



South African
EMPLOYERS 4 DISABILITY



QUARTER 3 NEWSLETTER



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Greetings Members & Ambassadors,

As we enter Spring and the season of New Life, we look forward with renewed energy and focus and continue to remain hopeful.

We look back on what 2021 has held for us so far, our nation has had to endure great devastation and hardship (i.e. looting, charges of corruption) in the last few months. This has worsened the socio-economic state we already found ourselves in because of the effects of the pandemic.

These experiences catapulted the spirit of ubuntu to the forefront, and what was meant to cause devastation birthed a new sense of community and reconnection, where us as humanity reached out to lend a hand in assistance to others. Let us continue to bring heart and compassion to society as we proceed to bring awareness and opportunities to persons with disabilities in the workplace, building a network and community of employers who are willing to make a difference and contribute to making our workplaces inclusive.

The SAE4D continues to make progress in our mission to grow our relationships and networks within the corporate South Africa environment. Various avenues are being explored for growth and collaboration. Particular attention is being given to our social media presence i.e. LinkedIn and Facebook to increase the SAE4D brand awareness. Specific efforts are underway to building relationships with other employer organisations and to increase corporate reach. Our actions continue to align with increasing our direct representation, building key relationships and both advocating and highlighting the fair treatment of person with disabilities.

September is the National Month of Deaf Persons, and the theme for 2021 is “Acts of Solidarity” and "Advocacy with Action”. On the 23rd September we celebrated the International Day of Sign Languages. With the COVID-19 pandemic South Africans we have seen an increased use of South African Sign Language Interpreters. A Sign Language Interpreter is a specialist who provides interpreting, translation, and transliteration services in SASL (South African Sign Language) and other visual and tactual communication forms used by individuals who are hearing impaired.

We have experienced the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, with the topic of the mutation of the delta variant being ever present. The vaccine rollout program is now in full force, with good progress being made and access to the vaccine now reaching the 18 to 34 age groups. Persons with disabilities do face difficulties in being vaccinated however thanks to the efforts of Government and community-based organisation they are receiving vaccines.

A recent success has been the Tokyo Paralympics games, with 3 medals under our belt so far! We are super proud of our Athletes, Anrune Weyers and Ntando Mahlangu who emerged as the first pair to collect gold medals out of the 38 athletes who are currently representing South Africa at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. Another worthy mention is multiple leading international organisations have united to launch WeThe15, which aspires to be the biggest ever human rights movement to represent the world’s 1.2 billion persons with disabilities. Launched ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, their goal is to end discrimination towards persons with disabilities and act as a global movement publicly campaigning for disability visibility, accessibility, and inclusion.



On behalf of the SAE4D Executive Committee, may we all continue to walk in strength and trust that we will overcome these unprecedented times together. May we lead the way with innovation and change seeing opportunity for growth and making a difference to lives of our most vulnerable in society.

From the SAE4D Chairperson and Executive Committee.
(Compiled by: Belinda Francis - Tych Business Solutions)

