**2016 NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY EVENTS: SA EMBASSY IN MADRID TO REMAIN CLOSED ON 18 JULY 2016**

Since 11 November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly announced that 18 July, 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 the case of South Africa, the Cabinet has decided that this year’s focus should be on education and literacy, food security, shelter and the environment. In this regard, the South African Embassy in Madrid will remain closed on 18 July 2016 in order commemorate this important Day. Ambassador Ngonyama and staff will therefore engage in the following three main events:

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

On 18 July 2016, Ambassador Lulama Smuts Ngonyama, accompanied by the Embassy staff, will, along with the Mayor of Getafe Town Council, officially inaugurate a street named after Former President Nelson Mandela in a suburb of Getafe known as *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 *Appletisers* (an iconic South African sparkling apple juice) and fruit donated by *Compañia 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 the biggest Spanish department

store group, *El Corte Inglés*. FACIAM is an NGO that is based in Madrid and has eight shelters that attend

to homeless people throughout the city. The centers offer accommodation, food and other services to

the homeless. Other items to be handed over include *Appletisers* and fruit donated by *Compañia*

*Cervecera de Canarias* and EUROBANAN, respectively.

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

On 20 July 2016, the Embassy’s Counsellor: Political will represent Ambassador at a cultural and academic event to commemorate the legacy of Madiba in the City of Tarragona, Catalonia Region. The event is organised by the Municipality of Tarragona and the Euro Africa Centre, an organisation based in Barcelona and dealing with Africa-related matters. The event will be held under the theme: “*Ahora esta en vuestras mano*” meaning “it’s in your hands now”.