response to the Gauteng Mental Health Marathon Project case that had resulted in more than 140 deaths of persons with psycho-social disabilities, by starting investigations, and arbitration procedures, thus setting a good practice example for other countries facing such situations;
- The decision to undertake an audit of its laws and policies to bring them in line with the human rights model of disability, including the comprehensive White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (WPRPD) of 2015, which aims to accelerate transformation and redress with regard to full inclusion, integration and equality for persons with disabilities; and
- Initiating the process to develop a suite of universal design standards across the travel chain to give interpretation to the requirements of the National Land Transport Act (No. 5) of 2009.

The issues highlighted by the UN Committee for corrective action included:

- Consistency in reasonable accommodation support measures across sectors
- The status of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, and in particular within the context of them as equal citizens before the law
- Gender equality, gender-based violence and inter-sectionality which detract from safety and protection of girls and women with disabilities
- Strengthening community-based support measures to enable persons with disabilities to choose where they live, and with whom they live
- State intervention aimed at strengthening the representative voice of organisations of persons with disabilities
- Access to justice, mental health, education, social protection and safety; and
- Generation of reliable statistical and administrative data on disability

Twenty Five Year Review

The appearance before the UN Committee, inclusive of extensive participation by civil society through the development of shadow reports, in turn informed the 25 Year Review process, which confirmed that, among others, the patterns of institutionalised prejudice remain prevalent, where:

- Persons with disabilities continue to experience unacceptable levels of exclusion, marginalisation and discrimination. This is attributed to the entrenched negative beliefs and attitudes about the causes of disability; about the capabilities of persons with disabilities; and about the need to protect persons with disabilities through segregated programmes; and

Annexure C– Additional Background Information

- Persons with disabilities are in the main unable to take up/access affirmative action opportunities or access public services provided for the general population.

Causal and contributing factors to the relative slow progress made in changing the lives of persons with disabilities include –

- Lack of ownership (accountability) by public service programme managers and accounting officers that inclusion of persons with disabilities in ALL government programmes is EVERYONE's responsibility;
- Disability specific services are limited and available predominantly in main urban metropolitan centres; and
- Persistent challenges in access to basic education and high drop-out levels among students with disabilities due to inaccessible public transport, lack of accessible scholar transport, lack of access to assistive devices etcetera.
- Children with disabilities do not effectively articulate between their development phases and appropriate services as a result of, among others harmful beliefs and stigma attached to disability result in parents hiding children with disabilities, especially in areas where there are no services; lack of early identification and intervention services; lack of a tracking system to ensure that children with disabilities access ECD, compulsory education ; and lack of accessible and relevant information on disability related services and rights to parents and families of children with disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities are unable to exercise choice about where and with whom they want to live, and are often deprived of decision-making powers over their own lives. This is caused by a legislative framework which does not recognise decision-making rights for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities; lack of accessible community services as well as disability-specific services supporting independent living force persons with disabilities requiring personal assistance into institutions; and inconsistent funding and costing models for disability-related services, including those provided by NGOs.

Khawuleza District-based Coordination Model

In light of government's own recognition of shortcomings in service delivery, Cabinet adopted a new integrated district based approach to enable development in the 44 districts and eight Metros that constitute the country.

The new district-based coordination model dubbed 'Khawuleza' (Hurry Up) aims to address service delivery and economic development challenges through the synchronisation of planning across all spheres of government. Through the model, government will work alongside social partners such as business and community. From planning to implementation in each district, government will consult social partners to ensure that development meets the needs of local communities and stakeholders.

Government will also ensure that the local, provincial and national spheres have a shared plan to drive development in the district concerned. Implementation will entail localised procurement and job creation to ensure that local businesses participate in and benefit from development, and that citizens in the district concerned are prioritised for employment on local projects.

Annexure C– Additional Background Information

OR Tambo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape (rural district context), Waterberg District Municipality in Limpopo (mining district context) and eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal (urban context), have been identified as the first three pilot sites for the model. Development will be pursued through single, integrated district plans enabled by the vision of ‘One District; One Plan; One Budget; One Approach’.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PeczsOKGkA&feature=youtu.be>

16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children (16 Days Campaign)

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children (16 Days Campaign) is a United Nations campaign which takes place annually from the 25th November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to the 10th December (International Human Rights Day).

The Campaign will be launched with a Roundtable discussion in the Western Cape on 25 November.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBFV) Dialogues over the past few months have highlighted particular challenges GBV survivors with disabilities experience when seeking support. Most of the facilities that render support services to survivors of gender based violence, which include the Thuthuzela Care Centres, designated public health establishments, sexual offences courts, family courts, shelters and khuseleka Centres, facilities are not physically accessible, and/or do not have interpreters, intermediaries or guides available to assist survivors who have physical, communication, neurological or sensory disabilities.

The increased vulnerability to GBV which persons with disabilities who reside in institutions, inclusive of children in boarding school facilities, adults in residential care facilities and adults and children in mental health institutions, have been well-documented, but has not necessarily led to increased measures to respond to this heightened vulnerability.

In the words of President Ramaphosa -

“We affirm right here, right now, Sekwanele – Enough is enough.

The people of this country want action now. Women should not have to protect themselves from men. They should feel safe and secure with us as men. They have the right to feel safe.

To enhance the safety of women we are going to, as a matter of urgency, make the necessary amendments to our laws and policies to ensure that perpetrators of gender-based violence are brought to book. We will make substantial additional funding available for a comprehensive package of interventions to make an immediate and lasting difference.

An Emergency Action Plan, which will be implemented over the next six months. The Plan strengthens existing measures and introduces new interventions in five principal areas:

- Firstly, how to prevent gender-based violence;*
- Secondly, how we should strengthen the criminal justice system;*
- Thirdly, the steps we should take to enhance the legal and policy framework;*
- Fourthly, what we should do to ensure adequate care, support and healing for victims of violence; and,*
- Fifthly, measures to improve the economic power of women in South Africa.”*

Annexure D– Communications Plan

A detailed Communications Plan has been developed and is available from Shalen.Gajadhar@women.gov.za

LOGO

The graphic depicts

- a wheelchair user – the international sign for disability access
- in the South African flag colours
- with a raised fist signifying power and progress
- with the Year 2030 – the current National Development Plan as well as SDG target – inscribed under the raised arm



Institutions will use this logo in conjunction with their own institutional logos and combine it with graphics relevant to the specific sector, *for example*



Department of Transport



Department of Small Business Development

HIGHLIGHTS

Some highlights from the Communications Plan include:

A media call will be issued calling on all public institutions (national and provincial government departments; municipalities; national, provincial and municipal public entities; Parliament; provincial legislatures as well as all institutions promoting democracy; private sector companies, NGOs (including disability organisations), faith based organisations and labour unions to increase disability visibility during DRAM2019 by, for example

- creating an interactive page on their website through which they can share information on measures they have taken to create a disability inclusive South Africa; share information on accessibility of services available to the general public; share information on good practice

Annexure D– Communications Plan

which could be learnt from; share information of progress made towards achieving employment equity targets set for persons with disabilities; and provide contact information of their disability rights coordinator/focal point.

- including a clear message which affirms the rights of persons with disabilities to equitable access to both services as well as employment opportunities, on payslips of employees as well as in internal noticeboards as well as external advertising campaigns.
- placing suggestion and feedback boxes in their reception areas, branded with the DRAM branding.
- partnering with disability organisations at all levels of governance to celebrate specific disability awareness days on the Disability Rights Calendar.
- hosting Disability Inclusion Dialogues and ensuring that the outcomes of these dialogues be shared and discussed within decision-making structures of the institution

SOCIAL MEDIA

Being a country campaign, the social media accounts of various departments as well as civil society organisations will string posts together using **#DisabilityInclusiveSA**. This will be our anchor hashtag, i.e. used in all posts.

A second hashtag **#DRAM2019** will allow for interpretation and creativity by government and civil society organisations to showcase work, elevate achievements and personalities, and to begin conversations on how South Africa can be disability inclusive in all areas of life.

The hashtags will be popularised through media and government use, as well as GCIS constant messaging.

- On Twitter, we will use our handle @DWYPD_ZA to raise awareness and distribute messages.
- We will work hand-in-hand with @Disability_SA and encourage all departments to tag @Disability_SA in their posts. This handle has a following of disability organisations and persons with disabilities including influencers in the sector which can amplify our messages.
- Our Facebook Page (@DWYPD_ZA) will also be used to host photos and to host a library of photos after events.
- Our Instagram Page @dwydza will be used to upload photos from events as well as our artwork during the month.
- Content will also be shared on WhatsApp Groups of Journalists, as well as Government Groups.
- The hashtag #DRAM2019 will be used to cluster posts. Conversations pertaining to #DisabilityInclusiveSA will utilise the second hashtag.