

THE MANDELA & SISULU *Centenary*



NEWSLETTER

May 2018

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF NELSON MANDELA AND ALBERTINA SISULU

By Nomvula Mokonyane

This year marks 100 years since the birth of two of the country's Struggle icons – Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu. The Nelson Mandela Centenary is celebrated under the theme: “Be The Legacy” while the Albertina Sisulu Centenary is being held under the theme: “A Woman of Fortitude”. The lives of these two giants of the Struggle were closely intertwined from the early 1940s until their demise.

It was not by coincidence that when parliament was established after the first democratic elections, Mama Sisulu officially proposed and nominated the name of Nelson Mandela as the first President of a democratic, free, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

In May, the Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu centenaries, Minister Jeff Radebe, officially launched

the year-long celebrations in Cape Town. He outlined activities that will take place during the year to celebrate the two icons.

One such activity was a soccer match extravaganza between Mamelodi Sundowns and Barcelona at the FNB Soccer Stadium on 16 May to commemorate the memory of Nelson Mandela. Many other activities will be taking place going forward, including the dedication of the 2018 Comrades Marathon to Nelson Mandela.

The 2018 Africa Day was also dedicated to the memory of both Nelson Mandela and Mama Sisulu. President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the Nelson Mandela Africa Day Centenary Lecture at the Africa Renaissance Conference at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International

Convention Centre in Durban where he promoted world peace amongst Africans.



#Mandela100 #MaSisulu100



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The President echoed Madiba's values and wishes for a peaceful, successful and liberated continent.

On 10 May 1994, Nelson Mandela was sworn in and inaugurated as the first democratically elected President of South Africa. The end of apartheid saw South Africans of all races, creed and gender going to the polls for the first time to usher in a new dispensation. Wednesday, 27 April 1994 was a historic occasion which called for the celebration by all peace-loving and freedom-loving people of the world.

The inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President, 24 years ago, marked a new dawn for South Africans and all people who stood with them as they fearlessly fought against a brutal system of apartheid. It marked a return of South Africa to be part of the global community, and the developments that were taking place in South Africa were welcomed by the entire world. Many countries, especially those that supported the fight against apartheid, wanted to witness the realisation of Madiba's long walk to freedom.

Nelson Mandela's walk to freedom was not an easy one – he spent 27 years in jail fighting for a free and democratic South Africa. He had also at one stage been South Africa's most wanted man and branded a terrorist by the United States. He remained on the their terrorism watch list until 2008.

His rise to the highest office in the country was initially greeted with unease, especially by his former oppressors. There were concerns whether the man who once embraced an armed struggle would be able to unite warring parties and help steer the country away from what seemed to be the brink of civil war.

There is no doubt that Madiba exceeded the expectations of many people and showed that he was more than equal to the task. He chose forgiveness over vengeance and appointed his predecessor FW de Klerk to serve as the second Deputy President. This was despite the fact that the the African National Congress had won the elections by more than 62%.

His focus as outlined in his inauguration address was to unite the people of South Africa. "We enter into a covenant that we shall build a society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity – a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world,"he said.

Madiba's primary concern was to promote reconciliation as shown by the role he played in the establishment of

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The structure encouraged South Africans to admit to the crimes they had committed against one another in exchange for not being prosecuted. This is one of the initiatives that laid a foundation and set a precedent for the country to resolve its challenges peacefully and through dialogue.

After the 1994 elections, Mandela's administration adopted the Reconstruction and Development Programme which was aimed at addressing and redressing the challenges inherited from the apartheid government. Other policies adopted by the administration include protecting the economy from collapsing, addressing poverty, inequalities and unemployment and expanding the provision of basic services to the previously disadvantaged.

The choices that Madiba and many others made in the 1990s will continue to be debated for years to come – with mixed views. His most lasting legacy, however, be uniting the people of South Africa and saving them from the brink of a civil war. As the first democratically elected President, he also changed perceptions about the capability of black people to lead the country.

While some may argue that more could have been done to transfer the economy to black people, it is important to analyse every decision made within the context of what, at the time, was a deeply unstable country. The leaders had to strike a balance between taking over a country that was basically bankrupt, while also ensuring a peaceful and economically stable transition. This was a mammoth task as described by Madiba:

"A form of economy will be decided solely by our determination to make the economy perform fully from the point of view of ensuring full employment, maximum productivity and the development of a social consciousness. Any formula, any option which will enable us to do this, we will adopt".

Nelson Mandela and Mama Sisulu laid a strong foundation for South africa's democracy to flourish but ultimately it is up to all citizens to chart a collective course. As the world celebrates the two Struggle icons, let their legacies live on and may all citizens work hard towards building a country that works for everyone.

Ms Nomvula Mokonyane is the Minister of Communications.

REMEMBERING NELSON MANDELA

By Sello Hatang, CEO: Nelson Mandela Foundation



Over the last few years, the Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF) together with author Mandla Langa, put a lot of effort into the publishing of *Dare Not Linger: The Presidential Years* – a follow up to Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. The book was stitched together using Mandela's own writings along with archival recordings and interviews. The team discovered how committed Madiba was to creating democracy in South Africa. He spent much of his time as President fixing the cracks that could break the fragile new democracy. The democracy he sought was more than a mark on a ballot box as it was inextricably linked to a freedom that provided for fundamental rights. As he noted in 1993, "We do not want freedom without bread, nor do we want bread without freedom. We must provide for all the fundamental rights and freedoms associated with a democratic society".

In 2018, the country finds itself heralding a 'new dawn' that offers hope to over 30 million South Africans who still

live below the poverty line. There is hope that the 'capture of democracy' that has cemented itself in the political machinations of South Africa is undone and the country can create a democracy in which the most vulnerable are at the centre stage. A caring society will work towards living the Mandela legacy in the year of his centenary. Rather than a celebration, and in accordance with Madiba's wishes, the foundation urges South Africans to dedicate themselves to Public Service and serve one another.

The Nelson Mandela 100 (NM100) campaign which will be rolled out throughout 2018 has three overarching calls:

- **Be the Legacy:** this calls for people to live by the values that Madiba held dear. The call seeks to encourage society to accept Madiba's challenge, to take upon itself the responsibility to solve the challenges of the world.
- **Find the Madiba in You:** calls for people to look within themselves and confront their biases and privileges and work towards making themselves better citizens.
- **Build a Value-based Society:** remembering that these values stem from the people of South Africa themselves as Madiba noted in 1969, "Permanent values in social life and thought cannot be created by people who are indifferent or hostile to the aspirations of a nation".

In order to achieve these goals, the NMF has been working with government to strategically align its goals. In 2017, the NMF was invited to be part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee

for the 2018 Mandela Centenary celebrations. The foundation recently met with President Cyril Ramaphosa to ensure that the goodwill associated with the year is used to benefit all citizens.

Projects and celebratory events have been lined up across the world with the assistance of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, and embassies. Countries that will hold significant events for NM100 include

Spain, Germany, Hungary, the United States and Australia.

Another exciting project on the line up is the 100 Legacy Run, in which 100 cities across the globe will host runs for the NM100 in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record. Locally, the cities of Durban, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and

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Johannesburg have agreed to host runs. The South African Post Office and the South African Reserve Bank will launch beautiful stamps and commemorative currency respectively.

The NMF invites all institutions to be involved in the Nelson Mandela Centenary celebrations to ensure that his legacy lives on. As the world celebrates the NM100, it is important to remember his words:

“I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only

finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.”

For more information on the NM100 or to engage with the NMF, please email NoreenW@nelsonmandela.org

NTSIKI ALBERTINA SISULU: A WOMAN WHO MOVED WITH MEN AT NIGHT

By Bathabile Dlamini



Prolific anti-apartheid Struggle stalwart, Ellen Kuzwayo, once told the story of a conversation between herself and Mama Albertina Sisulu. Mama Sisulu told her that long before they were acquainted, she had referred to Mama Kuzwayo as “the woman who moves with men at night”.

This was in reference to Mama Kuzwayo’s nomination to the infamous Committee of Ten, where she was the only woman. The committee was established in the 1970s to monitor local councils that were collaborating with the apartheid government.

She was also referring to the unapologetic courage possessed and demonstrated by Mama Kuzwayo in her life. Mama Kuzwayo will be forever remembered for her relentlessly unapologetic presentation of a new recipe for African Feminism – non-subscription to traditionalist, patriarchal gender norms. Mama Sisulu subscribed to this paradigm, for she too was a woman who had walked with her male comrades long before the 1970s.

Her larger-than-life public career began during her primary-school years. She was elected headgirl of her school in Standard Five, and received a four-year high school scholarship. In her youth, she was active in the ANC Women’s League from the late 1940s. She played a key role in the establishment of the Multi-Party Federation of South African Women, which mobilised women from all backgrounds in unity against patriarchy, drafted the 1954 Women’s Charter and organised the historic 1956 Women’s March amongst others. She was one of the founding members of the United Democratic Front and became its first co-President.

For her radical courage against apartheid injustices, Mama Sisulu was detained without trial and tortured on multiple occasions.

The apartheid government banned her from public gatherings for an accumulated total of more than 20 years. Despite these silencing tactics, she declared that:

“Although politics has given me a rough life, there is absolutely nothing I regret about what I have done and what has happened to me and my family throughout all these years”.



In 1989, while banned, the United States (US) and British governments invited her to meet President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher respectively to represent black opposition to apartheid oppression. She was granted a special visa to attend. Soon after her visit, the US Congress passed the anti-apartheid legislation.

Years later, Archbishop Desmond Tutu informed the world that the two people who convinced the international community to apply sanctions to the South African Government were PW Botha and Mama Albertina Sisulu. For these and other devotions to social justice, she received numerous humanitarian awards, including the Rotary International Award for Women and Children.

In February this year, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Albertina Sisulu Centenary celebrations when he announced that “this year, we also celebrate the centenary of Albertina Sisulu ... we will dedicate activities across the country to recall the profound contribution that she made to the struggle for the rights of our people through her leadership of the ANC and other formations of the Mass Democratic Movement.

We will recall the great sacrifices she made and the pioneering role she played in the struggle for the emancipation of women.”

We celebrate Mama Sisulu’s centenary in conjunction with the commemoration of the centenary of the birth of the country’s first democratic President Nelson Mandela. In February, Cabinet called “upon all South Africans to join in the centenary celebrations in their workplaces, schools, churches and civic organisations” to emulate the values embodied by these great leaders – forging forth towards a united, non-racist, non-sexist nation.

It is very fitting that the two would continue their comradely walk together. It was Mama Sisulu who nominated Tata Madiba for the highest office in 1994, asserting “Mr Chairman, I nominate Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela for election as President. Thank you”.

But if we are to justly adopt the principles and values embodied by Mama Sisulu, we should seek to assimilate her courageous resolve for justice and equality in both her public and private lives.

What adds grandeur to her public profile is the private context around which she woke up to everyday. The astute maternal qualities she contributed to the anti-apartheid and anti-male domination struggles were a reflection of her private

disposition. From a young age, despite her demanding schooling career and rising leadership responsibilities, she assumed the responsibility of maternal care to her four younger siblings.

Most remarkably, her fairy-tale romance with Walter Sisulu is one of South Africa’s greatest love stories. They were joined on the hip, even as they endured years of physical separation. A large part of her politicisation had been developed during some of their pre-marital rendezvous, which included trips to founding discussions of the ANC Youth League.

For most of us, it would be through them that we would witness genuine public displays of affection from our leaders. At her beloved husband’s funeral, her granddaughter read the following words from her tribute to him: “Walter, what do I do without you? It was for you who I woke up in the morning, it was for you I lived.” It was a mesmerising romance. But it is not in the romance itself that the value lays, it is in the distribution of power between the parties.

In an interview conducted after her husband’s passing, Mama Sisulu recalled that “there was no difference between him and me, because here in the house we used to do the same work. We were equals from the beginning”. Married women, despite their class or race categories, know how difficult it is to transcend patriarchy in order to achieve this statement.

Primarily, it was these principles and values for which Mama Sisulu must be remembered. Such paradigms may assist us to address some of our most persistent national challenges, such as the persistent gap between public policy aspirations and the private lives of the majority of women.

Regardless of social status, in our public and private lives, women continue to be discriminated against on the basis of patriarchal doctrines. Mama Sisulu stood against such doctrines in public and also lived in contempt of them in her private life.

As we remember this iconic woman and celebrate 100 years of her life and legacy, let us all, in our various sectors, ask ourselves if and how our public and private selves represent the principles and values for which we are willing to be continuously tortured and jailed for. Let us also ask ourselves how our everyday actions contribute to the honour of her social contributions.

Ms Bathabile Dlamini, MP, is the Minister in The Presidency Responsible for Women.

WOMEN PANEL DISCUSSION IN HONOUR OF MAMA ALBERTINA SISULU

On 27 March 2018, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a panel discussion as part of celebrating the centenary of Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu.

an integral part of one's integrity, young people should not disregard the history of this country. It is important keep our history alive, let us all take it upon ourselves to teach the young generation about our journey as a country".



Women from across the media and communication sector, including journalists, journalism students, academics and women in businesses took part in the event. The main purpose of the event was to celebrate the achievements of heroines such as Mama Sisulu and to reflect on their legacy.

During the session, panel members reflected on issues facing women in the media and also deliberated on how women Struggle stalwarts were portrayed in the media and how they were silenced by the media.

To open the discussion, the Acting Director-General (ADG) of the GCIS, Ms Phumla Williams shared a personal story of how Mama Sisulu impacted her life at a very young age. Ms Williams further unpacked the status quo of women representation in the public sector, focusing mainly on the government communications systems.

"Government has made strides to change the lives of women but more still needs to be done to achieve gender equality especially in key strategic positions. For instance, there are approximately 47 national ministries in government and only 10 of those ministries have female spokespersons".

In unpacking the legacy of Mama Sisulu, one of the panellists, Ms Elinor Sisulu, spoke about the need to profile stories of women who formed part of the Struggle.

"The greatest way to honour Ma Sisulu is to profile stories of women who fought tirelessly for our freedom. History is

"Mme Albertina Sisulu was deeply passionate about education, during her time she paid school fees for many children and offered extra classes to young women".

Another panellist, Fazila Da Hall, emphasised the significance of the media in preserving the legacy of Mama Sisulu and other Struggle stalwarts.

"Three decades ago the newsrooms were male dominated, today things have changed because of women like Albertina Sisulu who advanced the women agenda. I want to urge all senior female journalists to invest their time in mentoring young girls who aspire to be journalists. As journalists, we need to find contemporary stories of the unknown women and give them a platform".

In her remarks, Ms Sthembile Mbete raised the notion of identifying women by their partners' surname or their partners' role in society.

"Women must be identified as women in their own right. More often, the media portray women as ordinary people and men as experts in their fields. There are many women who fought for freedom in South Africa, the media should give them a voice".

In closing, the ADG of the GCIS urged all journalists to find the untold stories of women and profile their roles in the fight against apartheid. She added that the GCIS would continue to convene similar events across the country.

WHAT IS MANDELA FRIDAYS?

This is a call by government for all partners and society at large to commemorate the Nelson Mandela Centenary through social activism. The initiative also seeks to remind citizens about the power of selflessness, human service, giving and the spirit of Ubuntu. It calls on all South Africans to practise the legacy of

Struggle icons such as Nelson Mandela, Albertina Sisulu and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

WHEN SHOULD WE COMMEMORATE MANDELA FRIDAYS?

Mandela Fridays will be officially observed every last Friday of the month. But organisations and individuals can implement the initiative on any Friday of the month.

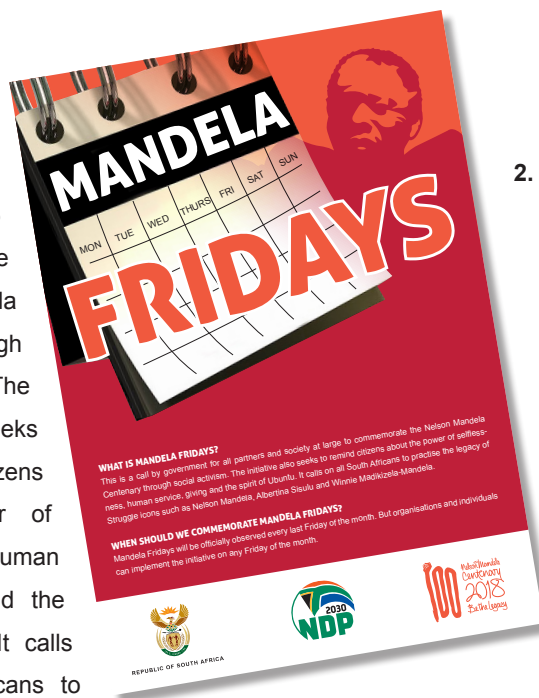
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN MANDELA FRIDAYS?

All citizens, business organisations, civil society and non-profit organisations.

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE PART OF MANDELA FRIDAYS?

1. Help promote the love for education and make it fashionable:

- Buy a book for a child and help promote a reading culture;
- Fund a school uniform for a needy learner;
- Read story books for primary-school learners;
- Assist school children with homework and exam preparations;
- Sponsor school or tertiary studies for needy students;
- Donate new/used learning equipment to a needy school;



- Visit your old or neighbourhood school and offer career guidance or motivational talks.
- ### 2. Encourage leadership and active citizenry amongst the youth:
- Host lectures, seminars and round-table discussions about Madiba's values;
 - Groom and mentor someone at work, school or an upcoming entrepreneur;
 - Promote and participate in the fight against gender-based violence;
 - Host a viewing session of inspirational documentaries and true-life movies as motivation for active citizenry.
- ### 3. Protect children's rights and well-being:
- Visit orphanages, offer assistance and play with the children;
 - Commit to sponsor or make meaningful donations to orphanages, kids safety houses and children's hospitals;
 - Promote and participate in the fight against child abuse;
 - Identify a child who has never had a birthday party/ present and give them one.
- ### 4. Help to reduce poverty:
- If you are in business and can afford to hire someone, make that a priority;
 - Plant food gardens for the less privileged and non-profit organisations;
 - Help a graduate gain practical skills by offering internships and learnerships.
- ### 5. Promote a value-based society by promoting culture and tradition:
- Organise tours for the youth and elders in your community to visit heritage sites and help promote tourism;
 - Promote African history by facilitating intergenerational dialogues where oral history, cultural practices and Ubuntu values can be taught.
- ### 6. Promote an active and healthy lifestyle through sports:
- Organise or host sports tournaments in honour of Madiba and donate proceeds from such activities to non-profit organisations. These can be held at work,

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

April

On 24 April, the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) unveiled the Massive Blanket of Madiba's portrait as part of Freedom Month celebrations. More than 1 000 guests gathered at Zonderwater Management area to witness the unveiling of the 7 956m² portrait blanket of the iconic anti-apartheid leader and first president of a democratic South Africa. The blanket, named the Massive Mandela Masterpiece (MMM), was a contribution by 67 Blankets for Mandela Day in collaboration with the DCS to celebrate what would have been Madiba's 100th birthday.



May

- **On 9 May**, the Inter Ministerial-Committee (IMC) on the centenaries of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu hosted a media briefing in Cape Town. The committee outlined the activities planned for maximum participation in the celebrations. It also officially launched the Albertina Sisulu Centenary. The IMC also urged South Africans to participate in the Mandela Fridays initiative which encourages everyone to perform acts of goodwill in honour of Madiba.
- **On 10 May**, the Chairperson of the IMC on the centenary of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, Minister Jeff Radebe, attended a media briefing announcing the Nelson Mandela Centenary Cup football challenge. The briefing was organised by the Motsepe Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Foundation.



- **On 16 May**, the Motsepe Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Foundation hosted a Nelson Mandela Cup challenge between Mamelodi Sundowns and Barcelona at FNB Stadium. The stadium was filled as people came to witness the historic event. Although South Africans were routing for the home team, Barcelona were crowned winners of the Cup with a leading score of 3 – 1.



- **On 26 May**, the Department of Sports and Recreation paid tribute to Nelson Mandela by dedicating the 2018 Regional Annual Sports Awards to his memory. The department used the event to remind South Africans about Madiba's love for sports and encouraged them to continue reflecting on his values of transformation and passion. One of the biggest highlights of the event was a special performance by the Children's Choir which dedicated a special song to Madiba.



On 29 May, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the Department of Communications and the Government Communication and Information System hosted a simulcast radio panel discussion to mark the 50 days countdown to the Nelson Mandela Centenary Day celebrations. The panellist consisted of Communications Minister Nomvula Mokonyane, Energy Minister Jeff Radebe, the Nelson Mandela Foundation CEO Sello Hatang and Mrs Ntsiki Sisulu-Singaphi from the Sisulu Family. The radio simulcast broadcast was covered live on SAfm, Lesedi FM, Umhlobo Wenene FM and Munghana Lonene FM breakfast shows. Channel Africa also connected live to the event, ensuring that the discussion reaches other Africans countries.



- On 29 May, Wits University's Faculty of Health and Science hosted Women's Health Rights Seminar in celebration of the Albertina Sisulu Centenary. The seminar, chaired by Ntsiki Sisulu-Singaphi from the Sisulu family, included robust discussions on women's health.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **4 June:** The Department of Arts and Culture together with the National Youth Development Agency will launch the 2018 Youth Month. The Youth Month will be used to celebrate the centenaries of Nelson Mandela and Mama Sisulu and to pay homage to the youth of 1976.
- **10 June:** The Department of Sports and Recreation will dedicate the 2018 Comrades Marathon to the Nelson Mandela Centenary.
- **15 June:** The Department of Communications will host a Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu Centenary Stakeholder's Colloquium in Soweto. The event seeks to establish partnerships with different stakeholders for maximum participation in the celebration of the two icons.
- **16 June:** The South African government will commemorate the 2018 Youth Day under the theme: "Live the Legacy: Towards a Socio-economically Empowered Youth". The official event will be held at Orlando Stadium in Soweto. It will also be used to honour Madiba and Mama Sisulu.
- **16 June:** The Nelson Mandela Foundation will launch the shave-to-remember campaign in Gauteng.
- **11 June:** The Sisulu Family will be hosting The Young Women's Dialogue at NASREC.