

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

Dear friends,

Twenty-sixteen got off to a jarring and unsettling start in South Africa. Most noticeably, race and racism were thrust into the forefront of public discourse as a spate of racist incidents made national and international headlines.

South Africans were forced to engage with an uncomfortable, messy dialogue on race, that we, as a nation, have long sought to sweep under the carpet. In traditional and social media, in social circles, businesses, places of worship, universities and schools, race has become one of the most controversial and divisive issues.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation had identified race as a critical faultline in South Africa over the past few years. Issues of race cross-cut our work in land reform, poverty, inequality, memory and our engagements with youth. Our dialogues have highlighted many of the narratives present today, including those of a re-emergent black consciousness, a turning away from “rainbow-ism”, the nature of inequality and violence meted out to black South Africans, and arguments for race-based redistribution of wealth.

Yet within this messy and often uncontrolled space, we have come to better understand each other. And while some dig their heels and draw lines in the sand, others have confronted race and racism head on, engaged and have taken the first steps into building new understandings, ideologies and norms in the country.

The NMF will continue in its efforts to provide a safe space for those who want to say the unsayable and to foster dialogue, no matter how difficult it will be.

However, the NMF has long been cognisant that a strong civil society response to racism is needed and therefore, over the past two years, we have been working closely with the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF) and a group of like-minded civil society organisations in forming the Anti-Racism Network of South Africa (ARNSA).

ARNSA will serve as a reactive and proactive; broad based social movement against racism in South Africa. Launched late last year, ARNSA held its first formal press conference on 2 February. In attendance was the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, who acknowledged the need and importance of active participation of civil society through a vehicle such as ARNSA.

ARNSA aims to engage with structural and systemic racism in the country, as well as building awareness into how people can respond to racism, whether through the system such as the underutilised equality courts or through individual and group efforts. ARNSA will build a national

awareness campaign on anti-racism, which will culminate in a national anti-racism week set for 14-21 March 2016.

ARNSA is not the only upcoming effort the NMF has taken in relation to race. Dialogues on critical race issues continue, and on 17 February the NMF and AKF will join the Wits Centre for Diversity Studies (WiCDS) in hosting a dialogue on Blackness: Essentialisms, Intersections and Faultlines.

This dialogue will engage with some of the country’s leading thought leaders as we seek to facilitate the reconstruction of the political theory of a fundamentally changed South Africa.

The NMF has also responded quickly to other urgent challenges in the country, leveraging its position to help in cases of crisis. Responding to the water crisis currently plaguing the country, the Foundation partnered with the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation, Proudly South African and #OperationHydrate.

Over the weekend, thousands of volunteers, businesses, schoolchildren and others responded to the NMF’s call, contributing an incredible total of 30.5-million litres of water, with a rand value of R61 137 442. This served as a reminder that South Africans stand ready to make a difference in the lives of others in need.

The Foundation also hosted the second birthday of the 67 Blankets for Mandela Day, in association with its founder, Carolyn Steyn.

In an attempt to break its own Guinness World Record, the 67 Blankets initiative will, on 22 April this year, lay a gigantic blanket (of at least 6 700m², almost the size of a rugby field) at the feet of Madiba’s statue at the Western Cape’s Drakenstein Correctional Centre, the prison from which he was released in 1990. Starting in 2014, 67 Blankets now has over 6 000 members in over 20 countries, who have knitted over 20 000 blankets.

This initiative is a good example of what we can do together in our different stations of life, ranging from offenders in prisons to grannies in old age homes and young people in schools. It is a good example of social cohesion.

These events were a resounding success and once again demonstrated the enormous capacity that South Africans have for helping each other. It is through these acts that the spirit of Madiba resides and his legacy continue.

In building the legacy of Mandela, the Foundation has continued its efforts in engaging with young people, and has started work on an exhibition and dialogue

continue on next page

to mark 20 years of the Constitution. The exhibition will be built on engagements with youth from across the country and their understanding of the Constitution. The exhibition is set to launch in March 2016.

Outside of our core work, the Foundation has begun a serious fundraising drive to provide it with the financial stability necessary for non-governmental organisations in today's tough economic conditions. In order to continue to be a non-partisan, objective organisation, the NMF will require being financially independent and relying minimally on donations. The fundraising drive will also seek to bring in funds to remodel our current auditorium, increasing the capacity and creating a space conducive to dialogue.

Despite the rocky start to the year and gloomy predictions of the future, our ability to rise above these challenges will be a part of how we define ourselves as a nation. We should bear in mind Madiba's words. He stated:

"As a tree will blossom only with care and attention, so our countries and our region will blossom and grow from strength to strength, if we care and work hard. As this tree reaches for the heavens, let it encourage us always to aim higher and higher in meeting the new challenges that face us. As its branches spread, so may the co-operation between us spread out, and embrace our whole region and our continent of Africa."

Sello Hatang



ARNSA COULD HOLD THE ANSWER TO A NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

Despite moving into democracy after the fall of apartheid in 1994, an apparent resurgence in racist incidents and hardening of racist attitudes continues to plague South Africa.

In response to the mounting urgency to combat racism, more than 85 organisations, facilitated by the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, banded together to create the Anti-Racism Network of South Africa (ARNSA), which was launched in November 2015.

In an initiative that aims to further enhance the ongoing work carried out by ARNSA in building awareness, mobilising resources, co-ordinating action and focusing on interventions, delegates were joined by Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, for the launch of Anti-Racism Week

at the Nelson Mandela Foundation on Tuesday 2 February 2016.

Anti-Racism Week will be recognised from Monday 14 March to Monday 21 March 2016, and ARNSA representative Sean Moodley has called on civil society, faith-based organisations, municipalities, sports bodies and the education sector to become a major part of the campaign by hosting activities and programmes that speak to a non-racial South Africa.

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

STATEMENT BY SELLO HATANG ON THE RECENT SPATE OF RACIST INCIDENTS

"South Africa has experienced an unhealthy barrage of racist incidents that have grabbed national headlines over the festive period. It seems that such sentiment lurks deeply below the façade of our society, rearing its head with little provocation.

"It is clear that race continues to define us, and that the reconciliation project of the 1990s has secured relatively little purchase in the deeper reaches of our cultural and social structures.

"I unreservedly condemn racism in all its forms and call on South Africans to commit themselves to building a truly transformative culture."

[Click here](#) to read Sello Hatang's full statement.

MILLIONS RAISED FOR WATER-DONATION DRIVE AT THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

The Nelson Mandela Foundation's water drive, in partnership with Proudly South African, was a resounding success, with over 30-million litres of fresh water collected for donation to drought-stricken communities.



As part of the Operation Hydrate initiative, Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane kicked off this leg of the

campaign at the Foundation on Friday 29 January.

Over the weekend, thousands of volunteers, businesses, schoolchildren and others responded to the call, contributing an incredible total of 30.5-million litres of water, with a rand value of R61 137 442. This will go a long way towards helping communities that have felt the full effect of the worst drought to hit South Africa in more than 20 years.

Already four million litres of water have been distributed to key areas, while the majority of the donations will head out on Tuesday 2 February once the final numbers are tallied.

The CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Sello Hatang, was overwhelmed by the generosity of South Africans from all walks of life.

“We are truly reimagining the legacy of Madiba. Of course, this initiative goes beyond the donation drive here at the Foundation. In the spirit of Mandela Day, we need to look at how we can make this sustainable, and continue to provide assistance to communities in need on a daily basis.”

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



67 BLANKETS FOR NELSON MANDELA AIMS TO BREAK ITS OWN WORLD RECORD

Prisoners from all over South Africa are crocheting furiously in an attempt to help the KnitWits for Madiba break their current Guinness World Record for the biggest crochet blanket in the world.

“We’ll have blankets for Africa, spread as far as the eye can see, made by us and the prisoners. This will be South Africa’s Wool Cup,” said 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day founder or “chief KnitWit” Carolyn Steyn, at the initiative’s second birthday celebration at the Nelson Mandela Foundation on Wednesday night.

On 22 April this year – to mark 22 years of democracy – the gigantic blanket (of at least 6 700m², almost the size of a rugby field) will be laid at the feet of Madiba’s statue at the Western Cape’s Drakenstein Correctional Centre, the prison from which he was released in 1990.

It all began in December 2013, when Zelda la Grange, Nelson Mandela’s assistant, challenged Steyn to knit 67 blankets that would then be distributed to those in need on Nelson Mandela Day the following year.

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

SACS BOYS HELPING LESS FORTUNATE GET GREAT START TO SCHOOL YEAR

Last week saw most learners heading back to school, or perhaps for their first time.

And while most of us lamented over the mad rush to get things in our households ready for the start of the school year, there were four boys from SACS who were doing some very good work.

They had put together a project called “67 Kids to School” – and their goal was to raise R12 500 in order to kit out 67 children each with: A fabric carrier bag, school socks, school shoes, a school shirt, and stationery.

They’re certainly doing their part to make every day a Mandela Day.

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



NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION SADDENED BY PASSING OF MA NOZOLILE MTITARA

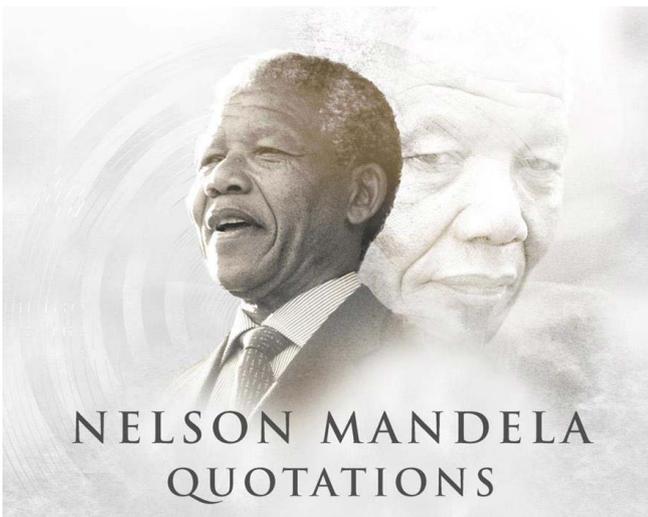
“The Nelson Mandela Foundation is deeply saddened at the passing of Ma Nozolile Mtitara. Our thoughts are with the Mtitara and Mandela families at this difficult time,” Sello Hatang, CE of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, said on Friday, 29 January.

Ma Nozolile was the wife of Madiba's cousin Justice, who played a significant role in Madiba's early years. As teenagers Justice and Madiba shared a room at the Great Place of Thembu Regent Jongintaba, and later they travelled together from the Eastern Cape to start new lives in Johannesburg.

After his release from prison Madiba maintained close relations with Ma Nozolile and her family. In 2008, she gave an interview to the foundation for its exhibition with the Apartheid Museum to mark Madiba's 90th birthday. She also contributed a bookcase which Madiba and Justice had used in the room they had shared in the Great Place.

"Ma Nozolile will be missed," concluded Hatang.

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

Make an online donation