

MEDIA STATEMENT

Launch of the Nelson Mandela Centre for Conflict Resolution, Atrocity Prevention and Human Security at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand on 21 March 2024 – Human Rights Day in South Africa

On Human Rights Day, the South African Government proudly announces the establishment of the Nelson Mandela Centre for Conflict Resolution, Atrocity Prevention, and Human Security. This groundbreaking initiative, initiated by cooperation between the South African Embassy in Thailand and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, aims to promote peace, prevent atrocities, and enhance human security. The Nelson Mandela Centre is named in honour of the late President Nelson Mandela, an iconic leader who championed reconciliation, justice, and human rights. It embodies his vision of a world free from conflict, violence, and oppression. Approval has been obtained to use the name of former President Mandela from the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the University of Chulalongkorn has agreed to the Foundation's code of conduct for the use of the name.

The centre is to become a premier thinktank on conflict resolution, atrocity prevention, and human security in Southeast Asia. The centre will be responsible for the following:

- Conducting high-impact research and developing innovation for conflict resolution, atrocity prevention, and human security.
- Strengthening national and local community's capacity in mitigating conflicts, preventing atrocity, and strengthening human security.
- Serving as a bridge and platform for discussions on conflict resolution, atrocity prevention, and human security.

This initiative illustrates the strong bonds of friendship between South Africa and Thailand and the importance of people-to-people and academic exchange in growing bilateral relations. These interactions foster mutual understanding, cultural enrichment, and collaborative growth.

The Keynote speaker during the launch was Mr. Roelf Meyer, former Minister and Chief negotiator of the National Party, who was intimately involved in the negotiations on the settlement of South African conflict together with Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, who was then, Chief negotiator for the African National Congress and is now current President of the Republic of South Africa. Among the speakers was the president of Chulalongkorn University, Prof. Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn and the Ambassador of South Africa H.E Darkey Africa.

The successful launch was attended by various Ambassadors, Academic, Students, businesspeople etc. The event was hailed as an intervention which would address critical peacebuilding, conflict resolution and human security in the Asean region and elsewhere.