



Society for  
Asphalt Technology

HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH  
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## Quick Reference Guide

# The Human Side of Asphalt: Rights, Roads and our Responsibility

### Equitable Access to Transportation

- The Constitution of SA (1996) guarantees freedom of movement (Sec. 21). All South Africans have a right to access & mobility.
- Poor road infrastructure disproportionately affects rural & disadvantaged communities, limiting access to education, healthcare, & employment.
- Engineering & technology advancements should aim to improve access for all.

### Safety & Inclusivity

- This includes driver & pedestrian safety, accessibility for disabled individuals & public transport integration.
- Compliance with SANRAL regulations ensures safer & more inclusive road networks.
- Sabita provides Technical Guidelines & Best Practices / Standards for asphalt design, construction & maintenance.

### Environmental Sustainability & Health

- The National Environmental Management Act (1998) protects communities from pollution caused by asphalt production & road construction.
- Advances in green asphalt help reduce environmental harm & promote sustainability.
- Noise pollution & emissions from asphalt production can violate community health rights if not properly managed.
- Recycled materials, low-emission asphalt production, & eco-friendly technologies reduce environmental impact & promote long-term resilience.

### Labour Rights & Public Participation

- The Labour Relations Act & the Basic Conditions of Employment Act stipulate fair wages, safe working conditions & worker protection in road construction.
- The use of advanced road-laying technologies must align with labour laws, ensuring that mechanisation does not lead to unfair job losses.
- PAIA (2000) ensures communities can transparently access road plans & hold authorities accountable, while smart road technologies must respect privacy & data protection laws.

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