INTERNATIONAL NELSON MANDELA DAY

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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Every year on 18 July, South Africans together with the international community, honour our former President and international icon Nelson Mandela. We embrace Madiba’s values and honour his legacy through humanitarian acts and initiatives that acknowledge his never-ending quest to change the world for the better.

The overarching objective of Nelson Mandela International Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help make the world a better place, and in doing so, build a global movement for good. Ultimately it seeks to empower all communities to “Take Action; Inspire Change; Make Every Day a Mandela Day.”

In his State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma announced that this year Mandela Day would be celebrated by cleaning up South Africa. The President encouraged all South Africans to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to clean the country.

He said: “Let us begin planning for a major clean-up of our cities, towns, townships, villages and schools and beautify every part of our country.”
International Nelson Mandela Day was officially adopted by the United Nations (UN) in November 2009 as an annual international day. The UN noted Mandela’s values and his dedication to the service of humanity and acknowledged his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

The idea to do something that will benefit those around us on International Nelson Mandela Day was inspired by Mandela himself on his 90th birthday celebration in London’s Hyde Park in 2008, when he said: “It is time for new hands to lift the burdens. It is in your hands now.” Today the International Nelson Mandela Day campaign asks that individuals, groups and corporates pledge 67 minutes of their time on 18 July, and every day thereafter.

This year’s International Nelson Mandela Day is particularly symbolic for South Africans as it is the first one since former President Nelson Mandela’s passing. It offers South Africans and the world, an occasion to honour him in the year that also marks South Africa’s 20 Years of Freedom.

The GCIS’s acting Chief Executive Officer Phumla Williams said: South Africans are urged to take action, inspire change and make every day a Mandela Day. The 2014 Mandela Month celebration is particularly symbolic as it is the first since former President Nelson Mandela’s passing. South Africans must uphold Mandela’s legacy of ensuring that all humans are provided equal opportunities to a better life.”

Former President of South Africa:
Nelson Mandela