



10th WORLD SHERIFFS DAY 8 JUNE 2017

“Information of the litigant”

The 10th World Day of the Judicial Officer will take place on 8 June 2017. This day is a key meeting between our profession and litigants: citizens, companies, public administrations, judicial professions, judges...

Every year, you help give it more and more importance and we thank you for it.

As a global communication tool, it is a means to make ourselves heard, known and recognised resoundingly across the world and in particular, in South Africa.

The theme chosen this year by the board of the UIHJ is devoted to: *“The information of the litigant”*.

Justice and law are changing in an increasingly complex world. Laws and regulations are always more complicated. It is difficult to get a clear picture, even for legal professionals. For the litigant, justice seems as inaccessible as a fortress. In reality, the abundance of information often turns into a labyrinth into which once entered is difficult to leave. Too much information kills information. The sheriff is the legal professional who, in his/her field, is responsible for informing the litigant about his rights and obligations and consequences.

In the course of its activities, the sheriff faces the litigant daily and must provide him/her with useful information. By means of the document initiating proceedings, he informs him/her of the trial which is to take place, the need to appear or to be represented at the hearing, and the consequences he/she faces in case he/she does not appear. In a word, the sheriff restores the balance between the parties and makes justice more accessible, closer to the litigant.

When enforcing a court decision, the court must inform the creditor of the best way to accomplish his mission. He must also provide information to the debtor against whom he enforces so that he can understand what is at stake, accept the decision and respect it. Information for the litigant is an essential element of the right to a fair trial. The World Sheriffs Day gives you the opportunity to show how the sheriff accomplishes this fundamental task.

As always, the chosen theme will of course give us the opportunity to discover or rediscover all our activities in the broadest possible way. It demonstrates that the sheriff, a person in the field, meets the litigants, in their own environment, to provide them with neutral assistance, human experience and skills in order to put them at the service of equality of rights while respecting court decisions.

Objective of the day

The aim is obviously to assist the public to understand the role of the sheriff when explaining the intention of the litigant.

It will be appropriate to highlight our action in the implementation of the right of access to justice and therefore the respect of everyone's rights.

We will not fail to insist on the value of service of documents in the legal process.

Sheriffs will endeavour to demonstrate that they exercise their activities with respect for human dignity as dictated by the rules of ethics.

This day can also be promotional for the activities of the sheriff who contribute to the effectiveness of a fair trial.

Your participation

We recommend actions in the press, social networks, audio-visual media but also any form of meeting, seminar, and open doors are useful to support this day.

The Board would like to encourage all sheriffs to participate and celebrate the World Sheriffs Day in their various districts by:

- **Serving documents free of charge.**
- **Hosting soup kitchens.**
- **Donating blankets to the homeless**
- **Visiting the Magistrate Courts and hand out the sheriffs' information pamphlets.**
- **Meeting with local and community organisations in your district**
- **Promoting the sheriffs' profession**

Please contact Tasneem Hassan on 021-426 0577 or tasneemh@sheriffs.org.za if you would require the SABFS to assist in any way.

Press release and National Radio Campaign

- A press release will be distributed by the SABFS to all media.
- The SABFS will run a 6 week national radio campaign to promote the sheriffs' profession during this period.

Thank you from the SABFS.

Vincent Nel
Manager