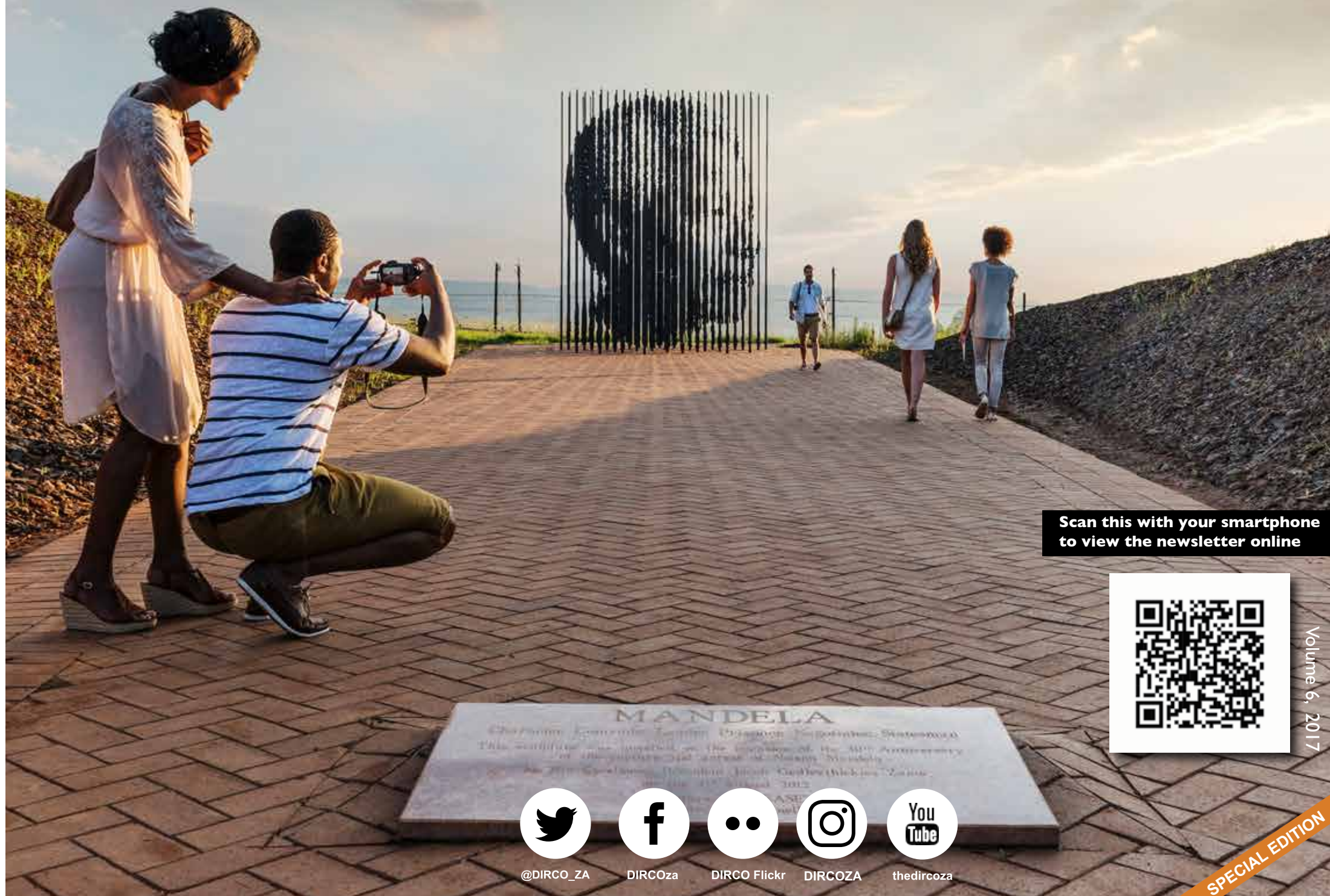


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# VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation



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Volume 6, 2017



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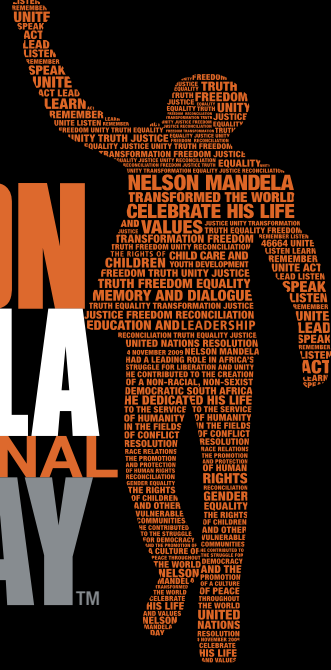


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# NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY



## NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared Nelson Mandela's birthday, 18th July, Nelson Mandela International Day. This declaration was made to recognise the contribution that South Africa's first democratically elected president made to the liberation struggle. For 67 years of his life, Madiba dedicated his life to serving humanity. Tata Mandela always stood for human rights, peace and freedom for all, and continued to spread this message after his release from 27 years in prison. It is with this in mind, that every year during the month of July (Nelson Mandela Month), people across the globe devote 67 minutes of their time to donate, volunteer or do their part for their communities.

As always, our missions across the world did their 67 minutes for Mandela Day. This is a special Mandela Day issue showcasing the missions' activities this year.



### Athens, Greece

On 18 July 2017, the South African Embassy, joined by Aspen Greece, devoted Nelson Mandela Day to "The Smile of the Child", a non-profit Greek organisation that supports children and their families in need, regardless of ethnicity and/or religion. "The Smile of the Child", among other actions, provides care and love in a safe living environment to children who have been seriously abused and/or neglected and have been removed from their families upon the order of the prosecutor and judicial authorities.

Costas Yannopoulos, President of the BoD of "The Smile of the Child" and the children welcomed everyone with a warm hug and a big smile. The volunteers enthusiastically started painting the garden walls while the children participated by colouring a kid's wall painting. The final touch was by adding garden furniture and toys.

Ambassador Marthinus van Schalkwyk spoke about the importance of Nelson Mandela Day: "Each year on Nelson Mandela Day, we, the people of South Africa and the world, devote 67 minutes of our time for a good cause. Dimitra



Roka, Country Manager of Aspen Greece, added that "through this unity, we send a powerful message; with simple activities we can make a difference".

Mr Yannopoulos thanked the delegation and remarked that "Nelson Mandela was a man of values, morals, but also a modest man. We all need to take his example to make our world a better place".

The power of cooperation and team spirit was the basis for the success of this important day.



### Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Permanent Representation to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) celebrated Nelson Mandela International Day at its premises on 18 July 2017.

Nelson Mandela International Day signifies a personal sacrifice for the Embassy staff, both transferred and locally recruited personnel. It provides an opportunity to demonstrate appreciation to the doyen of our political struggle and the lessons we have learned from his kindness and selflessness.

To mark this important day on the Embassy's calendar, the Embassy staff and other South African citizens made voluntary financial and in-kind contributions towards the activities of the day. In addition, the Embassy's Social Club also raised some funds throughout the year for the event. The activities were a continuation of the positive response from the event of 2016 when



A cake donated by the Ramada Hotel in Addis Ababa on the occasion of Nelson Mandela International Day

food parcels were donated by the Embassy and South African citizens to victims of drought in south Ethiopia.

This year, the Embassy selected the Birhan Yehun Organisation of Addis Ababa, which cares



Ambassador Ndimiso Ntshinga and volunteers from the Birhan Yehun Organisation

for 42 neglected, marginalised and vulnerable children who are offsprings of street beggars residing in plastic shacks and trash dumps in Addis Ababa. The Birhan Yehun Organisation provides educational support, medical care,

meals and tutorials to these children aged between 12 and 16.

Proceeds from voluntary contributions procured school items, winter school uniforms and toiletries for the children. The Embassy Staff and other South African citizens also cooked lunch for the children and their caregivers. Additional contributions were also received from the officials from the Embassy of Namibia in Addis Ababa.

The Embassy believes that this contribution will shape the future of these children in using education to extricate themselves from their lives of destitution, and complement the proverbial mantra from Nelson Mandela that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

In showing appreciation, one of the children presented a painting to the Embassy with the message "Humanity in Sharing". This message was indicative of what Nelson Mandela International Day symbolises.





## Lisbon, Portugal

For this year's International Nelson Mandela Day, the Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, linked up with the African Diaspora community of Moinho da Juventude Cultural Association in Cova da Moura to take 67 residents, including 46 children, for an interactive half-day experience at the Pavilion of Knowledge-Science Museum.

Charge d'Affaires a.i., Hugo Lambrechts, emphasised that as President Mandela believed education was the most powerful weapon to change the world, the Pavilion of Knowledge was therefore considered as the ideal place to spend this day to learn and experience, specifically new insights into the sciences. At the pavilion, the group was welcomed by its president, Dra Rosália Vargas, and other members of the staff, who reminded all that this day is not only a special day for South Africa alone, but for the whole world in the context of the impact Mandela had on the whole of humanity as recognised by the United Nations.

All the participants, including teachers and representatives from the Moinho da Juventude Cultural Association, were satisfied with the event as these children had few opportunities to enjoy such activities, especially focused on learning, outside their neighbourhood.

This interaction has also opened the door for direct linkage between the museum and the community in future and the community was invited back to the Open Day on 25 July 2017. Embassy staff also enjoyed this opportunity to dedicate a few hours of service to the community in honour of Madiba's legacy, specifically with a focus on education and learning. The event was made possible through collaboration with the Knowledge Pavilion and support from the Portuguese-South-African Chamber of Commerce and Trade and Padaria Portuguesa.



During the three hours at the museum, the children had the opportunity to try different science experiments and explore various exhibits.

- **Digestive Adventure:** During this activity, the four to five year-olds learned, among many other topics about the digestive system - what nutrients we need to be healthy and strong and what makes bones and muscles grow.
- **Socks with Science:** The six to 10 year olds undertook this interactive project in the park, wearing socks only and finding out what kind of plants, pebbles or even animals can get stuck to your soles if you run around in your socks. These were then collated and identified and

explored under the microscope and with the help of tweezers and magnifying glasses.

- **Cardboard Automata:** The 11 to 16 year olds created their own cardboard dynamic sculptures, combining engineering and artistic concepts, using levers, bearings, cogwheels and gears, while also personalising and decorating these.

In addition to the specific activities, the groups also visited some of the exhibitions in the museum:

- **Play with Science:** This was exclusive for little science explorers aged between three and six years – a space place where they could wear an astronaut suit, climb inside a rocket, drive a square

wheels car and, of course, try to finish an unfinished house.

- **Bon Appétit:** This exhibition offered the visitors the tools to understand the rules for healthy eating and cooking, thus answering important questions about healthy living. What makes us hungry? How can we cook a healthy meal? Are there any forbidden foods? Is it true that being a couch potato is fattening?
- **Doing:** This is an area for making, creating, experimenting, building and sharing, where trial and error are a must. More than 500 m<sup>2</sup> of open activities, allow the visitor to think with their hands, going around obstacles and overcoming several challenges. 🌍



## Ankara, Turkey

Nelson Mandela International Day is an event that has been agreed to and sanctioned by the United Nations (UN). The theme for 2017 was: "Take Action against Poverty in a Way that will bring about Sustainable Change".

To honour Nelson Mandela's commitment to providing a better life for all, the South African Embassy in Ankara initiated a programme for 2017 to provide meals for 67 minutes in 2017 to displaced persons at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees shelters in Ankara who have no means of a sustainable livelihood.

South African Embassy officials and a donation from the Algerian Embassy in Ankara covered the costs of the meals for 19 July. Between 100 and 150 meals are provided to refugees each day by volunteers from the Ankara Refugees Lunch Support Group (ARLSG). The ARLSG is a self-funding, voluntary humanitarian group.

In the spirit of Nelson Mandela International Day, the South African Embassy spent time with the ARLSG to provide meals for the refugees and distribute them at the UNHCR shelters in Ankara as part of contributing to the voluntary 67 minutes of work to bring a smile to a distraught heart. 🌍



The SA Team preparing and delivering the meal





## KAMPALA, UGANDA

The South African High Commission in Kampala, Uganda, organised Mandela Day 2017 under the theme “Action on Poverty” at the Kiteezi Primary School and Centre for Children with Disability in the Wakiso District on 18 July 2017. The 67-minute initiative was spent cleaning the school, including painting; digging a pit hole; planting fruit trees; and preparing lunch for the children.

Donations that were handed over are as follows:

- Loaves of bread from Shoprite.
- Scholastic material from Woolworths and others from the kids from Kawotto Saviours Primary School in Kajjansi.
- Sanitary ware from the South African team based at United Nations-MONUSCO and a South African lady married in Uganda, Fancy Nkuhlu-Ogweng. An informal association of “South African Ladies and Friends” also donated the same and other stuff and also paid the water reconnection bill.
- Paint from Trust Paints of Uganda.
- Bags of rice, beans and local food known as matoke from AFGRI.



High Commissioner Solly Mollo signing the artwork of Mr Mandela

- Lunch for the kids by the Mission staff.
- Soccer balls by Mandela National Stadium, Uganda.
- Bags of cabbage, milk and sweet potatoes from Ugandan citizens.
- Transport of volunteers by Motorcare. 🌍



High Commissioner Mollo handing over donations



School children taking a picture with the High Commissioner



The team led by Ms Tebogo Masoga, preparing lunch for the kids



## SINGAPORE

In celebration of the Nelson Mandela International Day, the South African High Commission in Singapore, together with the African Working Group, joined Delane Lim of FutuReady Asia, to spend 67 minutes in the service of others.

In keeping with this year’s theme, “Fighting Poverty”, the High Commission sought to inspire change by instilling knowledge in kids from the Bishan Park Secondary School to fight poverty by observing harmony in a diverse society. The children especially asked for the South African High Commission to let them know about the life of Nelson Mandela, and this was provided as part of the “Citizenship” classes of the secondary school students.

As former President Mandela said, “Each of us as citizens has a role to play in creating a better world for our children”. The children of Bishan Park Secondary School came alive with the spirit of Mandela Day as they started putting together words in pictures of what they knew about the icon and what the day signified to them.

The children never ran short of words to describe the legend and his work and as almost all the kids spread their own Madiba magic, the mood was electrifying. All adult participants realised that children were our greatest treasure because they were the future; spending time with them was a blessing because it was like looking into the future.

The children reinforced the lessons of Madiba’s life through developing common approaches to racial harmony and acceptance.

A certificate of achievement was handed over to the school for allowing the High Commission to celebrate the fun and eventful day with the



children. The diplomats and invited guests joined together to paint a picture of Madiba that is now being displayed at the High Commission.

The participation of colleagues from the High Commission and the African Working Group shows the international community’s appreciation of Madiba’s patriotic and heroic sacrifices to create a better country, continent and world for all. 🌍







## GAZA, PALESTINE

The South African Representative Office co-hosted a Nelson Mandela International Day event in cooperation with the Palestinian non-governmental organisation, SAWAED for Relief and Development, in Gaza City, Gaza, on 18 July 2017 under the theme: "Fighting Poverty". SAWAED is receiving assistance from the South African "Gift of the Givers". The event was attended by approximately 120 invitees, mostly children and women. The first part of the event entailed short remarks by a number of persons, including the Counsellor: Political of the Representative Office, and representatives of SAWAED, Gaza Municipality and the Ministry of Education, with the second part reflecting the 67 minutes of community work that included the packing and distribution of food parcels to needy families as well as the packing and distribution of dental hygiene packs to children visiting the dental section of the Haifa Medical Clinic. It was heartwarming to hear the kind words expressed by the Palestinians, such as "Mandela belongs to us too" and South Africans are "our true friends".

The Nelson Mandela International Day event was preceded by the visit of Father Michael Lapsley, an anti-apartheid stalwart and Director of the Institute for Healing of Memories, who visited Palestine from 12 to 14 July 2017 to spread the message of late President Mandela of justice, peace and dignity. Father Lapsley had engagements with a group of residents of the City of Ramallah (organised and hosted by the Mayor of the City of Ramallah), the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute for International Studies at the University of Birzeit and a one-on-one meeting with key Palestinian political activists such as Advocate Fadwa Barghouti, Dr Mustafa Barghouti and Mr Yehuda Shaul. The visit by Father Lapsley and the subsequent engagements were appreciated



The opening

and well received by the Palestinians. Ambassador Ashraf Suliman joined an interfaith press conference at the gates of the Old City on 18 July 2017, following the imposition of security measures imposed on Muslim worshippers visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound. The conference was led by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Sheik Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, Archbishop Atallah Hanna of the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem, members of the Arab List in the Knesset and the Governor of Jerusalem, Mr Adnan al-Husayni. The interfaith press conference also demonstrated the convergence of views between the Muslim and Christian leadership in Palestine. Coincidentally, the key messages from the press conference dovetailed with the vision and views expressed by Father Lapsley during his visit to Palestine. 🌍



Handing over dental hygiene kits at Haifa Clinic



Handing over food to a family



## ACCRA, GHANA



The South African High Commission in Accra, in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), commemorated Nelson Mandela International Day with a clean-up exercise in the Nima community in Accra. Nima is one of the four communities identified by the Accra Metropolitan Authority in 2010 as a poverty endemic area. Nima is one of the Zongo communities falling under the Government's priority areas for development. The new Government, through the formation of the Ministry of Inner Cities and Zongo Development, has prioritised the development of the Zongo communities (Muslim communities) in an effort to alleviate unemployment, poverty and hunger.

Staff from the South African High Commission in Accra, UNIC, Group Five, Zoomlion and the

Nima Neighbourhood Watchdog Committee undertook a clean-up exercise in the Nima community. The clean-up exercise was followed by a presentation of statements by the invited dignitaries at an event held at the Nima Cluster of Schools. The event was graced by the Minister of Inner Cities and Zongo Development in the Republic of Ghana, Hon Abubakar Boniface Siddique, who delivered the keynote address. Also present was the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe, HE Tendai Paveyn Musaka; the South African High Commissioner, HE Lulama Xingwana; the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, HE Regassa Kefeyalew; the Ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan, HE Michael Mayil; and the Second Counsellor from the Republic of Burkina Faso,

Mr Claver Bationo. MTN Ghana was represented by the Senior Manager: Corporate Communications, Ms Georgina Asare Flagbenu.

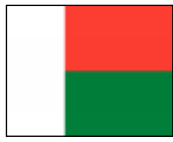
Addressing the community during the presentation of statements, the High Commissioner stressed the need to stay true to the ideals of former President Nelson Mandela, including his commitment to eradicating poverty and hunger. High Commissioner Xingwana also stressed that in following the Nelson Mandela example, we should celebrate by doing our best to help others with an open heart.

The Minister for Inner Cities and Zongo Development highlighted that the commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day was to promote social cohesion through his remembrance as well as encourage the world to continue living according to Madiba's values. The

Minister indicated that his Ministry was working on initiating the Zongo and Inner Cities Fund to finance programmes and projects in the Zongo communities.

In closing, the Minister proposed to all stakeholders in attendance to seriously consider constructing a model secondary school for the people of Nima to be called the Nelson Mandela Senior High School, and to be located in the heart of the Nima community. The Minister highlighted that the secondary school completion rate in the Nima community was very low, and that such a school would improve access to secondary school education and inspire the youth to have high aspirations. He stated that the resultant increase in literacy rates would thus be an important gesture symbolising the legacy of Nelson Mandela in Ghana. 🌍





## MADAGASCAR

This annual event remains an inspirational celebration to the extent that the planned events, in partnership with the various stakeholders in the private and public sectors,

extended beyond the annual United Nations commemorative day of 18 July. The encouragement drawn from arranging the various events, which involved six universities of Madagascar, translated

into the following legacy projects for these tertiary institutions: The success of the events were testimony to the legacy of collaboration among Malagasy stakeholders – a teaching that transcended the lifetime of the late icon, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

### UNIVERSITY OF ANTANANARIVO



The university held its event on 21 July, with the university and its sponsor agreeing to work together on a five-year project consisting of:

- Developing an agricultural programme involving recycled refuse.
- Capacity-building of three health centres in and around the university, with the first foundation stone laid on the day. In attendance were Dr Mamy Lalatiana Andriamanarivo, Ministry of Public Health; Ms Maud Dlomo, the South African Ambassador to Madagascar; Panja Ramanoelina, the President of the University; and external partners.

Side events related to the promotion of health issues such as (but not limited to) blood pressure testing and diabetes screening. Other activities included entertainment for the youth.

### UNIVERSITY OF FIANARANTSOA



The university held its Mandela Day event on 9 June 2017 under the theme: "Together, Let's Put an End to Digital Apartheid in the University World".

The objectives were underpinned by popularising Nelson Mandela's leadership of helping and serving other, as well as considering education as a primary lever for development. This included a practical engagement on the need to break the digital gap between the students of the University of Fianarantsoa that included:

- the use of computer tools
- the use of social media
- access to information.

### University of Toliara



The university organised a Mandela Day marathon on 29 June 2017 with an estimated 200 students who participated. A science laboratory and a library were also inaugurated. The theme of the event was: "How to Improve Community Capacity, Education and Information and Technology Management as a Weapon against Poverty and also to Build Future Leadership".

### University of Toamasina



Mandela Day events were organised by the university from 28 to 30 June. The events included sporting codes (football matches); a quiz contest; a reforestation activity (tree planting); Nelson Mandela Photo Exhibition, including books and citations; a film screening on Mandela; and a round-table discussion.

### University of Antsiranana



Events were held over two days on 29 and 30 June. The events included a conference, screening of the movie "Cry Freedom", a visit to primary schools to donate learning materials and a quiz contest on Nelson Mandela.

### University of Mahajanga



The event was held on 5 August 2017 under the theme: "Education: Action of Peace and Means against Poverty". The objective was to raise awareness on the importance of education and of living together peacefully, without forgetting mutual aid in order to overcome poverty and lead the population to desired and sustainable development.





## PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

This year, the High Commission in Port Louis, Mauritius, collaborated with South African Airways (SAA), Shoprite Hyper and Beau Bebe Limited to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day.

Staff members of the High Commission and representatives of SAA visited a shelter, Crèche Coeur Immacule de Marie for children in Quatre Bones, on 18 July 2017. The shelter accommodates 23 children from the ages of 0 to five years, is partially funded by the Government and relies on donations to run the day-to-day business.

Staff members of the Mission spent time with the children at the shelter by distributing nappies, toys, baby toiletries, warm clothes and food. The time spent at the shelter by staff members of the High Commission brought smiles and a twinkle to both the children and staff of the shelter.



Some of the items that the Mission received as donations for the kids



One of the children at the shelter



## LAISON OFFICE OF SOUTH AFRICA (LOSA), TAIWAN



Liaison Office of South Africa staff members and their families, volunteers and South Africa compatriots embracing work well done

18 July is International Mandela Day. On this day, people all over the world not only celebrate Nelson Mandela's contribution to the world, but also demonstrate his passion for life and his love and support for the children, women, the elderly and the minorities through action. On this day, LOSA staff and volunteers together with the Taipei City Government gathered at the Taipei Homeless Shelter (THS) in Zhonghe District, New Taipei City, to serve the homeless people with South African cuisine.

LOSA celebrates Mandela Day in different ways every year. We used to hold a charity sale and donated all the money to an orphanage selected by the Mission. This year, we chose to serve the homeless people of Taipei City. Ms Maureen Mabasa, Chargé d'Affaires of LOSA, said that she hoped people would take action and work together to serve the community not only on the 18th of July but every day of their lives in order to make a difference to the communities they live in. "Mandela Day reminds us that we should commit ourselves to make every day a Mandela Day". THS staff currently accommodates 81 people,



LOSA members and volunteers



LOSA compatriots and volunteers helping in serving the homeless people with lunch

providing the homeless with a safe place where they can have food and rest and receive medication. The shelter also assists the younger people in finding jobs so that they would be able to live independently. Director Chen of the THS said that he would like to thank the various organisations that came to the shelter to serve the people, particularly LOSA for its thought and

work. He said he hoped that Mr Mandela's spirit, his persistence in human rights, freedom and democracy and his love for humanity, would be long-lasting.

Furthermore, to celebrate the selflessness of the fallen giant and to make the day a success, LOSA worked with South African compatriots resident in Taiwan together with the Taiwanese

citizens who volunteered to assist on the day. The volunteers also committed to continue with the charity work to assist the needy in their various communities.

The event was sponsored by Haibo international, Chen Hsu Corporation, Pomina Enterprise and Panman CO LTD.







## NEW DELHI, INDIA

The South African High Commission in New Delhi participated in multiple events across New Delhi that focused on spreading the message of Mandela Day.

The programme for Mandela Day included the following speaking engagements and charitable projects:

- speaking engagement at the Blue Bells School: 17 July 2017
- speaking engagement at the Springdales School in Dhaula Khan, attended by High Commissioner Frans Morule
- speaking engagement at the Spring Dales School in Pusa Road, attended by Mr Bongani Mahlangu
- speaking engagement at the India International Centre, attended by Deputy High Commissioner Ben Joubert
- a day of giving at the Society for Participatory and Integrated Development (SPID Charity), attend by all Mission staff not involved in other activities.

For Mandela Day 2017, the Mission selected the SPID home in GB Road, New Delhi, for its main Mandela Day activity. The SPID provides a 24-hour facility for the at-risk children of New Delhi. The charity provides all meals and accommodation for roughly 65 children between the ages of two and 17, while also ensuring that all children attend school.

The project, which was self-funded by the High Commission staff, saw the Mission purchase roughly Rs40 000 (R8 000) worth of goods for the home. This included basic toiletries as well as goods that would serve the long-term needs



of the home such as steel storage containers and plastic chairs. In addition, the Mission was able to purchase paint and painting equipment for the charity, which will be used to refurbish part of their premises. The Mission had initially undertaken to complete the painting required on Mandela Day, however, due to the Monsoon rains it was decided by the charity that they would prefer to wait until after the rainy season to conduct the painting work. In addition, the Mission was able to bring in Nando's as a sponsor, which provided meals for the day and further contributed by arranging for their mascot to run a colouring competition for the children. 🌍



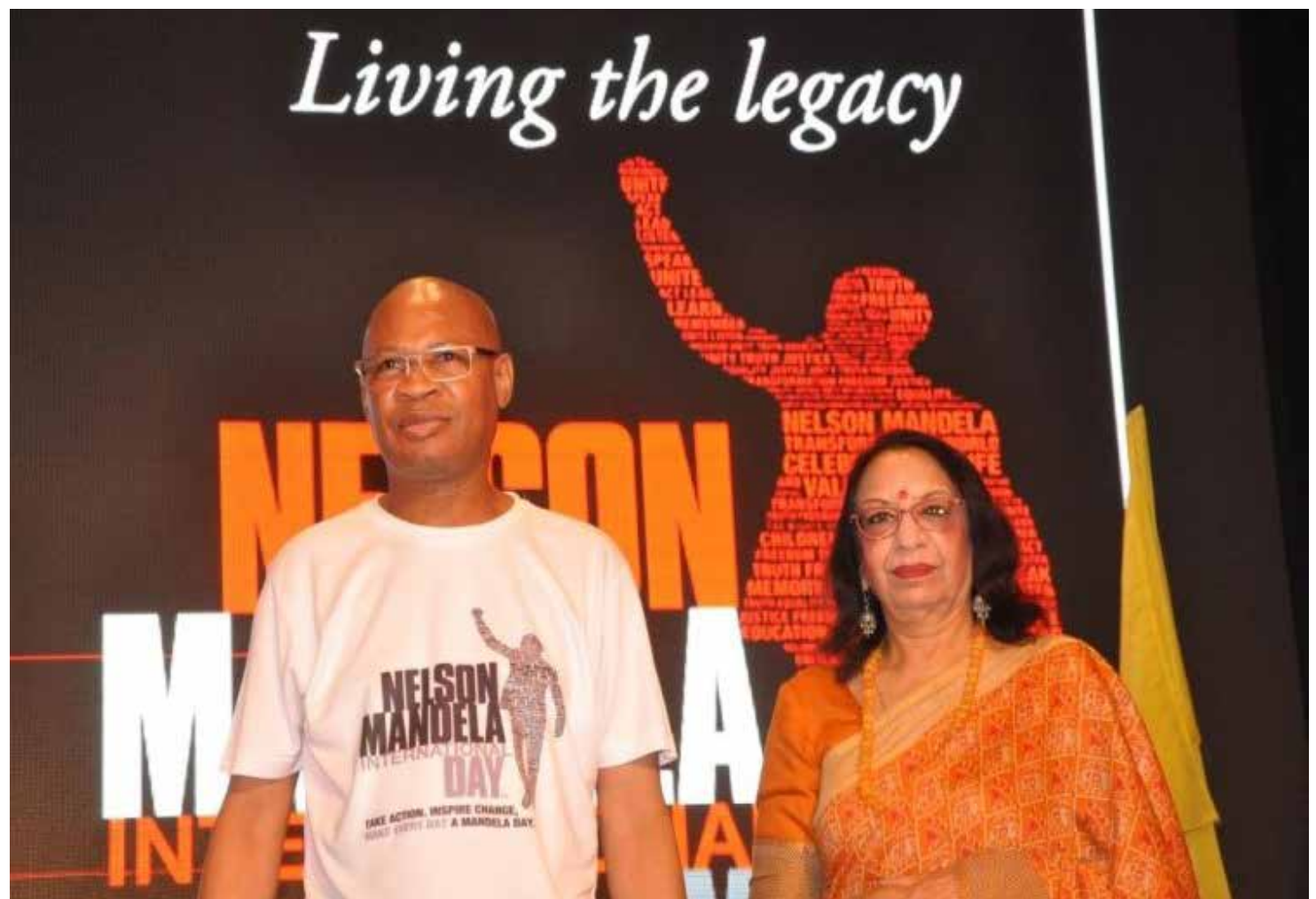
## SPRINGDALES SCHOOL, DAULA KHAN AREA

High Commissioner Frans Morule was deployed to the event at this historic institution of which Mrs Rajni Kumar was a founding member. The event witnessed the participation of other diplomats and also received coverage by local media.

The speech by High Commissioner Morule was well received and the energetic contribution by the children and teachers matched many other years of commitment and dedication to South Africa's road to democracy and freedom.

In addition, the High Commission's message sought to inspire learners to strive for knowledge and excellence. This was done through presenting how Nelson Mandela prioritised education and children. The importance of education and being of service to society was demonstrated by highlighting the importance of educating and training children and the youth and inspiring excellence in various areas affecting society. Children and the youth will inherit the world and are leaders of the future. As such, education and excellence have become the most significant elements in finding solutions to various challenges facing the world today. It is through education that these future leaders will be of meaningful service to society.

Learners were motivated to learn from Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi, remain focused on their education and achieve excellence as a way to becoming leaders in various sectors in future. 🌍





## INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Under the banner of "Mandela, we salute you!", more than 250 students from 20 schools in Delhi attended a day that was marked by speeches, singing, a competition on knowledge about Madiba and several other activities. Minister Plenipotentiary Ben Joubert was allocated to this event that started in 38°C humid shade and moved to the auditorium of the Indian International Centre. The centre is a prominent venue for many political, academic and cultural events in India. The focus of the event was on Mandela's legacy, and some links between India and South Africa, most importantly the connection with Mahatma Gandhi. The speech by Mr Joubert was well received and several inquisitive students kept him busy for more than an hour. The event witnessed the participation of the regional organiser office of the United Nations Information Centre.

On 17 July 2017, First Secretary Shri Pillay attended Nelson Mandela Day celebrations at the Blue Bells School in New Delhi. The Blue Bells School was one of the founding schools of the Africa Club in New Delhi. The Africa Club, which was a partnership between the Springdales



and Blue Bells schools, led many anti-apartheid activities during the late 1970s and 1980s in India. Their contribution to the freedom struggle has been recognised by government as it directly

contributed to India calling for sanctions against the then Apartheid State. The programme at Blue Bells School was conducted entirely by the students and saw various mediums being used to

illustrate the life of Nelson Mandela. For his part, Mr Pillay in his remarks spoke to the importance and relevance of Mandela Day and the importance of education as catalyst for change. 🌍

## SPRINGDALES SCHOOL, PUSA ROAD

At the invitation of the Principal of Springdales School, Pusa Road, New Delhi, Mrs Ameeta Mulla Wattal, the South African High Commission participated in the school's commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2017. The High Commission was represented by Mr EB Mahlangu who delivered a keynote address on behalf of High Commissioner Morule. Present at the event was Ms Ebyan Mahamed Salah, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia in India, representatives from the Rwandan Embassy and Senegalese Embassy and present and former members of the school governing body.

In his keynote address, Mr Mahlangu focused on Nelson Mandela's unbroken commitment to the fight for social justice, human rights, peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity. The message highlighted that Nelson Mandela fought for ethnic, religious and racial tolerance. The values for which he stood became the epitome of volunteerism and community service. 🌍







## MONROVIA, LIBERIA

On Tuesday, 18 July 2017, the South African Ambassador in Monrovia, Mr Vanapalan Moodley, and staff at the South African Embassy celebrated International Mandela Day with members of the Great Commission Academy Orphanage in Chicken Factory Soup, Gardnerville.

The South African Ambassador and Embassy personnel interacted with the children under the theme: "Action against Poverty".

Contributions were collected from staff of the South African Embassy and other partners and this enabled a contribution of various food items to the orphanage. In addition, this year, the South African Embassy in Monrovia has partnered with MTN-Lonestar, a major provider of telecommunications services in Liberia, in a modest attempt to improve the quality of life of those in the Great Academy Orphanage through the installation of solar panels.

Through these efforts, the Embassy hopes to make a visible contribution and difference to the lives of all the children and the staff of the orphanage through the provision of basic electricity for power at night.

This will enable the children and staff to have lights for reading, studying and also to be able to power simple electronic devices and mobile chargers.

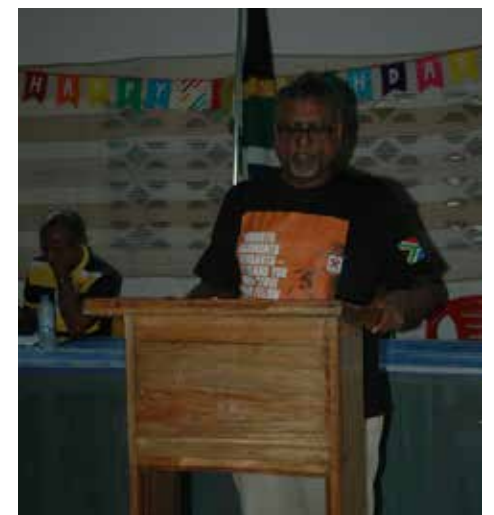
The event was also celebrated with the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps in Liberia, Ambassador El Hadj Abdoulaye Dore of Guinea; Ambassador Ibrahim M'bara Kamara, Special Representative of the Commission Chairperson and Head of



the African Union Liaison Office in Liberia; and other representatives of the Diplomatic Corps in Monrovia from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Southern African Development Community countries. Support and donations were also received from individuals in the United Nations Mission in Liberia and others.

Staff at the South African Embassy in Liberia will continue to remain engaged with this project as a visible contribution to assist the orphanage in meeting its basic needs.

Embassy partners were also encouraged to continue to make contributions to ensure that a meaningful and viable contribution can be made to the long-term health and welfare of this vulnerable group of children who will continue to need support and encouragement. 🌍



## ROME, ITALY

On 18 July 2017, the South African Embassy in Rome hosted a seminar under the theme "Economic Disparities and Poverty: Also Urgent in Italy" in collaboration with the European House – Ambrosetti and Aspen Healthcare, respectively. Invited guests included several members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, senior government officials, academics, business representatives and representatives of the Italian media.

Ambassador Nomatamba Tambo opened the seminar by highlighting the importance of the theme "Action against Poverty" under which Nelson Mandela International Day was being commemorated this year, which was a departure from the past practice of encouraging participants to devote 67 minutes of their time in the service of others. The decision represents the recognition on the part of the Nelson Mandela Foundation of the urgent need to eradicate poverty in all countries in a holistic manner, restoring the dignity of the most vulnerable in society, including through addressing the social environment and creating employment.

Speakers paid tribute to former President Nelson Mandela and highlighted the negative social-economic impact of poverty in Italy and the urgent need to address the problem in a sustainable way, including addressing the plight



Ambassador Tambo with the European House-Ambrosetti and Aspen Healthcare representatives

of thousands of migrants who have flocked to Italy over the last few years.

Following the panel discussion, Mr Stavros Nicolaou announced that Aspen would be contributing Euro 25 000 to the Banco Alimentare (Food Bank) Foundation, which is an Italian non-governmental organisation (NGO) dealing with



The Musa Blues Choir from La Sapienza University in Rome rendering African songs

the collection of foodstuffs and the recovery of food surpluses from agricultural and industrial production and their redistribution to charitable organisations across Italy, in order to provide relief to the most deprived of persons.

To conclude the programme, guests were treated to a performance by Ms Thandy

Ndlazi, a South African singer, and her band. The high-level event was a great success.

Later the same day, the Embassy also marked the commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day in collaboration with the Benny Nato Centre, an NGO named after Henry Benny Nato (born De Bruyn), who was exiled in Italy and served as the African National Congress Representative from 1985 to 1992. Mr Vincenzo Curatola of the centre highlighted its involvement in the celebration of the life of Nelson Mandela. He indicated that the centre would always keep alive the history of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Ambassador Tambo delivered a speech and highlighted the strong collaboration between the Embassy and the centre. In her remarks, she stressed that the continent should tackle the issue of poverty that was affecting the nation. In addition, the Ambassador indicated that Italy was faced with the challenge of migrants who were victims of poverty. Ambassador Tambo further stressed that the issue of migrants should be addressed collectively.

The Musa Blues Choir from La Sapienza University in Rome entertained the audience with African songs which were popular during liberation struggle in Africa. The event, which was a great success, was well attended. 🌍





## ALGIERS, ALGERIA

On 18 July 2017, Embassy staff joined representatives of the United Nations (UN) organisations based in Algeria as well as a local youth environmental protection association, SIDRA, in commemorating Nelson Mandela International Day.

The activity took place in central Algiers (Belouizdad) at Grotto de Cervantes, the historical caves where Cervantes once took refuge. The Algerian Minister of Environment and Renewable Energies, Ms Fatma Zohra Zerouati, was the guest of honour.

Two groups of children participated; the young ones took part in an activity to learn about the UN development goals while the older ones cleaned the small park surrounding the caves.

The Minister, country representatives of the UN Development Programme, UN Children's Fund, UN Population Fund and Ambassador Denis Dlomo also symbolically cleaned one of the caves.

The week before, Ambassador Dlomo and Mr Mzi Botha, First Secretary: Political, spent time with sick children at the Paediatrics Section of Mustapha Bachaa Hospital. The Ambassador purchased small gifts for the children and provided comfort and support in memory of former President Mandela.



## SOFIA, BULGARIA

The South African Mission in Sofia once again celebrated International Mandela Day by undertaking 67 minutes of community service on the former President's birthday, 18 July.

This year, the Nelson Mandela International Day was observed under the theme, "Action against Poverty" and so the Embassy used the event to intensify the fight against poverty by requesting the diplomatic missions in Sofia to observe Mandela's legacy in sending foodstuff to the Embassy, which was donated to the poor region of Montana in Bulgaria.

Further to that, on Mandela Day, the Mission staff visited Father Ivan's orphanage in the village of Novi Han near Sofia. The orphanage shelters mainly young single mothers and their children who are homeless, jobless and have nowhere to go. We were received by Father Ivan and about 20 children between the ages of five to 12 years.

We brought with us colour paints, textile sprays and other educational material to be used by the children. We shared beautiful moments with them by engaging in creative and educational activities. It was obvious that this interaction was not only enlightening for the children, but also brought them a lot of joy and excitement.

Our Mission also requested all embassies in Bulgaria, state institutions, non-governmental organisations, media and prominent business organisations to donate books to the Mission for children aged five to 10 years. The response was so overwhelming that it enabled us to donate books to three schools in Sofia.



At the back: from left to right: Counsellor Mamabolo, Ambassador Vanessa Calvert and Father Ivan with children from the orphanage in Novi Han, Bulgaria



Counsellor Mamabolo (left) and Ambassador Calvert greeting a child at Father Ivan's orphanage in Novi Han, Bulgaria

Our Mission's efforts to popularise Mandela Day in Bulgaria have borne fruit. It was with great pleasure that we came to know that a lady residing in the Bulgarian city of Rousse had launched an initiative to raise 8500 Bulgarian Leva within a period of 67 days for the purchase of a defibrillator for the Oncology Clinic in Rousse.

Our Mission's activities to promote Mandela Day in Bulgaria during the past years have led to an increasing recognition of Madiba's legacy and values.



Ambassador Calvert, the Principal and students from 137th Primary School in Sofia



Some of the books donated to schools in Sofia on Mandela Day



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