

9 October 2024

World Post Day, 9 October

World Post Day is celebrated every year on 9 October and this year is extra special as postal operators around the world celebrate the Universal Postal Union's ('UPU') 150th anniversary.

Declared at the Universal Postal Congress in Tokyo in 1969 to mark the anniversary of the founding of the UPU in 1874, this year's theme is entitled, "150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations".

The UPU, of which the South African Post Office is a member, has brought together countries to support global communication, cultural exchange, and access to essential services. Starting with 22 nations, the UPU now includes 192 international member countries.

Marking the event in Berne, Switzerland, today, Director General of the UPU International Bureau, Mr. Masahiko Metoki noted, "Today, the UPU leads efforts to modernize and improve postal services. The UPU's extensive network has adapted to support a broader range of services – including e-commerce, financial, social and digital services – ensuring inclusive access for people worldwide, including in the most remote areas in order to leave no-one behind."

"It is within this space of inclusive access, that the South African Post Office must have relevance and provide its' social mandate to all South Africans. The branch network provides a valuable social network that is of particular importance to the most vulnerable South Africans, who rely on it," commented Joint Business Rescue Practitioner ('BRP'), Anoosh Rooplal.

The BRPs continue to work closely with the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies to secure the additional second tranche of funding of R3.8 billion that stated in the application to the high court to place the post office into business rescue, such that the agreed turnaround plan can be fully implemented.

"We also continue to explore private and public partnerships who can provide synergistic and collaborative offerings to complement the Post Office's public service mandate. Furthermore, efforts with third party suppliers are underway to enhance and provide additional value-adding digital services to the public," noted Rooplal.

The BRP team and the Post Office reflect on this anniversary and the role that Postal services has played in connecting families, friends and business over the years.

ENDS

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