



## **PRESS STATEMENT ON 2016 MANDELA DAY**

15 July 2016

Since 11 November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly announced that 18 July, President Nelson Mandela's birthday, would become Nelson Mandela International Day, in order to honour Former President Mandela's dedication to fight for social justice for 67 years in South Africa and around the world. As such, the Nelson Mandela International Day serves as a reminder of our duty to improve the lives of those less fortunate than us. The campaign therefore encourages that on 18th July each year all people around the world to use 67 minutes of their time to engage in selfless service, because each one of us has the power to change the world.

In this regard, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Mr Lulama Smuts Ngonyama would like to inform the press that the South African Embassy in Madrid will be engaging in several activities in Spain to commemorate the 2016 International Nelson Mandela Day on 18 and 20 July 2016.

### **EVENT 1: Official Unveiling of Nelson Mandela Street in Getafe**

On 18 July 2016, Ambassador Lulama Smuts Ngonyama, accompanied by the Embassy staff, will, together with the Mayor of Getafe Town Council- H.E. Sara Hernández, officially inaugurate a street named after Former President Nelson Mandela in Getafe's suburb of Perales del Río. During the event, Ambassador Ngonyama will also hand-over around 350-450 kg of food stuff to the Perales del Rio and Red Cross Food Banks that has been donated by MAKRO supermarket in Leganés. Other items to be handed over include boxes of Appletisers (the iconic South African sparkling apple juice) and fruit donated by Compañía Cervecera de Canarias and EUROBANAN (a Spanish company that imports fruit from South Africa), respectively. The Perales del Rio and Red Cross Food Banks attend to disadvantaged Spanish and immigrant families in the area.

### **EVENT 2: Donation of 400 kg food stuff to the FACIAM-Foundation for the Homeless in Madrid**

On 18 July 2016, Ambassador Ngonyama and Embassy staff will handover around 400

kg of food stuff to the FACIAM (Foundation for the Homeless) that has been donated by El Corte Inglés. FACIAM, an NGO based in Madrid, has eight shelters that attend to homeless people throughout the city. The centres offer accommodation, food and other services to the homeless. Other items to be handed over include Appletisers and fruit donated by Compañía Cervecera de Canarias and EUROBANAN, respectively.

### **EVENT 3: Cultural and academic event to commemorate the legacy of Former President Mandela in Tarragona, Catalonia**

On 20 July 2016, the Embassy's Counsellor: Political will represent Ambassador at a cultural and academic event to commemorate the legacy of President Mandela in the City of Tarragona, Catalonia. The event is organised by the Municipality of Tarragona and the Euro Africa Centre, an organisation based in Barcelona with an objective to strengthen socio-economic and cultural ties between Africa and Europe. The event will be held under the theme: "*Ahora esta en vuestras mano*" meaning "it's in your hands now".

Ambassador Ngonyama and the staff of the South African Embassy are honoured to participate in these events that seek to continue with the values of UBUNTU\*\*, a philosophy that President Mandela advocated for the rest of his life. The South African Embassy is further grateful to the following institutions for their partnership which will ensure that the commemoration of the Nelson Mandela Day in Spain is memorable: Office of the Mayor of the Getafe Town Council, Office of the Mayor of the City of Madrid, Office of the Mayor of the City of Tarragona, MAKRO, El Corte Inglés, Compañía Cervecera de Canarias, EUROBANAN, FACIAM, Euro Africa Centre as well as the Perales del Rio and Red Cross Food Banks.

ISSUED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN MADRID

Edificio Lista  
Calle Claudio Coello 91-6  
Cnr of J Ortega y Gasset  
Madrid, 28006

Enquiries: [madrid@dirco.gov.za](mailto:madrid@dirco.gov.za); Tel: +34 91 436-3780

\*\*UBUNTU: an ancient African philosophy meaning "humanity to others".