

# Current abbreviations in Southern Africa

## INTRODUCTION

In the first issue of *English Usage in Southern Africa*, the editors explained that their task was 'to assist in keeping English alive in this country, and to help enquirers wherever possible'. The initial volumes, published between 1970 and 1974, served 'to introduce the tentative findings of the *Index*<sup>1</sup> staff to a wider public', through word lists, definitions, and occasional articles. In 1975 these lists and definitions were brought together in *A Dictionary of English Usage in Southern Africa*, edited by D.R. Beeton and Helen Dorner, and published by Oxford University Press in Cape Town.

The publication of the dictionary prompted a re-examination of the aims of the *Index*, as the editors felt that attention should now be focussed on South African English in particular fields (e.g. mining, schoolboyisms). Accordingly, from Vol. 5, no. 1, the editors have concentrated on the publication of articles, reviews and word lists which reflect these 'variants'.

In this index of current abbreviations the examples listed are not necessarily exclusive to South African usage. They are those – whatever the country of their origin, or wherever else they may occur – that *are in use* in Southern Africa.

To make the index effective we require your co-operation. We should be grateful if any problems or mistakes, any variants or omissions, could be noted and sent to the editors.

It is hoped that the compilation of this index of abbreviations will one day provide a service similar to Ralph de Sola's *Abbreviations Dictionary*, or the *World List of Abbreviations of Scientific, Technical and Commercial Organisations* compiled by F.A. Buttress. The attention of readers is also drawn to E.W. Allen's *Dictionary of Abbreviations and Symbols*, and the *List of Abbreviations of Names of Societies and Organisations* produced in

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<sup>1</sup> The long term project was then known as the *Index of English Usage in Southern Africa*. Only on final publication was the word 'Index' changed to 'Dictionary' on the advice of the publisher.

1955 by the Information and Library Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

## METHOD AND FORMAT

1. Capital letters are reserved for proper nouns and lower case for common nouns, except where custom demands a deviation from the rule (e.g. CSIR: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; etc: *etcetera*). Lower case is used after an initial capital letter when the abbreviation is generally used as an acronym (see definitions below).
2. Abbreviations are listed in alphabetical and numerical order. To facilitate this arrangement, prepositions, articles, and the ampersand have been ignored (D & M, for example, has been classified as DM in the alphabetical order).
3. Stops have been omitted, except where they are used to differentiate one abbreviation from another (e.g. SAP: South African Party; S.A.P.: South African Police).
4. As this is an index, there are many duplications (the South African Railways and Harbours has, for instance, a three, four and five letter designation: SAR, SAR&H, Sarah).

## TYPES OF ABBREVIATIONS

*Abbreviations*: contractions (CSIR: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; etc: *etcetera*).

*Acronyms*: words formed from letters in a series of related words (Learn: *Let Every African Read Now*).

*Innovative Acronyms*: new words formed from letters in a series of related words (Sanfa: South African National Football Association).

*Artificial Acronyms*: innovative acronyms formed by dropping non-pronounced letters (Wrab: *West Rand Bantu Administration Board*).

*Short Forms (Contracted Forms)*: two or more related words joined together in contracted form (Unicorp: Union Corporation).

A.D.A.  
M.H.

## A

AA

Automobile Association  
Alcoholics Anonymous

## AAC

Anglo American Corporation of South Africa

## Adcor

Air Conditioning Contractors (Company)

## ADS

Anker Data Systems (Company)

## AE &amp; CI

African Explosives and Chemical Industries

## AeSSA

Aeronautical Society of South Africa

## AET

Association of English Teachers

## Afrox

African Oxygen (Company)

## Africolor

(Photographic Processing Company)

## AG

Administrator-General (SWA/Namibia)

Attorney General (Transvaal)

## AGM

Assistant General Manager

Annual General Meeting

## AIM

Agricultural & Industrial Mechanization (Company)

## ANC

African National Congress

## APIPS

Alex Piries Ink and Paper Supplies Company

## Arm Scor

Armaments Corporation of South Africa

## ASA

(Railways) Artisan Staff Association

## Asseca

African Social, Scientific, Educational and Cultural Association

## Assocom

Associated Chambers of Commerce

## ASTSSA

Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa

## Atasa

African Teachers' Association of South Africa

Avbob

Afrikaanse Vereniging van Begrafnisondernemings Beperk

## B

BAD

Department of Bantu Administration and Development

BAWS

Bantu Animal Welfare Society

BAWU

Black Allied Workers' Union

BCM

Black Consumers Movement

BCP

Black Community Programme

Bifsa

Building Industries Federation of South Africa

Bishplat

Bishopsgate Platinum (Company)

Boss

Bureau for State Security

BPA

Black Parents' Association

BPC

Black People's Convention

BPSG

Black Priests' Solidarity Group

BWI

Bonus Work Inspector

## C

CAeSSA

Companion of the Aeronautical Society of South Africa

Cams

Consolidated African Mines

Capab

Performing Arts Board of the Cape Province

CASA

Cruising Association of South Africa

Cate

College for Advanced Technical Education

CCE  
Chief Civil Engineer

CI  
Christian Institute

CME  
Chief Mechanical Engineer

CNA  
Central News Agency

CRC  
Coloured Representative Council

Cromil  
Crown Mills Holdings (Company)

CSDCR  
Council for Sociological, Demographic and Criminological  
Research

CSIR  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

CSS  
Chief Stores Superintendent

## D

Dalro  
Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organization

DB  
Detention Barracks

DHS  
Durban High School

DHSOB  
Durban High School Old Boys (Club, Association)

DIC  
Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation

DLI  
Durban Light Infantry

D & M  
Driving and Maintenance

DP  
'Duly Performed' Certificate

DRC (the)  
Dutch Reformed Church

**E**

ED (the)  
 Education Department  
 Erab  
 East Rand Bantu Administration Board  
 ER Cons  
 East Rand Consolidated  
 Escom  
 Electricity Supply Commission

**F**

Fasa  
 Football Association of South Africa  
 FBW  
 Federation of Black Women  
 FCI  
 Federated Chambers of Industry  
 FCU  
 Farmers' Co-operative Union  
 FSALA  
 Fellow of the South African Library Association

**G**

GM  
 General Manager  
 General Motors  
 GPO  
 General Post Office

**H**

HAUM (Haum)  
 Hollandsche Afrikaans Uitgewers Maatskappy  
 HED  
 Higher Education Diploma  
 HNP  
 Herstigte Nasionale Party  
 HSRC  
 Human Sciences Research Council

**I**

IAS  
 Industrial Aid Society

IATA  
International Air Travel Association

IDSO  
International Diamond Security Organisation

IMF  
International Monetary Fund

Iscor  
Iron and Steel Corporation (of South Africa)

ISEA  
Institute for the Study of English in Africa

**J**

Jaycees  
Junior Chambers of Commerce

JCD  
John Chard Decoration

JCM  
John Chard Medal

JHB  
Johannesburg

JMB  
Joint Matriculation Board

JSE  
Johannesburg Stock Exchange

**K**

KWV  
Kaapse Wynbouers Vereniging

**L**

LDV  
Light Delivery Vehicle

LME  
London Metal Exchange

**M**

MB  
Metal Box Company

ME  
Mechanical Engineer

MEC  
Member of the Executive Council (of the Provincial Council)

MIF  
 Motor Industries Federation

Mima  
 Motor Industries Manufacturers Association

MPC  
 Member of the Provincial Council

MWA  
 Medupe Writers' Association

## N

Nada  
 National Automobile Dealers' Association

Napac  
 Natal Performing Arts Council

NCD  
 Natal Co-operative Dairies

NCW  
 National Council of Women

NED  
 Natal Education Department

NFL  
 National Football League

Nicro  
 National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders

NMR  
 Natal Mounted Rifles

NPA  
 Natal Provincial Administration

NPB  
 Natal Parks Board

NMSU  
 Natal Motor Sport Union

NP  
 National Party

NPSL  
 National Professional Soccer League

NPU  
 Newspaper Press Union

NRP  
 New Republican Party



NRSC

National Road Safety Council

NSRI

National Sea Rescue Institute

Nusas

National Union of South African Students

NWR

National Womens Register

## O

OFS

Province of the Orange Free State

Ogads

See: PHSG Ogads

O and M

Committee which examines and advises on Organization and Method in a firm

## P

PAC

Pan African Congress

Pacofs

Performing Arts Council of the Orange Free State

Pact

Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal

PAG

Prince Alfred's Guards

PCT

Pretoria City Transport

PDSA (SA)

People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (South Africa)

PE

Port Elizabeth

PEBS

Prudential Equity Building Society

P.E.N.

Association of Poets, Essayists, and Novelists

PFP

Progressive Federal Party

PHSG

Pretoria High School for Girls

PHSG Ogads

Pretoria High School for Girls Old Girls Association Dramatic Society

PMB

Pietermaritzburg

PP

Progressive Party

PR (the)

Public Relations Officer

PR

Pretoria Regiment

PRO

Public Relations Official (Officer)

Prem Cem

Premier Portland Cement

PRP

Progressive Reform Party

PS

Production Supervisor

PS (the)

Public Service (Commission)

PSMAA

Public Servants Medical Aid Association

PTO

Privilege Ticket Order

PUCHE

Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education

Putco

Public Utility Transport Company

PTA

Parent-Teachers Association

PWD

Provincial Department of Works

## R

Rau

Rand Afrikaans University

RDM

Rand Daily Mail

RLI  
 Rand Light Infantry  
 RSA  
 Republic of South Africa  
 RWC  
 Roadworthy Certificate

## S

SAA  
 South African Airways  
 SAAPA  
 South African Airways Pilots' Association  
 SAAN  
 South African Associated Newspapers  
 SAAU  
 South African Agricultural Union  
 SAB  
 South African Breweries  
 Saba  
 South African Bowling Association  
 SABC  
 South African Broadcasting Corporation  
 Sabra  
 South African Bureau for Racial Affairs  
 SABS  
 South African Bureau of Standards  
 SACA  
 South African Cricket Association  
 Sacboc  
 South African Cricket Board of Control  
 SACC  
 South African Caravan and Camping Council  
 South African Council of Churches  
 Sacee  
 South African Council for English Education  
 Sacoin  
 South African Consumer Interests  
 SACU  
 South African Cricket Union  
 SADF  
 South African Defence Force

'Saf' (the)

South African Air Force

Safmarine

South African Marine (Company)

Safto

South African Foreign Trade Organisation

SAI

South African Infantry

SAIEE

South African Institute of Electrical Engineers

SAIMR

South African Institute for Medical Research

SALA

South African Library Association

Salstaff

Salaried Staff Association (SAR & H)

SAMC

South African Marine Corporation

Sampi

South African Mealie Producers' Institute

Sanfa

South African National Football Association

Sanroc

South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee

Santa

South African National Tuberculosis Association

SAP

South African Party

S.A.P.

South African Police

SAPA

South African Press Association

SAR

See: SAR & H

SARA

South African Rugby Association

Sarah

See: SAR & H

SARB

South African Rugby Board

- SARF  
South African Rugby Federation
- SAR & H  
South African Railways and Harbours
- SASF  
South African Soccer Federation
- Sasko  
Group of Milling and Bakery Companies
- SASM  
South African Student Movement
- SASO  
South African Students' Organization
- SATA  
South African Teachers Association
- SB  
The Security Branch of the South African Police
- SBL  
School of Business Leadership
- SFW  
Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery
- SM  
Southern Cross Medal
- Soms  
Statutory Organisations Medical Scheme
- [South African] P.G.A.  
Professional Golfers' Association
- Soweto  
South Western Townships
- SRC  
Students' Representative Council
- SSA  
Star of South Africa, First Class
- SSAS  
Star of South Africa, Second Class
- SSRC  
Soweto Students' Representative Council
- Swanu  
South West Africa National Union
- Swapo  
South West Africa People's Organisation

**T**

- TAB  
Totalisator Agency Board of the Transvaal
- Tate  
Transvaal Association of Teachers of English
- TCL  
Tsumeb Corporation Ltd
- TED  
Transvaal Education Department
- Ter  
Terrorist
- THED  
Transvaal Higher Education Diploma
- TPA  
Transvaal Provincial Administration
- TTA  
Transvaal Teachers Association
- TUCO  
Timber Utilization Control Officer
- Tucsa  
Trade Union Council of South Africa

**U**

- UDC  
Union Development Corporation
- UHF  
Ultra High Frequency
- UBJ  
Union of Black Journalists
- UBS  
United Building Society
- UCT  
University of Cape Town
- UJW  
Union of Jewish Women
- UMR  
Umvoti Mounted Rifles
- Unicorp  
Union Corporation
- Unisa  
University of South Africa

UP  
 United Party  
 UPE  
 University of Port Elizabeth  
 UPI  
 United Press International  
 UTB  
 United Tobacco Company

**V**

VCC  
 Vaal Community Council  
 VHF  
 Very High Frequency

**W**

WA  
 Women's Auxilliary (of the Methodist Church)  
 WCC  
 World Council of Churches  
 WGA  
 Wool Growers' Association  
 Whips  
 Waterkloof House Preparatory School  
 WPLTA  
 Western Province Lawn Tennis Association  
 Wrab  
 West Rand Bantu Administration Board

**X**

XDC  
 Xhosa Development Corporation

**Z**

Zanu  
 Zimbabwe African National Union  
 Zapu  
 Zimbabwe African People's Union  
 ZTF  
 Zimele Trust Fund

[A further list is at present being compiled]