

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

Dear friends

The academic year started almost as it ended last year – with tension and conflict at our universities unprecedented in the past 20 years.

The fractures in our society play themselves out at universities – fractures along racial lines; dire inequality; the continued association of language and culture with privilege, despite their equal status in our Constitution; the fall of historical figures at universities who previously stood proud over some institutions; and the poverty of especially black students who find higher education unaffordable.

The “born frees”, rightfully, have questioned the unacceptably high levels of inequality brought about largely by our commitment to peace at the expense of justice.

While these issues continue to grab headlines, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, BrandSA, and former Constitutional Court Justice and Chairperson of the Social Cohesion Reference Group Yvonne Mokgoro have come together under the banner of #AccessThuto (meaning “access education”) to offer assistance to universities, students, parents and others who have a vested interest in contributing to restoring calm to our universities.

At the moment #AccessThuto is offering conflict resolution and mediation services. This is motivated by the evident mistrust between students and university administrations that has recently resulted in violent confrontation.

Since making this announcement on Friday 26 January 2016, #AccessThuto has been humbled by the generous offers to help by ordinary South Africans, conflict resolution practitioners, religious bodies and many others. We feel comforted by the generosity of spirit of South Africans in finding solutions.

At the same time #AccessThuto has been talking to students, political parties, the government and universities to understand the issues more clearly, facilitate engagement to neutralise the conflict, and agree how best to handle these issues in the future.

We have begun this work in earnest, and we realise that while we can play a constructive and helpful role in assisting in this conflict, the structural problems in our society will take much longer to fix. We are aware that problems at our universities represent a much bigger problem in our society and our homes, as articulated by Justice Mokgoro.

Time, however, should not deter us. Together we can fix these problems and strive for the country of our dreams.

Sello Hatang

CONCERNED CITIZENS OFFER SERVICES TO HELP UNIVERSITIES

Student unrest at universities has reached untenable levels; the tensions have led to violence as well as a number of assaults. We are at a crisis point and have to act now.

As a result, a group of like-minded active citizens have joined forces to offer independent mediation, conflict resolution and facilitation services to the universities and student movements that request it. This help will be provided under the name #AccessThuto, meaning “access education”.



[Click here](#) for the full story.



NMF HOSTS DIALOGUE ON BLACKNESS: ESSENTIALISMS, INTERSECTIONALITIES AND FAULTLINES

As South Africa struggles with complex racial relations, there has been little debate about what it actually means to be black.

Mindful of this, the Wits Centre for Diversity Studies (WiCDs), joined the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, to host a dialogue on the subject. Blackness: Essentialisms, Intersectionalities and Faultlines was developed to try to understand what blackness is in the context of the country's "post-reconciliation" period.

The dialogue was opened by the Executive Director of the Albinism Society of Southern Africa, Commissioner Nomasono Mazibuko. The visual impact of an albino addressing the audience made it clear; blackness is more than pigmentation. In his address the commissioner said, "Blackness is a liberation of the mind."

She was followed by Joel Netshitenzhe, who delivered a broad but deep reflection on blackness. He spoke on the relationship between the oppressed and the oppressor, arguing for a deconstruction of the socialisation and essentialisation of the post-democratic project.

[Click here](#) for the full story.



ANNIVERSARY OF MANDELA'S FREEDOM

On 11 February, the nation fondly recalls the excitement that filled South Africa's streets as Nelson Mandela walked out of

jail a free man after 27 years.

This year we mark the 26th anniversary of his release, marking the end of an era and the hard challenge of rebuilding a damaged society. Twenty-six years later we also remember Mandela's words as he said: 'It is in your hands to make of our world a better one for all'.

Madiba established the Nelson Mandela's Foundation to continue his legacy of deepening democracy, building peace and advancing human rights.

We continue to strive for the freedoms through our work that Madiba held close to his heart:

[Click here](#) for the full story.



64TH MANDELA DAY LIBRARY LAUNCHES IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

Breadline Africa's Library Project kicked off in 2016 with the launch of the TT Lekalake Primary School library.

Located in the Batlharos community on the outskirts of Kuruman in the Northern Cape, this is the 64th Breadline Africa library placed nationally, and the fifth library located in the Northern Cape as part of the Long Walk to Freedom library project.

TT Lekalake is rated third in the Department of Basic Education's poverty quintile category. The poverty quintile rating is one of the criteria Breadline Africa uses to select schools in need.

The library project aims to bridge the gap in access to relevant and quality resources that help learners develop a love of reading and give teachers the support they need to enhance their curriculum delivery.

[Click here](#) for the full story.

65TH MANDELA DAY LIBRARY LAUNCHED IN THE EASTERN CAPE

Breadline Africa on Thursday, 11 February celebrated the fifth library launched in partnership with the Public Investment Corporation. The launch at Putuma Junior Secondary School in the Eastern Cape brought to 65 the number of libraries opened in the province.

Putuma was selected as a beneficiary school as a result of another partnership: with Axiom Education, the Eastern Cape-based literacy development organisation which runs a reading programme with the school's foundation phase learners.

[Click here](#) for the full story.

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QUOTES APP IS INSPIRATION IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

The Nelson Mandela Foundation has developed and launched the authorised Nelson Mandela Quotations app to bring Madiba's words to the palm of your hand.

The app is available in two formats: a free, lite version and a paid-for premium version. The lite version sends you a daily quote from the world's most inspirational moral leader.

The premium version grants subscribers access to a database of thousands of Mandela quotes – ranging from the value of children and importance of education through to reflections on forgiveness to condemnations of injustice and discrimination – in addition to getting the quote of the day. It also allows you to search for a quotation to suite any occasion. The premium version costs \$4.99 (R69.62 at current exchange rate).

Both versions are available on the Android and IOS platforms:

[Click here for IOS Lite](#)
[Click here for IOS Full](#)

[Click here for Android Lite](#)
[Click here for Android Full](#)



HELP US KEEP MADIBA'S LEGACY ALIVE

SMS Madiba to 42607 to donate R30 towards the work carried out by the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

*Terms and conditions apply

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