



## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

Human Rights Day is a day of celebrating freedom. It is also a commemoration of the slain heroes of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre who died fighting for the rights we should all have on the basis of being human – dignity, freedom, justice and peace.

On this day, South Africans celebrate the Bill of Rights of our Constitution of the Republic declared to be the cornerstone of democracy in South Africa where individual rights are stipulated. This day is a remembrance of the past injustices as a way to look to a better future and a celebration of the progress we have made as a country.

2018 is marked as the year of Nelson Mandela, a firm believer in Ubuntu which he explained as “the profound sense that we are human only through the humanity of others; that if we are to accomplish anything in this world it will in equal measure be due to the work and achievement of others.”

At Gibela, we encourage you to take this day to appreciate the progress of our democracy, not only in upholding our human rights, but also in the everyday opportunities we get – jobs, education, health care and many others. And remember that human rights come hand-in-hand with responsibilities, it is our responsibility to respect the rights of fellow human beings.

*“If we commenced each day with the question:  
How will I improve life in this world today, our  
actions would be purpose driven and impactful.”*

**Thuli Madonsela**

*“We dedicate this day to all the heroes  
and heroines in this country and the  
rest of the world who sacrificed in many  
ways and surrendered their lives so that  
we could be free.”*

**Nelson Mandela**

