



International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, handing over a framed copy of the 2009 United Nations Resolution, declaring 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day, to Madiba at his home in Qunu on 2 August 2012

“Nelson Mandela took it upon himself to give up his career and freedom and dedicate his life to the fight against apartheid and social injustice. South Africa and indeed the world are fortunate to have a person like Nelson Mandela to have sown the seed of change.”

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

Dear Diplomats,

One of the best gifts the people of Africa gave President Nelson Mandela for his 94th birthday this year was the election of a woman for the first time ever as chair of the African Union Commission (AUC) – South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma – during the AU Summit in Ethiopia. The Twitter "airwaves" were abuzz late on 15 July 2012 as minute-by-minute updates on the four rounds of voting were given by DIRCO spokesperson, Mr Clayson Monyela: [@ClaysonMonyela](#)



"Voting currently underway..."

"Dr Dlamini Zuma wins first round 27 to 24!"

"Dr Dlamini Zuma wins the second round 29 to 22!"

"Third round, Dr Dlamini Zuma wins 33 votes to 18!"

"The final vote in favour of Dr Dlamini Zuma is 37.

She needed 34 only. SA diplomatic victory!"

Speaking during the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of the Nelson Mandela International Day in New York on 18 July 2012, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe, said: "It is a dawn of a new era for the continent in advancing its developmental agenda aimed at building a better Africa and a better world.

Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane thanked all DIRCO staff and missions abroad for the hard work during the lobbying campaign, saying the election of Dr Dlamini Zuma was a historic event for Africa, especially taking into account that it took place in the AU Decade of Women.

She warned however, that it was the beginning of hard work, which would be informed by the vision that the new AUC chairperson had developed as part of her candidature.

"We must all be ready and prepared to work as hard as we did during the campaign to ensure that Minister Dlamini Zuma succeeds in her new post. We wish her a very successful tenure in the AU."

In celebration of Nelson Mandela International Day, DIRCO volunteers gave up their time in service of others. *The diplomat team* was overwhelmed by all the contributions received from missions on their Mandela Day activities: Read more on all these activities on page 14.

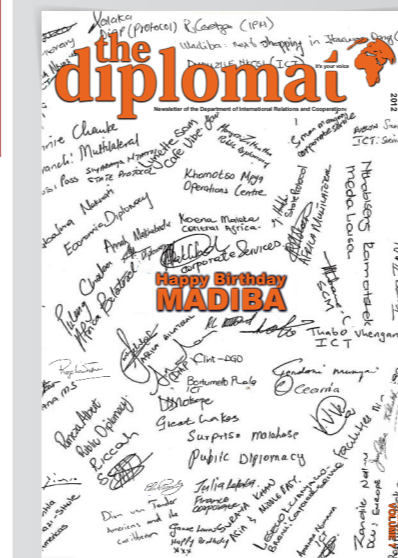
Remember to follow all the latest news [@DIRCOza](#) or [@ClaysonMonyela](#).

Happy birthday, Madiba!

MG

Michelle Greeff – Editor

the cover



The inspiration for the cover is a birthday card for Madiba signed by DIRCO staff members.

The Diplomat as an ideal marketing tool

Dissemination of information and knowledge is a central ingredient of communication. In this regard, *the Diplomat* serves as a ideal tool for such communication as it enables missions to learn and share information and knowledge on global, regional and domestic events. However, this information and knowledge have very minimal value unless it is synthesised and leads to innovation. The innovation entails a paradigm shift in thinking, which results in working smarter than before; looking for better opportunities to serve government and the people of South Africa. *The Diplomat* currently serves as an ideal marketing tool of the department with the potential to be of benefit to a wider audience.

Kind regards

Ambassador Agnes Nyamande-Pitso
Manila

diplomatic mail

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the team

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United Nations General Assembly meeting on Nelson Mandela International Day

UN CELEBRATES MANDELA DAY

Renew commitments for freedom, justice and equality as a gift for Madiba

Mandela Day is commemorated annually on the birthday of President Nelson Mandela, 18 July 2012. The day was formally adopted by the United Nations (UN) in November 2009. It serves to inspire individuals to make a change for the better and is a call to action to take responsibility for changing the world into a better place, one small step at a time, just as President Mandela did for more than 67 years.

Speaking during the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the occasion of the Nelson Mandela International Day in New York on 18 July 2012, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe, said the decision by the UN three years ago to declare 18 July, the birthday of President Mandela, the Nelson Mandela International Day, was historic and unprecedented in the life of the organisation. He said President Mandela, members of his family, the people of South Africa and the entire continent of Africa were humbled and grateful for this singular honour. The Minister highlighted that the celebration of President Mandela's 94th birthday coincided with the centenary celebrations of South Africa's ruling party – the African National Congress (ANC).

"The history of the ANC is full of Nelson Mandela's footprints both as its member and leader. He dedicated his entire life to the course of freedom, justice and equality for the people of South Africa and Africa through the ANC."

The Minister said the formation of the UN and the adoption of its Charter in 1945 became a major source of inspiration for the people of South Africa and Africa in general. The UN brought hope to millions of Africans, given its principles and ideals of justice, freedom and commitment to address the challenges of underdevelopment and socio-economic deprivation, he said.

"It should be an indictment to all of us here today that after more than six decades of its existence, there are still people who are denied universal rights to freedom, justice and equality. More than one billion people are food insecure and live below the poverty line. As we celebrate Mandela's 94th birthday, under the theme "Creating a Caring World", it is important to remember the plight of millions of people, women and children who are subjected to brutality, oppression, violence and gross violations of human rights across the globe."

The Minister said the best gift to give President Mandela for his birthday was to renew commitments and resolve to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment,

to end violence against women and children, to continue to advance gender equality all over the world and to comprehensively address conflicts and wars.

"He will be very pleased if we can do everything we can as the international community to make sure that no child dies of malnutrition when the world produces enough; none goes to sleep without food or water; none denigrates another's dignity; none is discriminated against on the basis of race, ethnicity or religion; none is treated unfairly. We all owe it to Madiba to continue to improve the lives of the world citizenry in a spirit of love and selflessness."

The Minister said Madiba's birthday presented the UN as a world body with an opportunity to reflect on efforts and endeavours in the service of humanity.

"We have to continue to strengthen this august organisation as a world premier body to address challenges facing mankind today. Mandela Day will have no meaning if we are not taking the opportunity to redirect and refocus this organisation on matters that are of concern to the majority of humanity. In spite of our diversities as member states, we are all bound together by the common principles espoused in the Charter of the UN in our collective resolve to build a peaceful, united and caring world." ☐

DIRCO celebrates Nelson Mandela International Day

Take Action. Inspire Change. Make Every Day a Mandela Day

In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared 18 July, former President Nelson Mandela's birthday, as "Nelson Mandela International Day". In honour of former President Mandela's birthday, South Africa and the international community observed this day of service in Madiba's honour.

People around the world were encouraged to give 67 minutes of their time to serve others in their communities. Sixty-seven minutes refer to the years of service and sacrifice former President Mandela gave to the cause of freedom for the people of South Africa and whose life has been the ultimate definition of peace, both in South Africa and throughout the world.

In celebration of Nelson Mandela International Day, 90 volunteers from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) gave up 67 minutes of their time in service of others. The theme for Mandela Day 2012 was "Take Action. Inspire Change. Make Every Day a Mandela Day."

In keeping with the theme, DIRCO visited the Itereleng and Reneilwe primary schools in Hammanskraal, Temba.

the school, assist with maintenance work, plant a vegetable garden and read to the junior primary schoolchildren.

Seeing the cute little faces of the Grade R pupils put a smile on my face. My experience with these foundation-phase kids is that they are still so young and fragile that you have to be very patient and understanding when interacting with them. I enjoyed my day with the little ones. We read to them and asked questions based on the selected stories. Their responses were so smart!

It's not something I thought could happen, but after spending a day at Itereleng with those kids everything changed. It was really a great day for me and I am very happy that I spent my 67 minutes doing something that useful.

The other interesting initiative was the etiquette lessons given to the Grade Seven learners by DIRCO's Protocol Unit. They practically demonstrated how the learners should conduct themselves around the table (table manners), and most importantly how to behave and live positively every day.



Mpho Matjele
How Mandela Day made an impact on my life

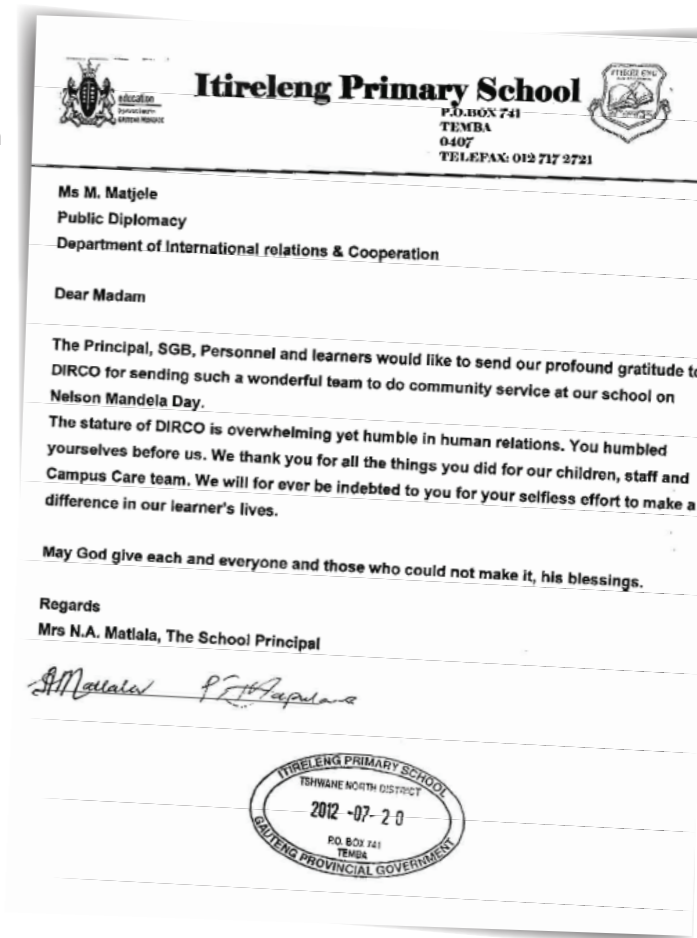
How I wish every day could be a Mandela Day! This is one of those days when you see South Africans from all walks of life gear up with one common goal – to make a positive contribution to those in need.

As we arrived at Itereleng in the morning, we were warmly welcomed by the school principal and her colleagues. We rolled up our sleeves and started with our designated duties – prepared to clean



Stanley Montsho
An inspirational day of action, realising my Mandela Day

As the cock crowed on Wednesday, 18 July 2012, to announce the crack of dawn for yet another day to remember and live the ideals that "Mandela the Great" inspired, I did not forget to remember to



heed the call to act. "Kana motsogapele erile fa a kgwa ka thaa, are "pileliwa e a lwelwa".

The call was of utmost importance and the message was simple: "Take Action. Inspire Change. Make Every Day a Mandela Day".

Reneilwe and Itereleng primary schools, in Temba, Hammanskraal, were the destinations, and the hosts were South Africa's hope and future: the teachers and learners. Though the tasks were simple: painting and developing a food garden for the benefit of the school and the community, the pleasure of making so much of an impact in a short space of time remains immeasurable.

Fulfilled and triumphant, I went home to narrate a plan to take action and inspire yet another change next year ... And the day was made, Mandela Day was realised. ☐

BY: MONGEZI ZITHUTHA

Pictures: Unati Ngamntwini

SA supports efforts for a viable Palestinian state

South Africa's position on the situation in Palestine was captured in the words of President Jacob Zuma in his address to the 66th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2011, when he said: "South Africa continues to support international efforts to assist the people of Palestine and Israel to find lasting peace. The decades-old struggle by the Palestinian people for a sovereign state of their own has now reached a turning point. The Palestinian Authority, backed by the League of Arab States, has stated its intention to seek UN membership for the State of Palestine. South Africa fully supports this position. It is a decisive step towards achieving lasting peace, economic cooperation and prosperity for the millions of people in the Middle East, and we urge that it be viewed favourably."

South Africa's policy position on the situation in Palestine is undoubtedly informed by its own history of oppression and abuse of human rights and as such, South Africa's policy position on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) as captured by the above quote can be expanded as follows: South Africa has recognised the State of Palestine since 1995. The country supports international efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable Palestinian state.

During a public participation programme (PPP) at Hewat College in Athlone, Cape Town, on 14 July, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman, said South Africa stood firmly opposed to the blockade of Gaza, its inaccessibility with respect to humanitarian aid, and the general dire humanitarian situation that this caused. South Africa, he said, encouraged a just solution with respect to the right of return.

The Deputy Minister said economic diplomacy could be one of the most effective weapons of change in the Palestinian situation. He indicated that the South African Government, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, had recently, in May 2012, released a government notice, 379 of 2012, as a strategy to apply economic pressure on Israel. Although



Deputy Minister Marius Fransman (seated in the centre) meeting with the Palestinian community at Hewat College in Athlone, Cape Town

this initiative had been opposed by those who sympathise with Israel here at home and abroad, there were progressive Israeli forces who commended this initiative by the South African Government, the Deputy Minister said.

The notice, which was issued in terms of Section 24 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2008 (Act 68 of 2008), by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, reads as follows:

"This notice requires traders in South Africa, not to incorrectly label products that originate from the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) as products of Israel. The Open Shuhada Street org (Open Shuhada) has alleged that products of Ahava, such as cosmetic brands, technology and soft drinks are being distributed in South Africa as products that originate in Israel whereas they originate from the OPT. In this regard, consumers in South Africa should not be misled into believing that products originating from the OPT are products originating from Israel. The burden for providing where the products originate will lie with traders. The Government of South Africa recognises the State of Israel only within the borders demarcated by the UN in 1948. Such demarcated borders of Israel by the UN do not include Palestinian Territories occupied after 1967."

"As we near the completion of the

second decade of our nascent democracy, we are reminded during Mandela Month that former President Nelson Mandela considered the Palestinian issue as 'the greatest moral issue of our time'. On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 4 December 1997, President Mandela said: "... we know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians".

Deputy Minister Fransman concluded: "Our role as activists in the face of what President Mandela called the greatest moral issue of our time is to raise our voices and mobilise others to stand united in solidarity with the oppressed masses of Palestine and others in the world. For to echo Che Guevara 'as long as there is a single human being in the world suffering under the yoke of oppression, our struggle cannot be over!'"

Government introduced PPPs for political principals to have direct public engagements as part of promoting participatory democracy. As transparency and accountability are key modes of good governance, PPPs seek to reinforce accountability to citizens. DIRCO has embarked on these programmes, targeting non-state actors whom the department regard as having an interest in the execution of South Africa's foreign policy. □



By: Karabo Mothoa
Chief Directorate: Consular Services

INVALUABLE LESSONS FROM MADIBA

"Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world."

I am sure most, if not all of us, fondly remember these words uttered by a legend, our very own Dr Nelson Mandela. There are so many things we can learn from this great leader. In this issue, I want to focus on the indisputable life and leadership qualities that Madiba possessed. Without any waste of time, let us dive right into those invaluable lessons and qualities:

Lesson #1: Madiba had a vision and it saw the light of day

His vision was a South Africa with all its people living together in harmony, freedom, peace, prosperity and a country free from racism and oppression. What you, as a leader should always ask yourself is: "What is my vision?" Remember that all of us are leaders although we are all led at the same time. So, it does not matter whether you are a cleaner, driver, clerk or manager; you are a leader. The sad part is that most people are just living visionless and aimless lives. It is important for all of us to know where we come from, because in so doing, we would know where we are and how far we are in achieving our visions and goals. Be a destiny-minded person and keep your vision alive. Never allow yourself to live a life with shelved plans. Work on yourself, on your career, on your relationships, etc. Let your dream see the light of day.

Lesson #2: Madiba was prepared to die for what he believed in

Madiba said he cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society ... and if

needed be, it was an ideal for which he was prepared to die. My question to you is: are you prepared to die for your ideal (what you believe in)? What are your beliefs about yourself, your work and your future? Where do you see yourself in five, 10 or 20 years' time? Can you stake your life on that vision? No one should stand in your way to achieve your dreams. You have to stand for what you believe in. The road to achieving your dream may not be easy but keep fighting for it.

Lesson #3: Madiba lived a liberated life within, in an oppressive world without Madiba was detained on Robben Island but his spirit and ideas were never arrested. Someone can oppress you at the workplace or at home but they can only oppress you on the outside but not on the inside. As long as you do not give up hope and you refuse to be crushed spiritually or mentally, then victory is yours. All battles are fought and won mentally first before results can manifest externally. This is a great lesson of life. If you understand what I said on this point, even the sky will not be the limit for all that you want in life.

Lesson #4: Madiba was a team player and he recognised who he was in a team

"I stand before you, not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people." If you don't know, all people are interconnected. We rely on each other. Ask Madiba if you don't believe me. He realised that he did not live for himself 100%. He knew that his

achievements must uplift others as well. No one is an island. Even when you die we, will bury you with other dead people. Why do you think we have the Batho Pele principles in government? It's because you do not work for yourself only; it is the people first, then you. Simply put, we are all in this together. That is why you are called a "civil servant." As we serve in DIRCO, let us represent our wonderful government to our public and to the world wholeheartedly. Let us serve with one mind, knowing that the successes of our mandate will also uplift others.

We are all members of a team and it is important that we know our part lest we become chaotic. One dysfunctional team member can make the entire team look bad. A simple example is an ambassador who does not want to listen to his/her corporate service manager as far as procurement procedures are concerned even though policies are clear. He/she fails to realise that other diplomats under him/her are there to support him/her as a leader in fulfilling his/her mandate, legally. In order to champion our mandate at missions, we should learn who we are, what we can or cannot do; what tools are at our disposal and lastly, what are our roles in a team. In mastering this technique, there will be nothing like "mission impossible".

Lesson #5: Madiba is a loving and forgiving person

For those of you who are Bible students, you know that revenge is centralised. God said "revenge is mine". What is known as "an eye for an eye" dogma of Moses was faulty. Even the 10 Commandments were not meant to be that many. In fact, there are only two commandments which are also reduced to one. LOVE. Madiba demonstrated this, which is very important for all of us to learn. After his release from prison and subsequent nomination to presidency, he did not repay those who imprisoned him. To love people is not a suggestion, it's a commandment. Never see people as your enemies. Your boss is not your enemy. If you are a boss, your juniors are not your enemies. If we are to see real progress in life, we must realise that people make bad judgements and act inappropriately. Forgive them anyway and keep showing them the way by keeping on your light of love and forgiveness. Always ask yourself this question: "What would Madiba do in this situation?" □



Jeff Mamabolo
**Chief Directorate:
Human Resources**

Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is one of the icons of our lifetime. Though his conviction and love for a better South Africa, he gave up so much – sentenced to 27 years in prison – to end a regime of oppression. Gone are the days when people had to limit their capabilities because of some restrictions in certain fields. Madiba is a hero throughout the world and to South Africans, the first black President in a democratic South

Africa, a post he served with great honour and dedication. Madiba focussed on politics because he saw how his fellow South Africans were oppressed, unable to express their views or exercise their rights.

It was not easy during the apartheid era for black people to make their voices heard, but despite these challenges, he put the interests of South Africans first. He went to prison leaving his wife, children and family behind. He stood his ground. He stood for what he believed in even through trials and tribulations.

Tata is a victor! Even after a long walk to freedom, and against all odds, he managed to unite black and white South Africans into the rainbow nation we are today. He never gave up on his dream

because he knew exactly what type of a South Africa he wanted. Today, his hard work is being recognised throughout the world. Archbishop Desmond Tutu recommended that all legends, icons, heroes and heroines be celebrated and honoured while they are still alive. Since it was declared by the United Nations as International Nelson Mandela Day, Madiba will always be celebrated on 18 July.

And being true to himself, Tata Mandela has requested every soul to give back to the society on this day by just giving 67 minutes of their time in service of their communities.

Let's become change-makers and make every day a Mandela Day to make a meaningful contribution to society. HALALA MADIBA HALALA.



Zola Mkatshane
**South African
Embassy
Niamey, Niger**

As South Africans, we seem to acknowledge the work ethic and human solidarity that Tat'u Mandela bequeathed upon us as a nation. However, I feel what we say about such a world icon of democracy and human solidarity is not translated into action. I have been reading newspaper articles and anything that seeks to speak about Tat'u Madiba. One thing I concluded was that everybody who wrote about him was passionate about what this man did, first for the South African nation and secondly for the world. One article quoted Tat'u Desmond Tutu as saying "the best happy birthday to give to Madiba is to behave and do the things that Madiba has

shown a living person can do." If we were to listen to and read about suggestions on what to do to celebrate Madiba's birthday, we cannot afford to limit our efforts to only 67 minutes of one day. Even if we were to do things for 67 minutes every day, we would not be doing enough. If what Madiba has done could be recognised by the world through the United Nations (UN) what stops us from recognising him more as a South African. Who else will we recognise, grant the honour and respect he deserves more than Madiba.

Why can we not have a national holiday dedicated to doing what Madiba has done for this nation – helping the person next to you – and being ready to sacrifice and die for a good cause. Please read the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe's statement, which he delivered to the UN General Assembly on Mandela Day and you will understand more what Madiba stands for. When you talk of Madiba the

world listens and why can't we as South Africans listen more. That speech must be broadcast everywhere, so that both black and white can listen, read and access it at anytime they want to. If you have been reading articles on suggestions as to what can be done to celebrate humanity through Madiba's birthday, then you will understand that people are ready to emulate and recognise Madiba but they must be given opportunity to do so. Madiba's Happy Birthday cannot be an official working day.

On this day, people need to be free to do whatever they think befits a statesman like him in that one day to celebrate the life of a man bigger than other men. He needs recognition while he lives. He is the rallying point for all South Africans.

My message is that Madiba must be recognised fully while he lives by all South Africans and the recognition of his birthday as a holiday will get close to being enough.

fighters to ensure that our country could be free. We commemorate Mandela Day because the apartheid system that caused myriad problems in our country is completely annihilated. Today, there is peace, reconciliation, reconstruction, black economic empowerment and social transformation in terms of racial redress, gender redress, educational redress, economic redress, democratised service delivery and ameliorated infrastructural service delivery that we perpetually receive. Different people from different

social strata commemorate Nelson Mandela by spending their 67 minutes doing various things in improving the lives of people such as cleaning at old-age homes, gardening at schools and clinics, and planting trees. According to my point of view, I would say Mandela Day must be celebrated because a post-apartheid South Africa has become a peaceful, developed, prosperous and egalitarian society.

Four words that sufficed to make Mandela a world icon



Thoteng Nkhumane
**Directorate:
NEPAD, ARF,
Programme
& Information
Management**

There is no doubt that former President Nelson Mandela is an emblematic, iconic figure whose name will continue to ring in the corridors of history for as long as humanity exists. Nor is there any doubt that his story is an epitome of human strength that hope is invincible and that it touches the intangible. Many people in South Africa and around the world still wish that they could meet this self-sacrificial, people-oriented and born leader.

Many countries around the globe dream of producing a political leader of Mandela's caliber who would brand and make them conspicuous in the human affairs. The word Mandela and the story behind the name still enhances the momentum that flaunts and waves the flag of South Africa long after he has retired from The Presidency.

Moreover, it goes without saying that the 94-year-old Madiba is a hero, an audacious fellow whose courage has certainly conquered not just the twists and turns of life but also defied death. During the Rivonia Trial of 1963, that d-Day of the struggle, that eye ball to eye ball between death and Mandela, Madiba looked death

in the face till it blinked its eyes. To him the struggle was his life, an ideal for which he was prepared to die. The life sentence imposed on them by Judge Quarters De Wet was regarded by many as a sunset glow of his life but only now in retrospect can we see that it was in fact a sunrise glow. The glow that even today still lights the political landscape across the world.

There is no doubt that like any other man, Mandela is a person whose character have both lights and shadows, nonetheless, the bright side of this charismatic man illuminates the dim one if ever it exists.

Even today, many people find it difficult to find his mistakes since they are shrouded in his accomplishments as a human spirit. One of the lights that shrouded the shadows of his character is his humility and forgiving heart. While resolute in his endeavours and defiant in defeat, he is also magnanimous in victory. He is a man whose heart does not harbour even the justifiable grievances of the past. On the other hand, it goes without saying that former President Nelson Mandela is a man of invincible hope, an optimist who is able to fix his eyes on the stars even during the blackening, darkest days on Robben Island. In his memoirs he articulates that "I never believed that I will die behind bars. To many people spending 27 years in prison could have been the end of their life's journey ... gloom and doom".

Mandela knew that the human spirit can only be defeated when it succumbs and turned his supposed misfortunes

hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die". – President Nelson Mandela.

The birth day of Nelson Mandela, 18 July, has been named Mandela Day as part of honouring his resilience towards the emancipation of the previously disadvantaged groups. The United Nations General Assembly also formally declared this day to be Nelson Mandela International day in 2009. It is utmost important that people should not view Mandela Day as a public holiday however, as a day to contribute significantly to enhance the livelihood of the needy. Indeed, it is a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela through community service.

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference." Desmond Tutu in his statement on Mandela Day emphasised that "the greatest gift our nation could possibly give Tata Nelson Mandela for his 94th birthday

into opportunity by adopting a positive attitude in negative sets of circumstances. The other side of Mandela is that he is a diplomat, a man of spider-like patience who could wait and calculate. But at the same time a man who could persuade, concede or coerce when necessary. But Mandela's story was not hatched in the Union Buildings or the world stage. It began with a childhood that required courage and at 94 is still continuing. The passing of his father left the young Mandela a semi-orphan who had to be taken to a new world, which was to him a mystery wrapped in an enigma. Nonetheless, unschooled as she was, his mother somehow sensed that the prospective nation-builder needed to hear something that would give him strength of character.

As the saying goes that "faith comes from hearing". As if she knew what her son was destined for. As though she had the power of premonition that unfolded before her what was lying ahead of her son other than being in the guardianship of Uncle Jongintaba. Before they could part ways, after that long walk to his uncle's place, Mandela's mother turned back and gazed at the boy Nelson and uttered four words that created the greatest statesman history will never forget. In Xhosa, she said, "Uqinis' ifokothokwedini", which means brace yourself my son. Forgotten as they might be, these four words sufficed to invigorate Mandela and made his march to the world stage inexorable.

would be to emulate his magnanimity and grace.

"Mandela Day is a global call to action that emphasises that each individual has the prowess to transform the world and the credibility to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Former President Nelson Mandela devoted approximately 67 years in a quest for social justice. Therefore everyone is encouraged to dedicate 67 minutes of one's time in making a positive impact through community service. This could assist in poverty alleviation, promotion of peace and reconciliation.

Furthermore, it is pivotal to note that this day is annually, although members of the public are encouraged to view each day as Mandela Day in terms of impacting immensely on the lives of people. In this case, surely the legacy of Nelson Mandela would be cherished for as long as possible.



Salemane Isaac
**Directorate:
Asset and Record
Management**

Mandela Day is becoming a very popular and honourable day around the globe. It is a day during which we remember the sacrifices of Nelson Mandela and other freedom



GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE –

NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Libreville, Gabon



From right: Ambassador Thaninga Shope-Linney and Madeleine Christiane Ndiaye cutting the cake

Nelson Mandela International Day celebrations were held at the Nelson Mandela High School in Libreville, Gabon.

The South African Embassy and the school collected non-perishable food items for a non-governmental organisation (NGO), Samba Mwana, which means "welcome children". The NGO takes care of needy children in

Gabon and currently provides services to 96 children. The food items were handed over by Ambassador Thaninga Shope-Linney and Madame Madeleine Christiane Ndiaye, Principal of LyceeD'Application Nelson Mandela (Nelson Mandela High School).



Montevideo, Uruguay



Ambassador Dawie Jacobs with Embassy personnel attending to the children

Staff members of the South African Embassy in Montevideo visited the Republic of South Africa School in a less affluent area of Montevideo on 24 July 2012 to maintain and further strengthen ties. The school was named after South Africa in the 1990s and had the name finally registered in 2006.

Since Mandela Day falls on Uruguay's National Day and it was also during a school break, it was decided to link this annual visit to Nelson Mandela International Day for a bigger impact on the very receptive pupils. Staff members as well as the headmistress of the school wore Nelson Mandela Day T-shirts and Mandela Day posters and the South African flag were also on display. A banner designed by an Embassy contact featuring various Embassy visits and events at the school caused great excitement among the teachers and pupils. In the spirit of Mandela Day, the Embassy staff served each pupil with refreshments, which was received with great appreciation and enthusiasm. A number of pupils drew paintings with South African themes, including the Blue Train and African animals, and handed that to staff members as a token of appreciation.

The Embassy staff was also invited to visit one of the classes where the teacher and pupils explained a community project the school was involved in. Despite limited resources, the Embassy succeeds to maintain a strong bond with the Republic of South Africa School through diverse and cost-effective activities. The Embassy's efforts are deeply appreciated by the teachers, parents and of course the pupils coming from less privileged situations. The Uruguayan Parliament took a decision this year that an annual event in commemoration of International Mandela Day should take place at the seat of Parliament. A Member of Parliament serving on the organising committee visited the Embassy to solicit support and asked the Head of Mission to speak at the occasion.



Brasilia, Brazil



Embassy staff with children from the House of Nations

In celebration of Nelson Mandela Day, the Embassy of South Africa in Brasilia identified three charity organisations

around the city namely, Vida Positiva, an organisation that cares for abused children; the House of Nations, an organisation fostering children from the indigenous (Indian) communities of Brazil; and Roots, an organisation that teaches arts and Capoeira dancing to children from underprivileged backgrounds.

The Mission held a fund-raising event on 18 May 2012 aimed at raising funds for these organisations in support of Mandela Day.

On 18 July, the Mission visited two of the organisations. Officials went to the House of Nations to interact with the managers and children. The orphanage

houses 20 children and a few adults who came with their children. A second group of Mission officials visited Roots. The founder, Mr Gabriel Cristian Alves Pereira, and his wife currently use the premises of a church to teach Capoeira, a martial arts dance with African origins, to young children, who would otherwise be on the street and susceptible to negative influences such as drugs and alcohol.

The Mission was also preparing to host a Mandela Day Talk on 7 August 2012, in partnership with the Catholic University of Brasilia. The talk was aimed at spreading the legacy of Mr Mandela in Brazil.



Helsinki, Finland

On 18 July 2012, the South African Embassy in Finland, together with Friends of South Africa (former anti-apartheid activists), observed Nelson Mandela International Day for the first time.

It was held at Koskela Old-Age Home, which is located just 15 minutes from the Helsinki city centre.

The home accommodates just over 200 elderly people. The event was characterised by African beats and rhythms to the delight of the residents and invited guests.

The event brought smiles and joy to the day's guests of honour, the residents of Koskela Old-Age Home.

The event received extensive coverage on both television and in print media. Mr Nelson Mandela's sacrifices and contribution to humanity were acknowledged while the message of making time to help the less fortunate members of society was reiterated.



Milan, Italy



Consul-General Saul Molobi with Embassy staff attending to the elderly

Mission staff in Milan, Italy, commemorated International Mandela Day by donating a few hours of their time to the resident guests of the Nursing Home of the Blind Institute in Milan. This initiative gave the officials an opportunity to explore and better understand the world of the visually impaired and, at the same time, to dedicate themselves to a humanitarian activity for the benefit of the elderly and blind. Upon

arrival at the institute, Consul-General, Mr Saul Molobi, made a brief summary of the life of Mr Mandela and then proceeded to a park nearby, which most of the elderly never had a chance to visit.

Back at the nursing home, participants enjoyed a wonderful experience called "Dialogue in the Dark", an exhibition path in total darkness. "Dialogue in the Dark" is the encounter with a visually impaired person, who leads steps in the dark and awakens the deep need of communication.

The aim of this exhibition, which has been touring all over the world for the past 18 years, is not just simulating blindness. Darkness is a metaphor for marginalisation and discrimination, which disabled people are still subject to. However, darkness can also be a marvelous medium for communication and encounters, a place without beautiful appearances, where prejudice is impossible – it is the voice

and the contents that count. Here are the thoughts of one of the staff members: "It is not the first year that I celebrate Mandela Day with my colleagues but every time, what I feel in serving disadvantaged person, even though for a short time, is a very private and intimate experience. This year, what I experienced in the dark was almost scary and to think that blind people live that feeling every day made me understand that sometimes I do not realise how lucky I am for being able to see the environment around me and the people that I love." In light of this experience and in the spirit of Mandela Day's global call to action, the Mission staff would like to share with all our colleagues at DIRCO the words of Antoine de Saint-Exupery in his famous book, *The Little Prince*: "Here is my secret. It is very simple: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye".



Muscat, Oman



Counsellor Pierre Jordaan (centre) unveils the commemorative plaque at the Embassy

The South African Embassy in Oman observed International Mandela Day on 18 July 2012, with an appeal to all Omanis and expatriates to join in the global voluntary drive to "do something good" on this momentous day. At a press briefing to announce the commemoration of Mandela Day, Deputy Head of the Mission, Mr Pierre Jordaan, said: "In 2009, the United Nations endorsed the concept of annually commemorating Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July, Mr Mandela's birthday. The rationale was that Nelson Mandela spent 67 years of

his life actively devoted to bringing about justice and positive social change. On this day, people across the world are urged to symbolically sacrifice at least 67 minutes of their time in the service of their communities, in whichever way they choose, to make the world a better place. "In the same spirit, the South African Embassy in Oman appeals to every individual living in Oman to do something constructive on this calendar day for the welfare of their communities." Mr Jordaan explained that people should not only celebrate the iconic leader's life, but it was also a global call to action for people to recognise their ability to have a positive effect on others around them. "The day hopes to inspire people to embrace the values that Mandela shared. These values include democracy, freedom, equality, diversity, reconciliation, and respect," he said. Around the world, people and organisations commemorate the occasion by taking part in a variety of activities,

including volunteering, sport, art, education, music and culture. Various events were also held on or around 18 July to honour former President Nelson Mandela's work and to promote the different projects that were inspired by the Nobel laureate. This year, the South African Embassy in the Sultanate also sent out appeals to corporate houses, inviting captains of industry to consider making a financial contribution to the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital (www.nelsonmandelachildrenshospital.org), the only such facility in Africa, which is to be set up in South Africa soon. "Mandela Day is a call to action for individuals – for people everywhere – to take responsibility for changing the world into a better place, one small step at a time, just as Mr Mandela did," Mr Jordaan added. Later, the Deputy Head of Mission joined colleagues, Embassy staff and well-wishers in unveiling a commemorative structure at the Embassy entrance in commemoration of Mandela Day.



Vienna, Austria



Ms Bongoza Mabhongo at the Summer Braai, telling kids a story about Madiba

The Embassy in Vienna this year kicked off its Mandela Day celebrations during the annual Friends of South Africa Summer Braai on 23 June 2012. This event gave the Embassy the opportunity to involve the larger South African community in Vienna in this year's Mandela Day celebrations. As this year's Mandela Day theme focused on children, foster children from the SOS Children's Village in Vienna, as well as

adopted South African children and their families from the organisation *Eltern fur Kinder*, were invited to the Summer Braai celebrations. Roughly 250 adults and children attended the Summer Braai/Mandela Day celebrations. The day was filled with various activities and games for the children, including a special story about Mr Mandela.





GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE –

NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Bangkok, Thailand



Ambassador Robina Marks presenting the washing machine and cheque to committee members of the APSW

On 16 July 2012, in celebration of International Mandela Day, Ambassador Robina Marks from the South African Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, delivered a lecture on *Reconciliation: International Friends' Experiences*, organised by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. The Standing Committee regards South Africa's reconciliation process as a best-practice example and it will be used as reference for the *White Paper on Reconciliation*. Ambassador Marks also engaged with

the media on South Africa's reconciliation process. The Embassy also spent 67 minutes with a women's shelter managed by the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women (APSW). The home cares for sexually, physically and mentally abused women, and provides a home for women infected with HIV and AIDS. The mission donated a washing machine and an amount of 30 000 baht (R7 500) obtained from various sponsors.



Khartoum, Sudan



Embassy staff at Alzahra Primary School for Girls

Having inspected various educational institutions, the South African Embassy in Khartoum decided to focus its International

Mandela Day activities on the rehabilitation of the Alzahra Primary School for Girls in the centre of Khartoum.

The school, which accommodates more than 250 pupils, had never been renovated in its 50 years existence. To have all the electrical installations and floors repaired, and to clean and paint the school was truly a challenging task befitting Mandela Day.

The renovations were executed in cooperation with local companies and more than 130 volunteers from various communities, as well as numerous embassies. The school will in future also feature a fully-fledged library, which was

pledged to the school by one of the donors and will be appropriately called the Nelson Mandela Library. Similarly, the assembly centre of the school now displays a large image of Nelson Mandela that was painted onto the wall in remembrance of this day and the pledge to make every day a Mandela Day. The day's activities were concluded in a festive mood with speeches by Ambassador Maitland and various dignitaries, as well as the singing of and dancing to a Nelson Mandela song, composed by one of the volunteers.



Canberra, Australia



High Commissioner Koleka Mqulwana with Embassy staff preparing meals

The South African High Commission in Canberra joined South Africa and the international community in celebrating the 94th birthday of Mr Nelson Mandela. The High Commission did this by organising a lecture in collaboration with the office of the Governor of New South Wales, H.E Professor Marie Bashir, on 17 July 2012. The Governor agreed to host the lecture and a reception at Government House, Sydney.

The lecture itself was conducted by Professor Gareth Evans, former Foreign Minister of Australia (1988 – 1996), and

now Chancellor of the Australian National University. Prof. Evans was one of the most vocal people in Australia to condemn the apartheid regime. He first met Mr Mandela in February 1990, a few days after his release from prison.

The lecture was attended by prominent people in business, civil society, the diplomatic corps, the Diaspora, etc. Former Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Bob Hawke, was also present at the lecture.

"Madiba is simply the most impressive and humanly decent statesman I have ever met, or am ever likely to meet. I was captivated then, and have remained captivated since, like so many others – including every Australian he met during those wonderful visits here – by that huge luminescent smile, by his unending charm and grace, the lucid intelligence with which he discussed his country's transition problems, but above all by that extraordinary, almost unbelievable, lack of bitterness toward his Afrikaner jailers of 27 years". – Prof. Evans.

On 18 July 2012, the Mission staff,

led by High Commissioner Koleka Mqulwana, assisted with cooking, serving and cleaning at the St Benedict Community Centre in Canberra. The officials were joined by three members of the United Nations Office in Canberra.

The community centre provides a safe environment and care for the homeless and for those who are lonely and struggling financially through the provision of free meals and accommodation five days a week. Food parcels are also distributed as needed. The Mission contributed food and soft drinks on the day to over 50 people.

A group of local primary schoolchildren heard about the Mandela Day initiative and decided to do a project on the life of Mr Mandela. This included displaying his profile and photos on walls. One of the children wrote a poem about Madiba while another gave a speech on non-racialism and equal treatment, two of the values that Madiba holds very dear. It was indeed a successful and fulfilling day where the spirit of Ubuntu and serving others prevailed.



Kampala, Uganda



Before

For the 67 minutes of community service on Nelson Mandela International Day, staff of the High Commission in Kampala, Uganda, painted a primary school in the mostly slum suburb of Wandegeya. The mission's energetic officials had answered the call of Mr Moses Musana, chairperson of ABETO (Always Be Tolerant Organisation), to pool efforts



After

and secure sponsorship to give the old Wandegeya Muslim Primary School a fresh coat of paint. When the day dawned for the school operation, all staff members arrived at the office decked in smart T-shirts, donated by Mr Tshitso Motsiri, managing director of Lancet Laboratories Uganda, and bright red baseball caps, donated by Century Bottling Company.

Century Bottling also donated hundreds of soft drinks and Shoprite provided biscuits. Headmaster, Mr Ssebagala and his staff were amazed that anybody took any notice of their school in one of Kampala's poorest neighbourhoods, while Prof. Afridi of Makerere University gave an eloquent account of Mr Mandela's life and work. The surrounding homes and businesses literally came to a halt once the jovial group of Mission staffers got their hands dirty with beige and turquoise paint, while the little ones had eyes only for the drinks and cookies! The Mission immediately organised professional painters to begin work in earnest the day after the Mission's first efforts, and a spankingly bright double-storey school is now standing proud in Wandegeya!



Athens, Greece



Ambassador Zeph Makgetla with Embassy staff

During the Mandela Day celebrations in 2010 and 2011, the South African Embassy in Greece visited two different Greek charity organisations (Smile and Friends of the Child), which offer shelter to children that are abused and abandoned.

For this year, the Embassy decided to focus the 2012 Mandela Day activities on the plight of the homeless who are suffering as a result of the current economic crisis that the country is experiencing.

On 11 July, 2012, the Mission met with Dr Andonis Robos and Mr George Apostolopoulos, President of the Homeless Foundation, to discuss joint cooperation during the Nelson Mandela Day activities. During the meeting, the Mission praised the work of the foundation, which includes giving food, clothes, medication and shelter to more than 2 000 homeless people in Athens.

The number of homeless people in Greece has drastically increased due to the current economic crisis. It is estimated that the Greek unemployment rate in April 2012 was 22,5% compared to 16,2% in April 2011 and 22,0% in March 2012.

On 18 July 2012, the Mission staff, including friends of South Africa, led by Ambassador SR (Zeph) Makgetla, honoured Nelson Mandela International Day by cleaning a storage facility that keeps clothes and other useful items for the homeless people of Athens. The storage is managed by the Homeless Foundation and the Municipality of Athens. The event was a great success, received positive media attention and inspired many Greek people. After the volunteer work was completed, Mr Apostolopoulos thanked all the volunteers. Ambassador Makgetla stressed that the Mission would continue to support initiatives that promoted the life and legacy of Mr Nelson Mandela. He extended South Africa's deep solidarity with Greece.



Hong Kong, China



Consul-General Nomatamba Tambo with caregivers at St Theresa Kindergarten

The South African Consulate in Hong Kong celebrated Mandela Day at St Theresa Kindergarten in Olympic, Kowloon. The school is attended by children aged

three to six years old who come from poor households in the area. The children's parents work most weekends so they have to go to the school on Saturdays as well. It was on a Saturday that the Mission visited them to teach the children about Mr Nelson Mandela, and help them paint birthday cards for him. Consul-General Nomatamba Tambo told the story of Mr Nelson Mandela's life to the children and told them about South Africa. Afterwards, the children split into groups and, together with the Consulate staff and other volunteers from the community who had come along to celebrate Mandela Day, they painted

the South African flags using their hands as paint brushes. These flag pictures are happy birthday cards from the children to the former President and have been sent to him in South Africa! The celebrations of Mandela Day by the Hong Kong Consulate-General with a Chinese underprivileged school highlighted and re-emphasised the icon's international status by crossing cultural barriers. The Consulate gave all the children Nelson Mandela T-shirts to take home so that they can always remember the legendary Mr Nelson Mandela.





GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE –

NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Rome, Italy



Mission staff volunteering at a day-care centre in Rome

In celebration of former President Nelson Mandela's 94th birthday the South African Mission in Rome volunteered at La Casa di Peter Pan – heading the call by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to volunteer at a hospital or community centre on International Nelson Mandela Day.

La Casa di Peter Pan House was established by the Peter Pan Association, a group of parents whose children suffer from (among other illnesses) cancer. The

purpose of the house is to provide practical assistance to families to cope with the harsh realities brought about by their children's illnesses. The Mission was supported by the artist, Mr Angelo Pasquarelli, who supplied T-shirts and posters, and by the African Diaspora represented by Ms Ugoma Francisco, and Mr Anatole Tah, a musician who taught the children how to play the African drum.

On arrival, representatives from the Mission presented a statement from Dr Ban Ki-moon, wishing former President Mandela a happy birthday. They also presented a gift pack that included promotional material. A message of support from the Mission for the exceptional work carried out by volunteers in the Peter Pan House was also delivered.

La Casa Peter Pan was opened in June 2000 and was followed by the opening of two additional houses, Second Star and Stellina, in June 2004 and November 2007, respectively. To support the increasing

demand for hospital care, the Second Star was moved to a larger adjacent building, creating a single pole of reception known as the Great Peter Pan House. Other projects highlighted by the association include: international cooperation, encouraging research, promoting actions to protect the rights of children with cancer, promoting a culture of solidarity and playing an active role in the national network through the Italian Federation of Associations of Parents of Children affected by cancer and blood disease (FIAGOP) and international networks through the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parents Organisations (ICCCPO).

Mission officials, Mr Tah and Ms Francisco volunteered their time by cleaning rooms and bathrooms and assembling furniture. To conclude the day, Mr Tah entertained the children by teaching them how to play the African drum.



Moscow, Russia



Mission staff volunteering at the church in Moscow

As part of celebrations for International Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July 2012, the staff of the South African Embassy in Moscow undertook their community service work at the church of "Great Ascension", where

the staff spent their 67 minutes cleaning the church premises. This community work was undertaken under the theme for 2012, which was to "Take Action; Inspire Change; and Make Every Day a Mandela Day". Embassy officials were also joined by the South African drumming group called wasafiri Africa, which is currently on tour in the Russian Federation.

The Embassy's participation on this day in honour of former President Mandela and his commitment to the objective of building a national democratic society was an opportunity for the Embassy to put in practice what the call of the International Nelson Mandela Day was all about.

Furthermore, the United Nations (UN)

Information Centre, with the support of the Embassy, held a round-table discussion on the same day dedicated to this outstanding African leader in the Hall of International Organisations of the Russian State Library. Among others, speakers included Mr Alexandre Gorelik (Director: UN Information Centre), Mr Henri Raubenheimer (Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of South Africa) and prominent members of Russian civil society and academia.

The round-table was followed by the screening of a documentary about Mr Nelson Mandela's life and an exhibition of publications on Mr Mandela and development issues in Africa.



Doha, Qatar

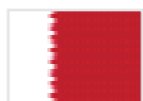


Embassy press briefing in Qatar

The South African Embassy in Qatar announced its planned activities for Mandela Day during a press conference held in Doha on 10 July 2012. The South African Ambassador, Mr Saa'd Cachalia, used the opportunity to educate the people of Qatar about the significance of celebrating Mandela Day. He pointed out that the planned activities for Mandela Day would be conducted in the middle of the holy fasting month of Ramadan (2 to 5 August) to couple it with the charitable ambiance of the holy Islamic month.

The activities would be held in partnership with Nando's restaurant and South Africans who reside in Qatar.

The planned activities will be held during the month of Ramadan to couple it with the charitable ambiance of the holy Islamic month. The event was attended by First Secretary, Ms Lesego Olga Mofokeng, and various media outlets including Arabic and English newspapers and magazines.



Dakar, Senegal



Ambassador Kotana (far right), with from left, Claude Sebre (SAA), Jason Pierce and Sister Justina (Anglo-Gold Ashanti)

On 18 July 2012, the South African Embassy in Dakar, Senegal, in partnership with South African Airways (SAA) and Anglo-Gold Ashanti, celebrated Nelson Mandela Day together with a local orphanage, "La Pouponnière de la Médina".

The staff of the Embassy and its partners donated a consignment of medical supplies and baby food to the orphanage and also did a tour of the institution during which they met with volunteer workers who explained their daily activities to the

guests. Founded in 1955, La Pouponnière is an orphanage for babies up to one year old and is administered by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary. It provides care for babies whose parents have passed away or are too poor to look after them, and also caters for abandoned babies. In most cases, the families of the babies keep in contact with the orphanage and usually take the children back into the family environment, once they have reached the age of one year.

Addressing staff at the orphanage, Ambassador Kotane mentioned that the United Nations adopted a Resolution in 2009 declaring 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day. The resolution recognises, among other things, "Nelson Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity, as a humanitarian, in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, as well as the upliftment of poor and underdeveloped

communities". Accordingly, on this day, people across the globe were encouraged to celebrate and honour Mr Nelson Mandela by volunteering their time in service of their communities, stated Mr Kotane.

It was in this spirit that the Embassy and its partners hoped to make a small difference in the lives of the children of the orphanage.

On behalf of the South African guests, Ambassador Kotane expressed appreciation for the valuable service La Pouponnière des Sœurs Franciscaines provided the Senegalese community.

The representatives of Anglo-Gold Ashanti and SAA expressed similar views and hoped that people would continue to make donations to the orphanage in the true Mandela spirit of assisting children around the globe. Sister Justina and her colleagues in turn expressed their deep appreciation for the contributions by the South Africans on such a memorable day when the world celebrated the 94th birthday of a truly international icon.



Tokyo, Japan



Mission staff teaching children in Tokyo about South Africans' heritage and Madiba

On 11 July 2012, the South African Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, co-organised an event with the College of Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ). A presentation was made on South Africa and on Mr Nelson Mandela's life to the CSWAJ's English-speaking group of children aged between three and seven years. The presentation enabled the children to participate in a quiz

about South Africa and its history, economy and socio-cultural issues. The children were very responsive and able to answer most of the questions about Tata Mandela and South Africa.

There was also a display of South African handicrafts, traditional dolls of Ndebele, and Sotho, Zulu and Xhosa art. The Embassy was represented by Minister Plenipotentiary, Ms D Mbele, and other officials. Ms Mbele read a message from Ambassador Pheko about Mandela and also donated a book to the children on "Mandela's Favorite African Folklore Tales".

A Zimbabwe folklore tale on "how a cat became woman's friend" was also narrated to the children. This fascinated the kids as they witnessed how "a cat lived in the forest and married one wild animal after another until she finally decided that the

best companion was actually a woman who gave her space at the corner of her kitchen where a cat sits till today". It was hilarious and a victory for women at the end of the day. In addition, Embassy officials also interacted with teachers and parents of the children who asked a lot of questions about South Africa and the general welfare and health of Tata Mandela.

A representative from the United Nations University (UNU) was also present and distributed postcards and pictures of Nelson Mandela and indicated interest in hosting the next Mandela Day session at the UNU premises in Tokyo. At the end of the event, the children were provided with a pictorial brochure of the Big Five; a small South African flag; and a pen



Madrid, Spain



(From left to right): The Rector of the UEM, Ms Águeda Benito, South African Ambassador to Spain, Ms Fikile Magubane, and the Director of Plataforma Editorial, the company that published the Spanish version of the book, Mr Jordi Nadal

In celebration of Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2012, the South African Embassy in Madrid, in collaboration with the European University of Madrid (UEM), participated in the book launch of the "Nelson Mandela Por Si Mismo", the Spanish version of "Nelson Mandela By Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations".





GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE –

NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Ramallah, Palestine



Youth teams from the Old City of Jerusalem

Mandela Day 2012 was celebrated in sweltering heat in the Old City of Jerusalem by the South African Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority and the African Society, representing

Palestinians of African descent living in the Old City. A mini-soccer tournament was held for six youth teams from the Old City and surrounding Palestinian neighbourhoods affected by the Israeli occupation.



The venue was the Burj Al-LuqLuq Social Centre in the Old City close to Al Aqsa Mosque next to the desperately poor and overcrowded Mulsim Quarter.

The event was a huge success and Ambassador Mlungisi Makalima, assisted by the Governor of Jerusalem, Mr Adnan Al Hussein, gave trophies and shields to the winning team and the runners-up.

Hanoi, Vietnam



Ambassador Moloi at the Thuy Centre for Rehabilitation

The South African Embassy in Vietnam organises charity activities annually to celebrate the Nelson Mandela International Day.

The beneficiary for this year was the Thuy An Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped Children, Ba Vi District, Hanoi, home to about 200 physically disabled young people with a variety of needs. The donation made to the centre intended to give effect to the call to “Make Every Day a Mandela Day” to assist the doctors and the nurses in the centre in their rehabilitation

and humanitarian work. No degree of physical handicap should ever be allowed to define who we are because the essence of who we are is more than just our physical make-up.



Donations included medical equipment such as backbone handling equipment, an electrical acupuncture machine, five infrared lamps and eight wheelchairs for cerebral palsy children.

The total amount of the donation came to about VND133 000 000.

Berlin, Germany



Embassy staff at the FEZ youth, children and family facility

The South African Embassy in Berlin celebrated former President Nelson Mandela’s 94th birthday on 18 July 2012. The staff of the Embassy identified the FEZ youth, children’s and family facility in the south-east of Berlin to commit their 67 minutes of volunteerism in 2012. The FEZ project was founded over 30 years ago and is the largest non-profit children’s, youth and family centre in Europe. Berlin Mayor, Klaus Wowereit, describes it as “Berlin’s lighthouse” that towers above the norm and

has a strong impact on its surroundings in cultural and other activities for children and young people.

FEZ has over one million visitors annually with 30 clubs and societies, playgrounds, sports fields, a swimming lake, eco garden, theatre, swimming pool, children’s museum and an orbital space centre to name just a few of the spaces on this land of 113 000 square meters.

It offers creative games, fun and recreation together with a multitude of unique activities in the fields of global learning, sustainable development, culture, ecology, technology, astronautics, educational play as well as international and multicultural youth work.

In the summer, children can spend their school holidays at FEZ with activities like the Hogwarts Magic School, Playday Everyday and The Detective Holidays or the FEZitty project: the city inhabitants of FEZitty enjoy a self-sustained world and just as in real life they work and learn, earn money, hold political power and create the cultural life of their own city. The project

has been awarded the Children’s Culture Prize of the German Children’s Emergency Fund.



Ambassador Makhenkesi Stofile sees FEZ as “a fantastic project since it is a place where children and their families can come and be active and learn about the world and its surroundings.

FEZitty is especially a role-model project where children get to be proactive and learn to be responsible for their actions and understand what it means to live in a community and how their actions affect others – hopefully the vision of Mr Nelson Mandela will be a role model for them.

The Embassy staff, dressed in T-shirts with the Nelson Mandela Day logo, alongside their partners from FEZ, cleaned and repaired the facilities, working inside the tropical greenhouse, and cleaning the pond. Ambassador Stofile filled honey from bee combs into jars – all this while their thoughts went out to one man who has contributed so much to this world, Mr Nelson Mandela.

Lagos, Nigeria



Embassy staff with caregivers and representatives from Shoprite

The South African Consulate, in partnership with South African companies based in Lagos, paid a visit to a home for abandoned babies run by the Nigerian Red Cross in the poor village of Makoko. The Mission staff, accompanied by

representatives from Shoprite, Unilever and SABMiller, visited the home to spend time with the children.

In celebration of Madiba, Shoprite donated about R10 000 to the home and also presented them with food items and toys. Unilever, under the slogan “Dirt is Good”, also donated a washing machine, boxes of detergents and some food items. SABMiller donated non-alcoholic drinks and water.

The Mission staff dressed all the kids with Mandela-branded T-Shirts donated by DSTV. They sang a birthday song for Madiba and cut a cake with Madiba’s picture. On 21 July 2012, the Mission, in collaboration with Silverbird, a

media group based in Lagos, hosted a successful Nelson Mandela Day event that was open to the public. A few other South African companies based in Lagos, were present to showcase South Africa in Lagos.



These include South African Airways, South African Tourism, Colours in Africa, South African Breweries and Wines of South Africa.

The Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Prof. Wale Soyinka, was the Mission’s guest of honour and made a few remarks about President Mandela and what he stood for in fighting for people’s human rights.

Mumbai, India



Consul-General Malefane with children from the HHSB home and School for the Blind

The South African Consulate-General (SACG) in Mumbai partnered with the world-based Happy Home and School for the Blind (HHSB) to commemorate the 94th birthday of President Nelson

Mandela, as well as the Nelson Mandela Day celebrations. The HHSB was established in 1925 and is a safe and clean environment where children from all spheres of live with visual/multiple impairment are taught to understand their environment and the need to learn that their world is connected to what they hear, feel and touch, but cannot see.

Today, the HHSB has 150 learners and it costs approximately Rupees 5 000 per day to feed the children and Rupees 6 000 per year per child for education.

It was indeed a privilege for the SACG to partner with the HHSB whose values clearly dovetail with those espoused by President Mandela and perfectly underline the theme for this year: “Take Action. Inspire Change. Make Every Day a Mandela Day”.

The learners at HHSB have already faced many challenges in their young lives and have shown the spirit of Madiba to overcome and to prevail. The staff of the HHSB are also living examples of Mr Mandela’s teachings through their dedication, commitment and the excellent work that they have been doing. The programme included a choir performance and a recitation by learners about the life of President Mandela, a performance by Drum Cafe, hand painting and lunch.



As shown by the generous donations of sponsors, goodwill is still in abundance in the world and we should do our utmost to assist those that are less fortunate and through our actions, we must ensure that every day is a “Mandela Day”.

Buenos Aires, Argentina



Embassy staff with orphaned children from Fundacion Hogares

The South African Embassy staff members in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in support of the Nelson Mandela International Day, treated orphaned children from the Fundacion Hogares “Hogare de la Fe” to lunch and a boat ride on the River Tigre’s Delta on 18 July 2012.

As part of the 67 minutes of selfless social dedication, staff members interacted with the children with the emphasis on having fun. At the end of the boat ride, the children were each given

a soft toy as a token of added security to his/her life. Both children and staff members found the experience truly enriching.



The orphanage, with children ranging from ages from one to 16, was “adopted” by the Embassy in 2011 as part of its social responsibility programme as espoused by former President Mandela’s commitment to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment, and to promote women and children’s rights across the globe.



GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE -

NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Bulgaria, Sofia



Counsellor - Political, Mr Boiki Motloung, with the children

charity foundation in Bulgaria made a donation to the weekly kindergarten in the village of Kopilovtsi, Kyustendil Municipality.

The charitable gesture was made on the occasion of the birthday of former South African President Nelson Mandela.

"We are here to celebrate iconic Nelson Mandela who teaches everyone humanity, selflessness and to give to others. We brought small presents as a gesture to the children.

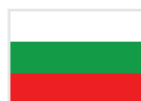
Regardless of the whereabouts, we have requested the community and business circles to dedicate 67 minutes to

help society. It is a matter of personal choice where they will do it.

We appeal that this becomes a daily practice", Mr Boiki Motloung, Charge d'Affaires of the South African Embassy, said.

Jack and Elsabe Louw have been residing in Bulgaria for the past 20 years.

They adopted a girl from a Home for Children in the village of Dobromirtsy, who weighed 7 kg at the age of seven. Lora is now 20 and the charity foundation assists children like her.



Port Louis, Mauritius



The South African High Commission in Port Louis in collaboration with Bagatelle-Mall of Mauritius, Pick n Pay Mauritius and South African Airways celebrated International Mandela Day on 18 July at Bagatelle Mall, Moka (which is a joint South African-

Mauritian project). A fun afternoon was offered for over 50 children from the disadvantaged areas of the region to mark this celebration. Ten children from the School for the Deaf also participated in the activities.



Mission personnel with children and sponsors from Pick n Pay Mauritius

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The South African Embassy to the DRC, the elements of the South African National Defence Force deployed in Kinshasa under the banner of MONUSCO (the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC), Vodacom and Shoprite joined forces to commemorate Mandela Day by making a practical difference in the life of less privileged children.

Volunteers were deployed to the centre to do general maintenance and repair work, including painting, to create better living conditions for the orphans and street children housed there, as well as the pupils from the area attending the school.

The volunteers were also supported by the official choir of the African Academy of Choral Music, Chœur la

Grâce and students from the Law Faculty of the University of Kinshasa. Stakeholders donated, among other things, school desks, mattresses, note books, pens and pencils as well as food stuff. On behalf of all of us in the DRC, Happy birthday Tata, "O gole o lekane le tlou".



Bujumbura, Burundi



Counsellor Mapisa-Shope with Embassy staff at the orphanage

As part of the Mandela Day celebrations, charity work was done by the South African Embassy officials, together with United Nations (UN) agencies and youth volunteers at the Orphanage of Jabe, based in Bujumbura. The orphanage, which was established in 1962, accommodates 53 children, from the ages of two months to 18 years

old. The work done included cleaning of the interior and premises, painting the rooms where the children sleep, as well as the study room, and artwork was done for the walls of the orphanage by local artists. Donations were also made to the orphanage by the Embassy and the UN agencies.



Lilongwe, Malawi



High Commissioner Ntombile Mabude and staff members of the Mission in Lilongwe, accompanied by partners from the South African and Malawi business community, on Wednesday, 18 July 2012, visited the Chikondi and Mphatso Orphan Care Centre as part of its social responsibility on Mandela Day.

High Commissioner Ntombile Mabude with the children from the Chikondi and Mphatso Orphanage

The programme for the day started with introductions that focussed on Mandela Day, followed by remarks by High Commissioner Mabude, Mr Shadrack Jonas, MP for Area 25, and Ms Rachel Mazombwe Zulu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



Stockholm, Sweden



Left: Ambassador Mandisa Dona Marasha with Jonna Burén (Göteborg Direkt), General Secretary of the Gothia Cup, Dennis Andersson, and Peo Wenander (Göteborg Direkt) Right: Ambassador Mandisa Dona Marasha and some of the players from Harry's Young Lions



of ages 11 to 18 years, it is the world's largest youth football tournament. This year, a total of 37 200 players from 1 625 teams and almost 80 countries participated in the tournament. Five football teams from South Africa took part in the tournament – including teams from Edenvale, Alexandra and Khayelitsha.

The City of Gothenburg and the organisers of the Gothia Cup invited Ambassador Mandisa Dona Marasha to participate in voluntary work during a

On Nelson Mandela International Day, the Mission in Stockholm engaged in a programme of activities in cooperation with the City of Gothenburg. From 16 to 22 July, the Gothia Cup world youth football tournament takes place annually in Gothenburg. Involving boys and girls

football match played by one of the South African teams. Ambassador Marasha took the role of a live reporter and tallied the results onto the tournament website. The Mission also met the General Secretary of the Gothia Cup and was taken on a tour of the facilities. The visit concluded with time spent with some members of Forever Families, an association of Swedish families who have adopted South African children, and who had come to support the South African teams playing in the tournament.



The Mission promoted the message of Mandela Day during its participation in the Gothia Cup and through a number of media interviews that were held with Ambassador Marasha during which the purpose of Mandela Day to bring positive change through action was expressed.

Dublin, Ireland



A statue created from recycled material in honour of Madiba

The South African Embassy in Ireland, in conjunction with Eco-UNESCO1, held an event on July 18 to mark Nelson Mandela International Day.

The event was held in Fr Collins Park in North Co. Dublin and was attended by members of the Eco-UNESCO organisation as well as Ambassador Ndou and staff of the South African Embassy in Ireland.

Ambassador Ndou made a speech at the event and addressed the young people attending – the speech was around the theme of "Taking Action and Inspiring Change" and how it links to Mandela's legacy.

Mr Mandela often calls on all young people to do something, even something small – to make the world a better place.

The speech outlined the legacy of Mandela and the role of the youth. Embassy personnel attended and handed

out leaflets and brochures pertaining to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and South Africa as a tourist destination.

Participants from Eco-UNESCO and Embassy staff volunteered to construct a statue of Nelson Mandela in 67 minutes, in honour of the day, made from recycled material it had collected as part of the organisation's work in sustainable development and environment conservation.

The Embassy chose to partner with Eco-UNESCO to mark Mandela Day due to the mutual goal of taking action, inspiring change.

Staff from the Embassy, along with Eco-UNESCO participants, completed the statue of Mandela, which now has a pride place in the reception area of the Embassy in Dublin.





GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE –

NELSON MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

New Delhi, India



Free Soul bikers with Embassy staff celebrating Madiba Day

To mark Nelson Mandela's 94th birthday celebrations, New Delhi joined the world in celebrating the life, values and contributions of uTata Nelson Mandela to humanity. Together with Sun Foundation and a bikers' organisation called Free Souls, the South African High Commission inspired hundreds to participate in the Bikers for Mandela Day Ride where participants generously donated to the Touch of Hope Foundation, an Indian non-governmental organisation providing a humanitarian response to the plight of the HIV and AIDS epidemic in India. In addition, New Delhi in its numbers responded to the call by the South African High Commissioner, Rev Harris Majeke, and Sun Foundation's Chairperson, Mr Padma Shri Vikramjit Sahney, and dedicated 67 minutes to a charity, the Touch of Hope Foundation, in celebration of Mr Nelson Mandela.

The Bikers for Mandela Day Ride started at the South African High Commission through to the heart of Delhi to culminate at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Raj Ghat, New Delhi. Braving the snarling traffic and unpredictable temperament of the monsoon, the bikers, both men and

women, contributed to humanity in the best way they know how – by riding their bikes to deliver their generous gifts to the Touch of Hope Foundation. Children of the Sun Foundation and Springdales schools gathered along the path at Raj Ghat with flowers to hand to the bikers and other dignitaries and to greet everyone in the spirit of Ubuntu. It was a moment of pure joy when all the children and guests gathered at Raj Ghat to sing "Happy Birthday Madiba! Long live Madiba!"

Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, was carefully chosen as the preferred venue due to its significance and symbolism because Mr Mahatma Gandhi had a very influential role in shaping the ideology of Nelson Mandela and the history of South Africa. It was also Mahatma Gandhi who inspired Nelson Mandela with the concept of satyagrah and non-violence, which led to Mr Mandela introducing "passive resistance" against apartheid.

"These few minutes may sound very little but if each one of us took time off to contribute to social development, together a lot could be achieved for a better life for all," said High Commissioner Majeke at the event. Mr Vikramjit Sahney agreed with High Commissioner Majeke and said: "This event has a mission to spread a message of Nelson Mandela to each household worldwide that we must strive for the upliftment of disadvantaged people, non-racialism and a peaceful global community that is healthy in mind, body and spirit."

The occasion was also graced by the Minister of Labour, Industries and Elections, Mr Ramakant Goswami of the Government of Delhi, who was specifically appointed by Chief Minister (Premier) Shelia Dikshit to represent her at the function; and author and the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, who shared

their heartfelt and inspiring messages on Mandela and Gandhi, as well as the long-standing relationship between South Africa and India. In addition, the sound of music, film and song from the Springdales School and Free Souls also added to the joy of the event.



Nelson Mandela International Day is a commemorative campaign with a message calling for individuals, people everywhere, and the world at large to take action, to inspire change, and to make everyday a Nelson Mandela day.

"It is a call for people to take responsibility of their communities and give back to humanity in whatever way possible", said High Commissioner Majeke at a press conference promoting Nelson Mandela International Day on 17 July 2012.

The event on 18 July 2012 echoed those exact sentiments. All in all, the day was truly commemorative in that it honoured the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his spirit, values and message through pure volunteer services to the community. The South African High Commission in New Delhi remains forever humbled by the people of India who each took up the cause of Nelson Mandela International Day and made it their own.

Over 30 schools with more than 300 children from schools in New Delhi and the public also united with the South African High Commission to commemorate this great man we call Madiba. We are forever thankful to the Government and the people of India who always remind us that together, we can indeed achieve a better life for all.

Together, we can take action! Together, we can inspire change! Together, we can make Every Day, a Mandela Day!

Happy Birthday Madiba! We salute you!

Lisbon, Portugal



Mission staff spending time with children at a day-care centre in Lisbon

The South African Embassy in Portugal celebrated International Nelson Mandela Day by reaching out to one of the various children's homes in the Lisbon vicinity.

The *Fundação O Século* is an after-school centre and a summer school during the holidays for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The children whose countries of origin are the former Portuguese colonies as well as from some of the eastern European countries were treated to an afternoon of cake, hamburgers and all-out fun. The South

African Embassy officials opened their hearts to the children and some officials donated stationery and soccer balls while others sponsored fun activities such as face painting and balloon animals.



A short Power-Point presentation on the life of Mr Mandela was also made to the children with the message being that anyone can achieve anything with hard work and believing in themselves. This event was also covered by the Portuguese national broadcaster, RTP.

A victory for South African diplomacy, a victory for southern Africa and Africa!

The election of Minister Dlamini Zuma marks an important milestone in the history of the AU



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma celebrating the AUC victory



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma was, on the evening of 15 July 2012, voted as the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). The southern African candidate and one of South Africa's longest-serving Cabinet ministers becomes the first woman to lead the powerful AUC.

Her election signalled the commitment of African leaders to concretising their resolutions, particularly the resolution to declare the decade between 2010 and

2020 as the Decade of Women. Dr Dlamini Zuma garnered the required 60% of the votes and was named the new Chairperson of the AUC, the AU's powerful executive arm. In the end, four rounds of voting and 37 votes from 51 countries sealed her position.

She defeated Mr Jean Ping of Gabon who was seeking re-election. They went head-to-head at the AU Summit in January 2012 where both failed to garner two thirds of the votes.

Driven by the objective of transforming the AU into an efficient and effective continental body, members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) spent the last six months travelling across the continent, rallying support for Dr Dlamini Zuma.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, led from the front, mobilising support and lobbying.

The region had not yet been afforded the opportunity to

occupy the top position of the AUC chairpersonship and a woman has never occupied the position before.

On 16 July 2012, the 19th Ordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU officially recognised Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, as the new Chairperson of the AUC.

In a speech accepting her nomination, Minister Dlamini Zuma said she was humbled by the honour bestowed on her by the leadership of the AU. She undertook to work towards the unity of the AU, as well as towards peace, stability, development and the upliftment of women and children. ☐

