



# DEAF FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Press statement

The Constitutional Eighteen Amendment Bill that makes South African Sign Language as an official language in terms of the constitution was unopposed in Parliament, this has been warmly welcomed by Deaf South Africans. We are stoked and it was a day filled with emotions.

The Bill was passed on the 2 May 2023, a supporting vote of two thirds of MPs was needed to pass the bill. There were 306 votes in favour of the bill, no abstentions and no-one voted against it. This landmark move follows many years of campaigning by DeafSA, the Deaf community and supporters, in recognition of our language and the right to access public services such as health and education using SASL.

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*The passing of the bill in the Parliament is a momentous occasion for South African Deaf people and today was a historic moment for all SASL users –  
Bruno Druchen*

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This Bill will mean that there is more accountability to recognise the rights of Deaf people to access services as minority language users in our own language, SASL, but also to promote SASL as a language for all.

When President Ramaphosa ascends the bill, it places responsibility on the South African Government to provide improved guidance to public services and government departments across all provinces on the use of SASL, with the support from DeafSA.

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Address all correspondence to the National Director

National Chairperson: Desmond Kgarebe  
National Director: Bruno Druchen  
Patron: Dr.Essop Pahad

Fundraising No: 01 100058 0007

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DeafSA want to thank all political parties for the approval of the Bill and a special thanks to all the Deaf Community members in South Africa for their patience, we celebrate the Deaf pioneers that were before us. The long-awaited dream has come, and we are looking forward when the Presidents signs the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BD' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Bruno Drushen  
National Director

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