



MYDISTRICTTODAY

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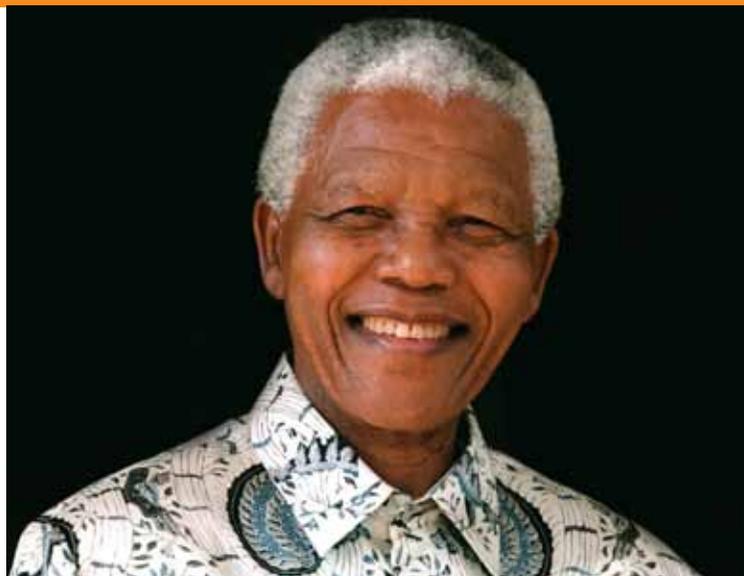
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TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER OF THE NATION



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the 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."

18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013

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The proportion of the population living below a R422 per month poverty line decreased from 50% in 1994 to 34,5% in 2009.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FORMER STATE PRESIDENT NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA

By *Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KZN*



UThemba Mzizi wase-Lourdes uthi “Kungiphatha kabuhlungu ukuhamba kukababa uMandela, ubaba ongizalayo wayeke asixoxele ukuthi babefunda naye uMandela kanti waba ngomunye wabafundi ababevele banyamalale, uthi wezwa sekuthiwa seboxoshiwe esikoleni. Njengomuntu wezemidlalo ngiyakholwa ukuthi ngabe ngikude ukuba ngikhule ngesikhathi samanje lapho uMandela esevulele abantu amathuba amaningi kwezemidlalo ngoba thina sasingaphushwa njengentsha yamanje uma kuza kwezemidlalo. Kukhona lapho mina ngangingangeni khona ngenxa yobandlululo”.



UZukiswa Sondzaba, 49, uthi “Ngisebenza eZwelibanzi into engilethe lapha edolobheni ukuzohlanyela nabanye abantu. Ngingezinto engizikhumbulayo njengothishelakazi, izikole zazifana nezibaya zebhokwe kanti nemali yokukhokha yayinzima. Njengamanje izikole ziphucukile njengalesi engisebenza kuso iZwelibanzi, othisha nabantwana bafuna ukusebenza kuso ngenxa yezinga laso. Mina ngokwami sengiphuma eFulansi ukuyomela i-KZN kwimincintiswano yobunkondlo okuyinto eyayingeke yenzeke ukuba kwakuyilesiya sikhathi sakudala”.



Community members during a live viewing of the National Memorial Service for former President Nelson Mandela at the Umzimkhulu FET College.



ULungelo Sibeko, 27, “Mina ngingumfundi ngifunda eNyuvesi yezoBuchwepheshe yase-Durban, ngenza izifundo zobuthishela kanti ngenza unyaka wokugcina kanti angikhokhi ngisho isenti ngenxa yakwaba-NSFAS, isikimu esasungulwa ngenxa yakhe uMandela. Nabangani bami abaphuma emakhaya angamile kahle kwezemidlalo njengami bafunda ngemifundazwe. Sekulula ukungena eNyuvesi ngenxa yakhe. UMandela waye wathi, “imfundo kuphela ezosikhulula” sengiyakubona lokho kwenzeka ngenxa yezinga lezemfundo”.



UThabisile Notyesi, 28, waseLusikisiki uthi, “Ngisuke ezilalini hayi ngoba ingekho i-TV kodwa ngizama ukubonakalisa ebantwini ukuthi ngiyamthanda uMadiba. Kona ngizwa ngokuxoxelwa ukuthi wenzani uMadiba kodwa izinto eziningi ngiyazibona njengoba siyafunda mahhala. Sinjenje kungenxa yakhe ukuba ube ngekho ngabe azikho zonke lezinto. Ngithi halala Madiba ulale ngoxolo”.



Since 1994 government has delivered over 2,9 million hectares of white-owned agricultural land to land-reform beneficiaries.



Thabani Zondi (35)

Today we have rights, we are able to vote and we are able to study in top universities in the country through the sacrifice of Nelson Mandela and all the leaders who stood firm in the fight against apartheid. Mandela was a gem of this country and I can proudly say that he is Moses of our time as he was influential in freeing us from the slavery and oppression of apartheid. We are now able to associate ourselves with people from different race groups without fear of being arrested as this was a crime in pre-democratic South Africa. I am sure that he is in a better place now and he is resting peacefully as he is well aware that his people are free and are no longer subjected to carrying passes and being judged by the colour of their skin.

TATA NELSON MANDELA'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Lihle Luthuli: GCIS, KZN



Sandile Dladla (43)

Nelson Mandela was a great man who had the ability to bring the nation together as he was the father of the country who sacrificed his social and family life to ensure that all South Africans are free from oppression and prejudice. He was an intelligent man who emphasised that there should be no form of resentment and revenge against white South Africans as this would hinder the freedom of all who live in our beautiful country. I am inspired by him and I believe that the spirit of Ubuntu which he preached will continue to live on.



Claire Zhuang (21)

As an American citizen I might have not known much about the apartheid regime but what I know is that this system was used to oppress black South Africans and it deprived them of a variety of rights in the country. Nelson Mandela was a great man and judging by the atmosphere in the country right now, you can see that he was a darling of the nation and South Africans from all walks of life loved him very much. I draw inspiration from him as he taught us that we should not return evil with evil after he was released from prison. He was indeed a great man as he once said "Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies."



Jan Steyn

We are here today to celebrate the life of this iconic man who sacrificed his family life to ensure that all who live in South Africa have equal rights and are free to vote for whoever they see befitting to run the country. I am inspired by Nelson Mandela because he has taught me to never judge other people by the colour of their skin and to forgive those who have wronged against me. I hope that he rests in peace and his name shall never be forgotten through history as great men such as him inspire generations to live life positively.



Nhlakanipho Mthembu (8)

I know that Nelson Mandela was the President of South Africa and he was in jail. I do not know much about him but my dad told me that Mr Mandela fought for our freedom and that we would not be able to use the same busses and sit on the benches as other race groups. My dad also told me that I would not be able to run around and swim wherever I want at the beach if it was not for this great man.



Xolani Yase (30)

Nelson Mandela was the first democratically elected President and I draw tons of inspiration from him as he had promised to change the lives of previously disadvantaged South Africans. He delivered on his word. Although I come from a poor background, through him my life has improved as we have access to water and sanitation, proper housing and job opportunities have been opened up to black South Africans. We are now able to live freely in our country without fear of being prosecuted because of the colour of our skin. It was expected that he would be militant when he was released from prison instead he encouraged all South Africans to stand together as brothers and sisters to ensure that our country remained democratic and free for all who live in it.



Economic growth averaged about 3% during the First Decade of Freedom versus an averaged 1% per year growth in the decade before 1994.



Some of the attentive mourners at the Namakgale Stadium on 9 December 2013.

MOPANI DISTRICT JOINS THE WORLD TO MOURN THE FORMER STATESMAN

By Eunice Nkuna: GCIS, Limpopo



Mopani District Executive Mayor, Cllr Joshua Matlou, on behalf of the people of Mopani, said "I pay tribute to our legendary and iconic Nelson Mandela. The ideals which he lived in and died for will remain in our hearts. Without Mandela South Africa could have been plunged into civil war, especially after the cold-blooded murder of Chris Hani. Service delivery to the poor, vulnerable and marginalised communities dominated his presidency. May his soul rest in peace".



10-year-old Gopotso Mokgalaka said "I will always see Mandela's face on the money notes. We know he fought for our freedom. May his soul rest in peace".



Goodman Shikwambani said "Tata Madiba was a real icon who led by example. He was a role-model to many people. We will miss his unique voice and smile. May his soul rest in peace".



Community members attending a memorial service organised by the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality.



The Mayor of Maruleng, Cllr Pule Mafologela (left) and the Speaker of the Maruleng Local Municipality, Cllr Blantina Raganya (right), signing the Condolence Book at the municipal offices.



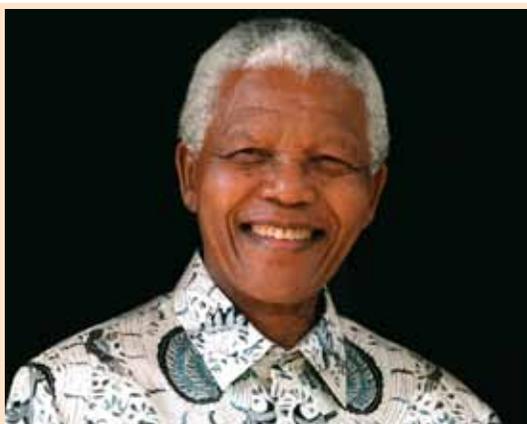
Leffy Valoyi, ANC Youth League member, said "I was born in the 80s and lived in the 90s, so I was affected by apartheid. Mandela was a great leader who had patience and perseverance. Throughout his hardships there was always hope. You have taught us well Mandela, you will forever be remembered".



They came in large numbers to bid farewell to Madiba during a memorial service held in Phalaborwa on 9 December 2013.



Prior to 1994 there were between eight and nine million employed South Africans. Today there are more than 13,6 million employed people.



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the 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."

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NELSON MANDELA MEMORIAL SERVICE

By More Matshediso: GCIS, Free State

Maria Tshikare

Unemployed

	How will you remember Madiba?	<i>Lerato la gagwe go mongwe le mongwe. Botho ba gagwe le kutlwelo bothoko tseo aneng ana le tsona.</i>
	How will you carry out his legacy?	<i>Ke tla leka ka matla gore ke tshale monate le mongwe le mongwe go sa kgathalesege gore ke motho wa mmala ofe.</i>
	General remarks.	<i>Papa Madiba a ithoballe ka kagiso.</i>

Pervez Ahmed

Minority Coordinator in Mangaung

	How will you remember Madiba?	I would not be where I am today if it was during apartheid times. A miracle happened in 1994 and the fruits of Madiba's sacrifices and other freedom fighters are still enjoyed by all South Africans, including minority groups.
	How will you carry out his legacy?	In Mangaung minority groups are well represented, so his legacy lives on already. Mine is to maintain it.
	General remarks.	May his soul rest in peace.

Zonela Mthombeni

Journalist

	How will you remember Madiba?	His love for children. He never got enough time to spend with his own children due to imprisonment, so he cherished every little time he got with any child... he made them feel special.
	How will you carry out his legacy?	I will do my part to make South Africa a better place than it already is.
	General remarks.	Rest in peace Rolihlahla, <i>qhawe la maqhawe.</i>

Rassie Erasmus

Spokesperson of Mangaung Metro Executive Mayor

	How will you remember Madiba?	His humbleness, dedication and all the sacrifices he made. He treated everyone with respect, even the smallest person.
	How will you carry out his legacy?	Like he did, I will put the spirit of Ubuntu into practice for the betterment of our country.
	General remarks.	R.I.P



The number of households with access to electricity has increased from 4,5 million (50,9%) in 1994 to 9,1 million (73%) in 2008.



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the 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."

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TATA NELSON MANDELA

By MM Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo

GCIS, in partnership with the Waterberg District Municipality, recently held a memorial service to celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela at the OR Tambo Hall in Modimolle. The theme for the day was "grieving the loss and celebrating life". The Mayor of Modimolle, Cllr Kgaretja Lekalakala, told the community that "Madiba had devoted his life to ensure that we are free. Our lives have really changed since 20 years of democracy".

The GCIS will enable the community to view the funeral service of Nelson Mandela on a big screen at the OR Tambo Hall on 15 December 2013 from 08h00.



Patrick Maletle, Modimolle:
"Madiba you were a living icon and spirit struggle for liberation and democracy. You have achieved an impossible mission by uniting South African people and creating a conducive condition for a better life for all. May your soul rest in peace."



Portia Langa, Modimolle:
"I feel very, very sad. As a young generation we never experienced the struggle but we are very privileged to experience the freedom that Madiba brought for us. We are saddened by his passing and also celebrate his life."



Lizzy Bapela, Bela-Bela:
"Go well Tata. You lived your life to the full, fought selflessly and united not only South Africans but the whole world. You lived by peace, liberty and unity. Your legacy shall forever reign in our nation. Rest in peace Tata. We love you."



Nelly Hadebe:
"Tata you have preached in our country and we believe we will live with that. Thank you for being a South African, we are really proud of you. God bless you."



Benjamin Molekwa, Bela-Bela:
"The world has lost a great leader. Your legacy will always live with the world. Rest in peace Tata."



George Langa, Modimolle:
"I feel very sad and happy at the same time because of what he did for us. We have lost a great father, hero, an icon and exemplary leader that we all wish we could get as the next president of South Africa. *Hamba kahle Tata. Re tla dula re go gopola.* You have passed on but you will never be forgotten."



Obakeng Mogara, Modimolle:
"I feel blessed and fortunate to be part of this generation. You taught the nation the spirit of Ubuntu and forgiveness. You were indeed a godsend Madiba. You will be dearly missed and be remembered forever. Long live the spirit of Ubuntu. Rest in peace."



Patrick Shika, Modimolle:
"Let your spirit and ideals flow over the world where we have witnessed your Madiba magic. *O ba dumedise bo comrade Moses Kotane, Oliver Tambo, Govan Mbeki and Walter Sisulu.* Tell them that we have achieved freedom, peace and stability in Mzansi. Rest in peace Tata Mandela."