

**SOUTH AFRICAN RAINBOW NATION ASSOCIATION  
OF TASMANIA INC  
RECEPTION TO MARK SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM DAY  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all here to mark South African Freedom Day.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

Each year on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, Freedom Day calls on South Africans, wherever in the world they may be, to pause and remember the elections of 1994. Those were the country's first truly democratic elections, and meant that every adult, for the first time, could step up to a ballot box as an equal.<sup>1</sup>

The meaning of Freedom Day reaches well beyond South Africa's borders. Freedom Day speaks to the values of what any of us would recognise, of dignity, inclusion and living well together.

Tasmania is richer for people who have chosen to make their lives here and the South African community is very much part of that. You have brought with you a resilience and a warmth that shows up at every *braai*<sup>2</sup> and every gathering.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.za/FreedomDay2026> accessed 20 Apr 26

<sup>2</sup> Braai was originally an Afrikaans word meaning barbeque or grill. The braai emerged as a symbol of resistance under apartheid when Black South Africans continued the tradition in their backyards after being denied access to public parks and beaches. <https://redcarnationhotels.com/discover/delicious-dining/the-history-of-braai-in-south-africa> accessed 20 Apr 26

May I acknowledge and thank the South African Rainbow Nation Association of Tasmania. You look after around 150 members and work to build friendships, open doors, and make Tasmania a more welcoming place to live.

So, as we mark Freedom Day this year, may I say that the values the Day stands for, of respect, diversity and building of communities, are values we all share.

Thank you for your work. I wish your Association every success in the years ahead.

*Ngiyabonga kakhulu*<sup>3</sup>, and please enjoy your reception.

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<sup>3</sup> Literally, thank you very much in Zulu  
[https://www.unisa.ac.za/static/corporate\\_web/Content/UnisaOpen/freeOnlineCourse/PDF/Zulu/Learn%20online%20Zulu%20-%20Theme%201.pdf](https://www.unisa.ac.za/static/corporate_web/Content/UnisaOpen/freeOnlineCourse/PDF/Zulu/Learn%20online%20Zulu%20-%20Theme%201.pdf) accessed 20 Apr 26