

MADIBA 90TH BIRTHDAY SPECIAL

A TRIBUTE TO A PEOPLES HERO, STATESMAN AND LEADER

“Long Walk to Freedom”

YOU CAN SEE THAT “there is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow (of death) again and again before we reach the mountain tops of our desires.

Extracts from Historical Statements by Nelson Mandela in celebration of his 90th birthday – 18 July 2008

“Dangers and difficulties have not deterred us in the past; they will not frighten us now. But we must be prepared for them like men in business who do not waste energy in vain talk and idle action. The way of preparation (for action) lies in our rooting out all impurity and indiscipline from our organisation and making it the bright and shining instrument that will cleave its way to (Africa’s) freedom.”

“No Easy Walk to Freedom”
Presidential Address (1) by Nelson R. Mandela to the ANC (Transvaal) Congress – 21 September 1953

This is an extract from the Presidential address by Nelson Mandela to the ANC Transvaal Conference. He was elected as ANC Transvaal President early in 1953 but had been served with a banning order and the address was therefore read on his behalf.

I HATE RACE DISCRIMINATION most intensely and in all its manifestations. I have fought it all during my life; I fight it now, and will do so until the end of my days. Even although I now happen to be tried by one whose opinion I hold in high esteem, I detest most violently the set-up that surrounds me here. It makes me feel that I am a black man in a white man’s court. This should not be. I should feel perfectly at ease and at home with the assurance that I am being tried by a fellow South African who does not regard me as an inferior, entitled to a special type of justice.

‘Black man in a white court’
Nelson Mandela’s First Court Statement – 1962



DURING MY LIFETIME I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

“I am Prepared to Die”
*Nelson Mandela’s statement from the dock at the opening of the defence case in the Rivonia Trial
Pretoria Supreme Court – 20 April 1964*

THE REVULSION OF THE WORLD against apartheid is growing and the frontiers of white supremacy are shrinking. Mozambique and Angola



WE, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, feel fulfilled that humanity has taken us back into its bosom, that we, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil.

WE THANK ALL our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.

WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL continue to stand by us as we tackle the challenges of building peace, prosperity, non-sexism, non-racialism and democracy.

WE MUST THEREFORE ACT TOGETHER as a united people, for national reconciliation, for nation building, for the birth of a new world.

LET THERE BE JUSTICE FOR ALL.

LET THERE BE PEACE FOR ALL.

LET THERE BE WORK, BREAD, WATER AND SALT FOR ALL.

LET EACH KNOW, that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfil themselves.

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.

LET FREEDOM REIGN.



“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.”

THE SUN SHALL never set on so glorious a human achievement!

GOD BLESS AFRICA!
STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA, AT HIS

NAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA UNION BUILDINGS
Pretoria, 10 May 1994

*Compiled by: Geeta Daya, & Shaune van Wyk,
Source: ANC website: www.anc.org.za*



are free and the war of liberation gathers force in Namibia and Zimbabwe. The soil of our country is destined to be the scene of the fiercest fight and the sharpest battles to rid our continent of the last vestiges of white minority rule.

THE WORLD IS ON OUR SIDE. The OAU, the UN and the anti-apartheid movement continue to put pressure on the racist rulers of our country. Every effort to isolate South Africa adds strength to our struggle.

AT ALL LEVELS OF OUR STRUGGLE, within and outside the country, much has been achieved and much remains to be done. But victory is certain!

**WE SALUTE ALL OF YOU!
'UNITE! MOBILISE! FIGHT ON!
BETWEEN THE ANVIL OF UNITED MASS ACTION AND THE HAMMER OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE WE SHALL CRUSH APARTHEID!'**

This message was Mandela's call after the Soweto uprising of 1976. It was published by the ANC on 10 June 1980, with an introduction by OR Tambo, President of the ANC at the time.

I CHERISH MY OWN FREEDOM DEARLY, but I care even more for your freedom. Too many have died since I went to prison. Too many have suffered for the love of freedom. I owe it to their widows, to their orphans, to their mothers and to their fathers who have grieved and wept for them. Not

only I have suffered during these long, lonely, wasted years. I am not less life-loving than you are. But I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free. I am in prison as the representative of the people and of your organisation, the African National Congress, which was banned.

WHAT FREEDOM am I being offered while the organisation of the people remains banned? What freedom am I being offered when I may be arrested on a pass offence? What freedom am I being offered to live my life as a family with my dear wife who remains in banishment in Brandfort? What freedom am I being offered when I must ask for permission to live in an urban area? What freedom am I being offered when I need a stamp in my pass to seek work? What freedom am I being offered when my very South African citizenship is not respected?

ONLY FREE MEN CAN negotiate. Prisoners cannot enter into contracts. Herman Toivo ja Toivo, when freed, never gave any undertaking, nor was he called upon to do so.

I CANNOT AND WILL NOT give any undertaking at a time when I and you, the people, are not free.

YOUR FREEDOM and mine cannot be separated. I will return.

'I AM NOT prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free'

On 31 January 1985 the State President of South Africa, P W

Botha, speaking in parliament, offered Mandela his freedom on condition that he 'unconditionally rejected violence as a political weapon'.

This was the sixth offer of release reported to have been made to Mandela. Previous offers were conditional on his going to live in the Transkei bantustan. He rejected them all on the grounds that he rejected the bantustans and all who collaborated in their establishment and maintenance.

Mandela's response to the latest offer was read on his behalf by his daughter Zinzi to a mass meeting in Jabulani Stadium, Soweto, on 10 February 1985.

I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people. Your tireless and heroic sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today. I therefore place the remaining years of my life in your hands.

ON THIS DAY of my release, I extend my sincere and warmest gratitude to the millions of my compatriots and those in every corner of the globe who have campaigned tirelessly for my release.

IN CONCLUSION I wish to quote my own words during my trial in 1964. They are true today as they were then:

'I HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST white domination, and I have fought against

black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

NELSON MANDELA'S ADDRESS TO RALLY IN CAPE TOWN ON HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON
11 February 1990

THESE QUESTIONS WILL ARISE because when this august body, the United Nations, first discussed the South African question in 1946, it was discussing the issue of racism. They will be posed because the spur to the establishment of this Organisation was the determination of all humanity never again to permit racist theory and practice to drag the world into the deadly clutches of war and genocide.

AND YET, FOR ALL THAT, A RACIST TYRANNY ESTABLISHED ITSELF in our country. As they knew would happen, who refused to treat this matter as a quaint historical aberration, this tyranny has claimed its own conclave of victims. It has established its own brutal worth by the number of children it has killed and the orphans, the widows and widowers it can claim as its unique creation.

WE ALSO SALUTE THE FRONTLINE STATES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE REST OF OUR CONTINENT for their own enormous contribution to the struggle against apartheid, which has brought us to the point today when we can say that

the victory of the struggle for a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa is within our grasp.

TRIBUTE IS ALSO DUE TO THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES and movement and the peoples of the rest of the world for their own sterling efforts in pursuit of the common cause. What we must once more urge, is that all these forces should maintain their unity around the perspectives contained in the UN and Harare declarations on South Africa. How fast we progress towards liberation will depend on how successful we are in our efforts to sustain that united resolve

STATEMENT AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

New York, 22 June 1990

FOR WE MUST, TOGETHER and without delay, begin to build a better life for all South Africans. This means creating jobs, building houses, providing education and bringing peace and security for all.

SPEECH BY NELSON MANDELA ANNOUNCING THE ANC ELECTION VICTORY

Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, 2 May 1994

WE HAVE FOUGHT for a democratic constitution since the 1880s. Ours has been a quest for a constitution freely adopted by the people of South Africa, reflecting their wishes and their aspi-

erations. The struggle for democracy has never been a matter pursued by one race, class, religious community or gender among South Africans. In honouring those who fought to see this day arrive, we honour the best sons and daughters of all our people. We can count amongst them Africans, Coloureds, Whites, Indians, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Jews - all of them united by a common vision of a better life for the people of this country.

IT WAS THAT VISION that inspired us in 1923 when we adopted the first ever Bill of Rights in this country. That same vision spurred us to put forward the African Claims in 1946. It is also the founding principle of the Freedom Charter we adopted as policy in 1955, which in its very first lines, places before South Africa an inclusive basis for citizenship

... In 1980s the African National Congress was still setting the pace, being the first major political formation in South Africa to commit itself firmly to a Bill of Rights, which we published in November 1990. These milestones give concrete expression to what South Africa can become. They speak of a constitutional, democratic, political order in which, regardless of colour, gender, religion, political opinion or sexual orientation, the law will provide for the equal protection of all citizens

NELSON MANDELA'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF CAPE TOWN, GRAND PARADE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AS STATE PRESIDENT
Cape Town, 9 May 1994