

THE NELSON MANDELA CENTRE OF MEMORY

VISITOR GUIDE



NELSON MANDELA
FOUNDATION

Living the legacy

SUPPORTED BY:  **THEBE**
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“THE CALL NOW IS FOR EACH OF
US TO ASK OURSELVES: ARE WE
DOING ALL WE CAN TO BUILD THE
COUNTRY OF OUR DREAMS?”

- NELSON MANDELA





THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION





Nelson Mandela was South Africa's first democratically elected President. On 9 May 1994, soon after our landmark election results were in, he was unanimously elected President by South Africa's new Members of Parliament.

The next day Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was sworn in at an inauguration ceremony at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

He vowed to only serve one term as President and in 1999 he stepped down to make way for President Thabo Mbeki.

N. Mandela

Soon after the new President was inaugurated on 16 June 1999, Mandela was on the telephone to rally his staff for new tasks ahead. They had to remind him that they no longer worked for him and so the Nelson Mandela Foundation was born. As Mandela's post-presidential office it provided the base for his charitable work, covering a wide range of endeavour, from building schools to HIV-AIDS work, from research into education in rural areas to peace and reconciliation interventions.

Five years later the Foundation began its transition into an organisation focused on memory, dialogue and legacy work. A comprehensive refurbishment of the Foundation's building provided it with an appropriate physical home, the Centre of Memory. The Centre was opened on 18 November 2013, three years to the day after Mandela last used the building as his office.

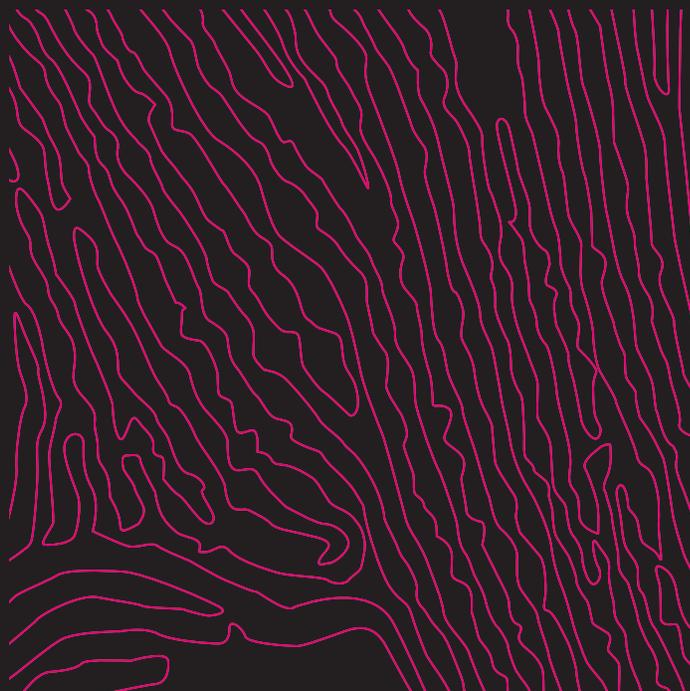
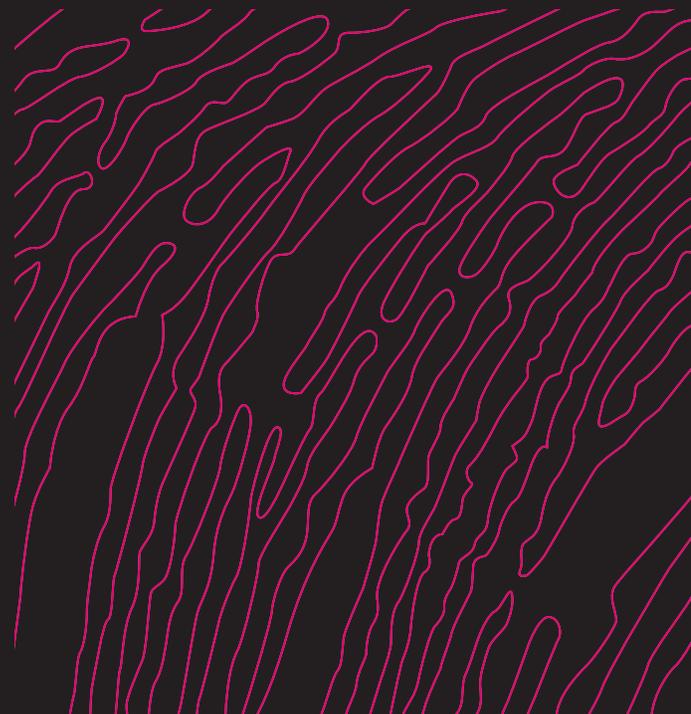






VISION

A society which remembers its pasts, listens to all its voices, and pursues social justice.



MISSION

To contribute to the making of a just society by keeping alive the legacy of Nelson Mandela, providing an integrated public information resource on his life and times, and by convening dialogue around critical social issues.







THE BUILDING

On his retirement in 1999 Nelson Mandela kept his offices at his home in 13th Avenue, Houghton in Johannesburg. His staff ran the Nelson Mandela Foundation from there. As the work of the Foundation expanded, a bigger space became necessary. The NMF at 107 Central Street, Houghton became that space in 2002 through a generous grant from the government of India.

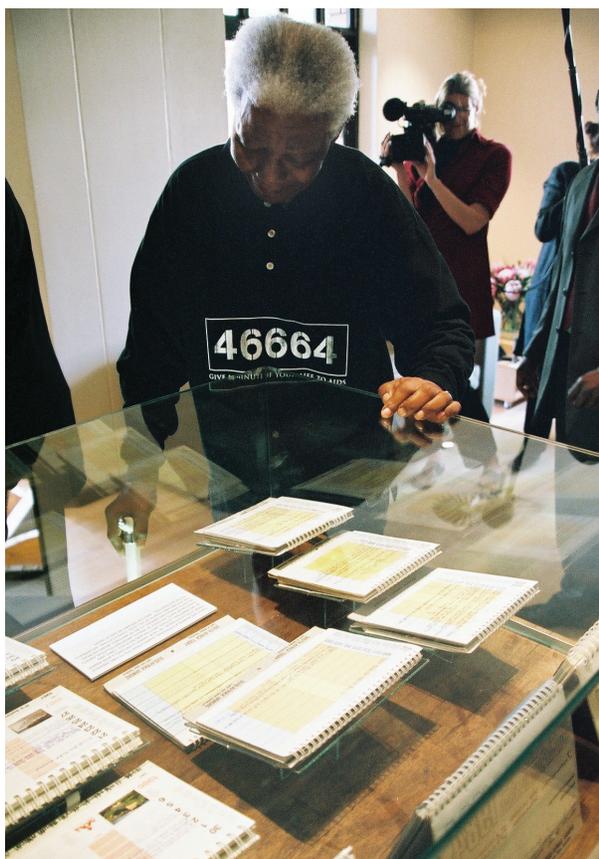
Mandela came to his office at the building almost every day when he was not travelling. He received most of his guests here sitting behind his desk or in armchairs in the lounge area. It was at this building that he would hold press conferences, receive dignitaries and often bring his guests to the front door to be photographed by waiting media.

From 2004 it was agreed by Mandela that the work of his Foundation would change fundamentally. This coincided with his announcement to the world that it was time for him to "retire from retirement".

He donated his personal papers to the Nelson Mandela Foundation and mandated it to document his life and times. He also assigned it to promote his legacy by creating a safe space for dialogue where sustainable solutions to intractable problems could be found.

While the entire building has been refurbished to accommodate a state of the art archive, exhibition and dialogue spaces, Mandela's office has been preserved as he left it when he was last in the building. This office is now part of a permanent exhibition.

Created courtesy of a grant from the National Lottery, the building represents the new focus of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. It is the physical hub from which the Foundation seeks to fulfil its mission.



THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NELSON MANDELA

This exhibition begins at the front entrance of the Nelson Mandela Foundation's Centre of Memory and ends in what was Nelson Mandela's post-presidential office from 2002 to 2010. Curated by the Foundation's Research and Archive team and designed by Trace Media, the exhibition offers a perspective on Mandela's life within the contexts of colonialism, apartheid and democracy. The narrative is carried by short text panels and a diverse range of other elements – artefacts, documents, photographs, film, sound recordings and special installations.

Two elements make this exhibition unique:

- The displays of artefacts and documents from Mandela's private archive.
- The walk-in feature of Mandela's post-presidential office, preserved as it was the last time he used it.

For the Foundation the exhibition must remain a work-in-progress, constantly refreshed, updated and enhanced. It will always be brought into conversation with smaller scale temporary exhibitions mounted in the adjacent foyer area.

The Exhibition's Narrative



COLONIALISM

From the early 1500s, European powers began establishing colonies in other parts of the world. By the beginning of the 20th Century most of Africa had been colonised.

Long struggles for liberation saw the start of the independence process from the early 1950s, but in some countries formal colonial government was replaced by various forms of European settler rule. South Africa was the last country in Africa to have such rule ended by a transition to democracy.

In the seventeenth century the Dutch colonised the Cape. On the back of unsuccessful wars of resistance by indigenous black polities, for the next three hundred years what was to become the country called 'South Africa' experienced rule by the Dutch, the British and independent settler republics.

In 1910 Britain oversaw the establishment of the Union of South Africa, a classic settler state in which only whites enjoyed full rights of citizenship.

Colonial socio-economic structures and relations remained resilient for decades after 1910. It could be argued, of course, that for black South Africans the Union was just another form of colonisation. Certainly when Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in 1918, it was into a colonial setting.

APARTHEID

South Africa's capitalist development in the first half of the twentieth century required the segregation and the control of the black communities.

In 1948 an Afrikaner nationalist class alliance assumed power with a broad racial ideology offering the protection of the 'Afrikaner people' and also the maintenance of white supremacy.

The term 'apartheid' was used by the National Party as an election slogan in 1948, and although over the years substitute terms were employed by both Party and the state, 'apartheid' stuck as the term of choice world-wide for a system of governance and a legitimising ideology which endured in essence until 1994.

Apartheid has been most usefully described as a form of racial capitalism in which racial differences were formalised and in which society was characterised by a powerful racially defined divide. Amongst the world's racial orders, South Africa's was unique in its rigidity and in its pervasiveness.

From the late 1970s the apartheid system began to unravel as black resistance intensified, international pressure grew, and forces within capitalism demanded reform.

By the late 1980s it was in profound crisis and the primary instruments of power had become the suspension of law and the unleashing of state terror on oppositional groupings.



1918 - 1944

FINDING THE ENEMY

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born into an aristocratic family in the rural Eastern Cape, the son of a chief.

After his father's death he became the ward of the acting Thembu King Jongintaba Dalindyebo, who raised him at the Great Place in Mqhekezweni. He also carried the clan name Madiba, the circumcision name Dalibhunga, and the English name Nelson (given to him by his teacher on his first day at school). He attended Methodist mission schools before enrolling for a Bachelor of Arts at the prestigious University of Fort Hare in 1939.

Effectively expelled from the university for protest action, he left with his studies incomplete. In 1941 he arrived in Johannesburg, having fled an arranged marriage, and after a brief interlude as a gold mine security guard he finished his degree by correspondence and worked as a clerk in a law firm.

His thinking and values were a fusion of the traditional and the modern, the indigenous and the Western. In the townships of Johannesburg he was exposed to the poverty, deprivation and brutality of black urban life. His earliest political influences were Gaur Radebe, Walter Sisulu and Anton Lembede.

Sisulu became his mentor and a lifelong comrade and friend. In 1944 he joined the African National Congress when he co-founded its Youth League. He aligned himself with the Africanists, who resisted co-operation with Communists and organisations representing 'non-Africans'.

It was at the Sisulu home that Mandela met and fell in love with Walter's cousin, Evelyn Mase. They were married in 1944 and had four children.

1944 - 1962

FACING DOWN THE ENEMY

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela quickly rose to leadership positions within the ANC (African National Congress).

By the late 1950s he was a prominent public figure and a thorn in the apartheid regime's flesh. His work as an attorney with OR Tambo in South Africa's first black legal firm mostly involved defending black victims of the apartheid system.

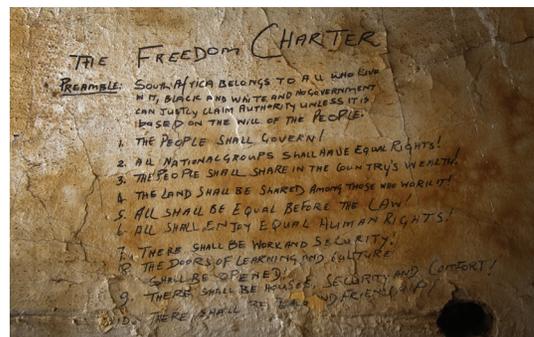
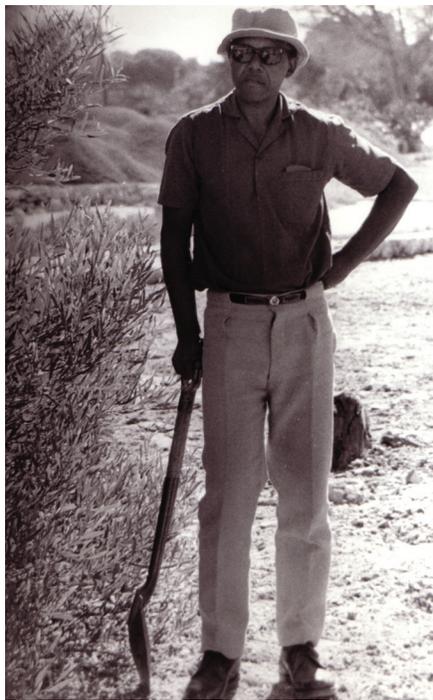
As Volunteer-in-Chief in the 1952 Defiance Campaign of the ANC and the South African Indian Congress, he led thousands to break apartheid laws. He was frequently arrested and banned.

The Defiance Campaign Trial saw him and 19 others sentenced to nine months suspended for two years. He was one of the accused in the Treason Trial (1956-1961), but again walked free.

The ANC was banned in 1960 after the Sharpeville Massacre and in 1961 Mandela went underground. He became the first Commander-in-Chief of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC.

The liberation struggle had become Mandela's life and the ANC his family. Under the tutelage of Walter Sisulu and working with Communists like Michael Harmel, Bram Fischer, Yusuf Dadoo, Ahmed Kathrada and Moses Kotane, Mandela shed his Africanism and embraced the non-racialism of the Congress movement.

Mandela sacrificed domestic life to the struggle. His marriage to Evelyn collapsed, and in 1958 he married Winifred Zanyiwe Madikizela, with whom he had two children. His new family was also to suffer from his absence.



1962-1985

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF THE ENEMY

In 1962 Nelson Mandela was sentenced to five years in prison for leaving the country illegally and for inciting a strike.

The next year, from prison, he became accused number one in the Rivonia Trial, which saw most of the senior internal leadership of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage.

Mandela would be a prisoner for over twenty-seven years. By the time he was released he was the most famous political prisoner in the world, and a global symbol for the anti-apartheid movement.

He used his time in prison to further his studies, read widely, reflect deeply, and learn as much as he could about Afrikaans histories and cultures. He became proficient in Afrikaans, engaged his jailers intensely, and nurtured deep friendships with fellow-prisoners Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Eddie Daniels, Lalloo Chiba and Mac Maharaj. From the outset he was regarded as the leader and representative of African National Congress (ANC) prisoners, a position he used to sustain unrelenting pressure on the prison authorities to improve conditions.

He led ANC engagements with new generations of political prisoners. In the first years of his incarceration Mandela lost both his mother and his eldest son. He was also devastated by the apartheid regime's relentless persecution of his young wife and children.

Using every means available to him, from writing letters to getting his lawyers to intervene, from prison visits to financial assistance from supporters, he reached out to his family, nurturing them both collectively and individually.

1985-1994

TALKING TO THE ENEMY

In 1986 Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela took the fateful decision to inaugurate 'talks about talks' with representatives of the apartheid state.

He did this before consulting with his comrades in prison or African National Congress (ANC) President OR Tambo.

It was a moment of great leadership, but also of great danger. From 1985 the state separated him from his fellow-prisoners and brought all the resources of the state to bear on using him to best advantage as negotiations with the ANC loomed.

Even though Mandela established lines of communication with Tambo and other leaders, comrades outside feared that he might have 'sold out'.

They need not have worried. He managed the process masterfully, and ensured that it was integrated with other 'talks about talks' processes that emerged from 1987.

After his release from prison in February 1990 he very quickly took the reins, became the President of the ANC when Tambo stepped down with health problems, and led the formal negotiations with the National Party and its allies.

Throughout the period 1990-1994 Mandela travelled the world, receiving adulation wherever he went. He garnered support for the negotiation process, raised funds for the ANC, received the Nobel Peace Prize, and published his best-selling autobiography.

Again there was little space in his life for the private, the personal, the domestic, and his relationship with Winnie Mandela fell apart. They separated in 1992 and divorced in 1996. He found it difficult to restore intimacy with his children. He experienced a deep loneliness.



1990 - 1994

DEMOCRACY

Resistance to apartheid was led by the ANC (African National Congress) and other allied organisations.

The considerable energies of African nationalism were increasingly channelled into the struggle for a democracy defined by non-racialism.

There were four pillars to this struggle – armed resistance, underground work, international solidarity, and mass mobilisation. The apartheid regime was not overthrown.

When it became clear that the slow disintegration of the apartheid system could not be stemmed, the regime engaged its opponents in a process of negotiated settlement.

In the February of 1990 the ANC and all other outlawed oppositional organisations were legalised, and Mandela was released from prison. This began a period of formal negotiation leading to South Africa's first democratic election in April 1994.

Although the ANC, led by Mandela, won a sweeping victory in that election, it would manage the first five years of democracy-building through a Government of National Unity.

The nature of the transition to democracy meant that there would be no dramatic dismantling of the apartheid system. Rather, the new would be built out of the old through processes of transformation and reconciliation. These processes were given a powerful symbolic embodiment in the person of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

1994 - 2013

DISCOVERING NEW ENEMIES

After South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela formed a Government of National Unity led by the ANC (African National Congress).

His presidency (1994-1999) focused on the challenges of nation-building, reconciliation, and reckoning with the past. Rebuilding South Africa's international reputation was also high on his agenda.

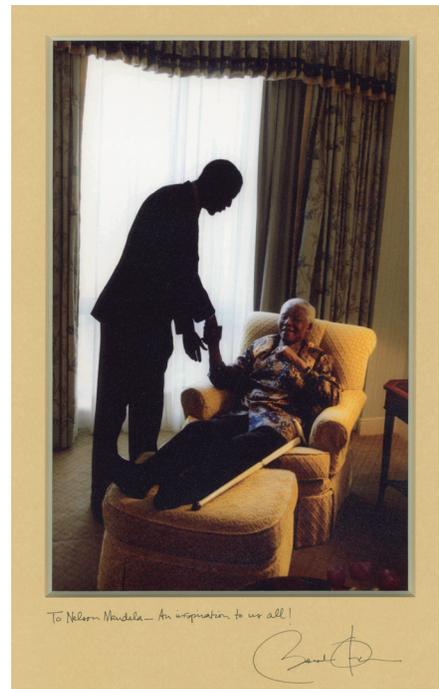
He relied on Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and his Cabinet to look after governance and the nuts and bolts of transformation. The challenges were many. Apartheid socio-economic patterning was resilient.

The damage wrought to the social fabric by centuries of oppression was profound. And there was considerable vested interest in avoiding significant restructuring of the state and the economy.

President Mandela voluntarily stepped down after one term in office to make way for a new generation of leadership. But his acute sense of unfinished business would not allow him to retire from public life. He founded charitable organisations to continue his work. He contributed to finding peace in international conflicts. He spoke out on issues as diverse as HIV/AIDS, corruption, poverty, the Iraq War and Zimbabwe.

In 1998 Mandela married his third wife, Graca Machel. From 1999 he devoted more time to domestic life, and was often surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

By his ninetieth birthday in 2008 he was a global icon of unparalleled stature. In 2009 his birthday was declared Nelson Mandela International Day.

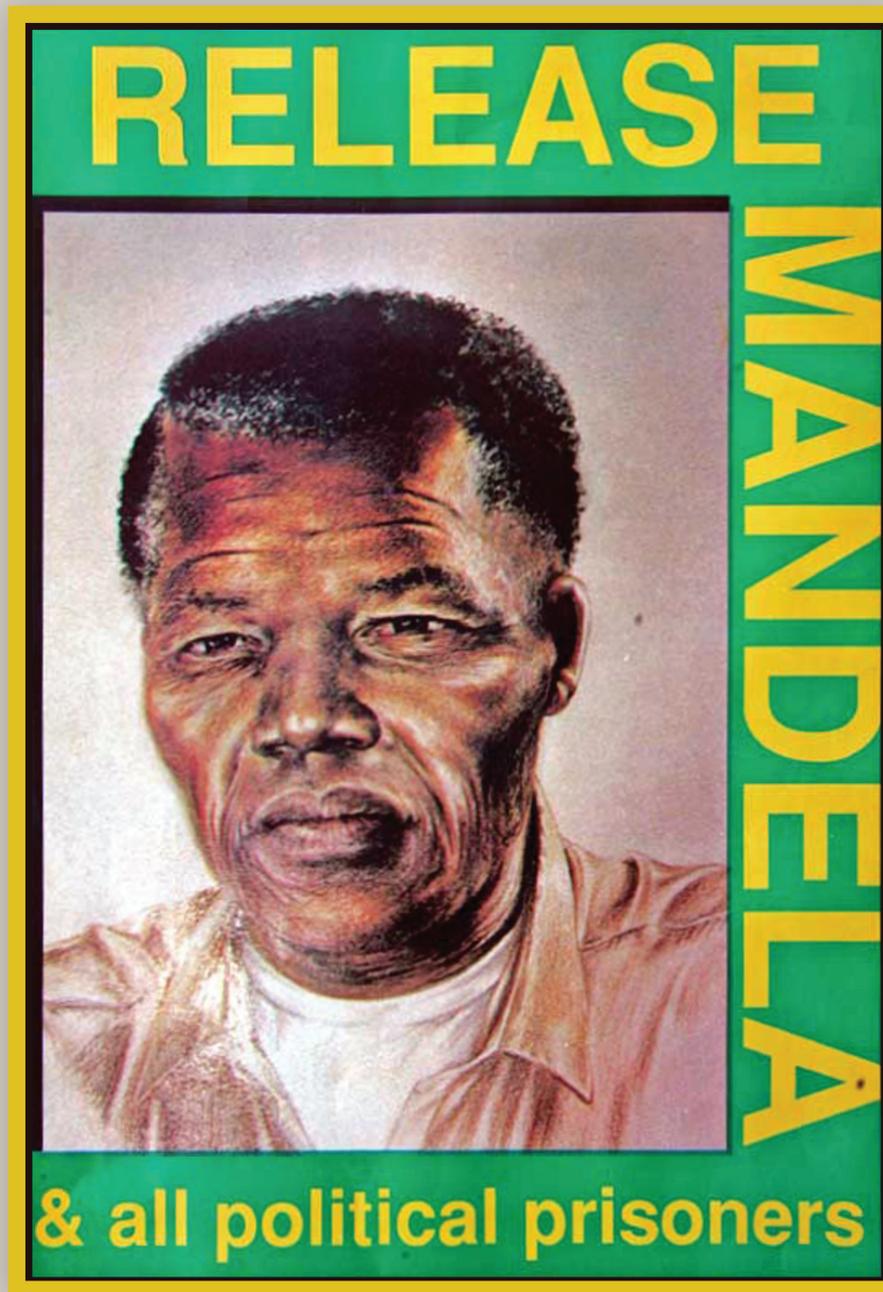


To Nelson Mandela - An inspiration to us all!

Samuel



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Nelson Mandela Release Poster (1989)

Historical poster depicting Nelson Mandela based on visual descriptions by his visitors while imprisoned.



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**WHAT COUNTS IN LIFE
IS NOT THE MERE FACT
THAT WE HAVE LIVED.**

**IT IS WHAT DIFFERENCE
WE HAVE MADE TO THE
LIVES OF OTHERS THAT
WILL DETERMINE THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
LIFE WE LEAD.**

”

- NELSON MANDELA





Nelson Mandela Legacy Partner

Thebe Investment Corporation was founded in 1992 by anti-apartheid stalwarts and visionaries, Mr. Nelson Mandela, Rev Beyers Naude, Mr. Walter Sisulu and Mr. Enos Mabuza.

In the years of its existence the legacy of these great men has kept Thebe focused on the vision of building communities, which is the main reason for our being. Only a few business entities have had the privilege to be part of their teachings. Part of our corporate responsibility is to protect and promote the legacy of our founders. Thebe Investment Corporation, through its Foundation, supports the promotion and preserving of Madiba's legacy of social justice, through the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

The Thebe Foundation was established in March 2011 and represents the Thebe Group's commitment to meaningful and long-lasting community development driven by the needs of the affected communities. The Thebe Foundation's goal is to enhance the quality of life of communities by empowering them to actively participate in ground-breaking initiatives that will increase their wealth, knowledge, skills and health. A registered public benefit organisation, the Thebe Foundation works with a range of partners in the public and private sector primarily in the fields of education and enterprise development.

There are key causes that the Thebe Foundation supports; namely Education and Enterprise Development. In the education environment, the Thebe Foundation seeks to support and contribute to the continuing development of the education system primarily by working with districts, community, schools, educators and learners. It seeks to ensure learners

achieve requisite standards for mathematics and literacy at foundation level, whilst also supporting the development of matriculants so that they are in a position to access opportunities as school leavers.

In the Enterprise Development space, the Thebe Foundation drives the Supplier Development Initiative (SDI) programme, which aims to grow the scale and profitability of black-owned SMME's. The Thebe Foundation also funds community-based enterprise development programmes that support and enable existing black-owned SMME's to scale up to the next level and integrate into the value chain of big business. A number of these development programs are done in collaboration with The University of Johannesburg, Center for Small Business Development.

The Thebe Foundation seeks to achieve its objectives and goals by identifying and supporting innovative development programmes within the community. It also develops and implements community development programmes with strategic partners, such as the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Through companies that it partners with, the Thebe Foundation creates sustainable, innovative, high-impact community development projects and seek to provide thought-leadership around best-practice models on community development.

www.thebefoundation.org.za



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