ADDRESS TO THE NOMZAMO MANDELA SPORTS FOUNDATION

by Mrs Winnie Madikizela Mandela

20 September 1998

The Youth of the day!

The future of our country!

The investment of our stability

I salute you for the contributions you made to our struggle and the sacrifices you continue to make for us to be totally free!

With the dawn of the new Millennium which shows a promising future for Africa after such atrocities that have plagued the continent for centuries it is pleasing to note that there is a great deal of positiveness that is emerging with every day that passe. Africa is no longer a continent of famine, wars and poor people that have no future of politic, sports and human example. Sport especially is playing the most vital and pivotal role in developing the youth of Africa to be the example of the future for all youth through the world.

Africans all over (the world) notice with great pride and jubilation how athletes are breaking world records in almost every sport. Even the black athletes that are proud of calling themselves Americans can attest to the fact that deep down they are still Africans. We also stand up with pride and joy to see them succeeding in the sporting arenas.

As the first minister of sport and recreation for South Africa since the introduction of democracy in a country that was invested with the ills of apartheid that was the worst form of human discrimination has anyone could ever have been subjected to, we have seen what sport has done to repair, unify and develop our country and many others on our continent.

As a country we are committed to introduce and constantly help our developing sport in our country and the rest of Africa towards providing a better and focussed future for all our citizens.

We are proud to further be involved in democratising sport on our continent with South Africa contributing towards nationalising the major confederations of sport thus ensuring that champions are made and can be idolised as positive role models. Soccer is a very important sport in the world as is noted for the positive values especially with the youth. It instils self-discipline respect and character building which are so lacking in the society to – day. During the apartheid years soccer was our only sport we played amongst ourselves as we developed separately according to our ethnic groups. That we were able to feature in a world cup competition is an amazing achievement for people who were so oppressed that we were unable to be exposed internationally to test our strength.

I must congratulate you for the vision and insight you have to take sport to the people where they live in the rural areas so that sport is affordable and accessible to the “have nots” it is through sport that we can unify the youth of our land. I expect successful results as we believe that Africa deserves to control more international sports. As you know we have taken a lead in respect of Basketball and swimming. Both these have Africans as world presidents.

I applaud the youth for taking this initiative for positive developments in sports generally. This shows immense vision and dedication a definite desire for sports especially in a developing country such as South Africa. This burning desire and passion to contribute in an active way the wrong of the for a better and brighter future. This burning desire and passion to contribute in an active way the wrong of the past for a better and brighter future. This will further democratise sport in South Africa through the great struggle that we had to undergo in the time of apartheid regime.

It is with great pride that I launch the NOMZAMO MANDELA SPORT FOUNDATION. Today the 20th of September 1998. Once more I salute you your amazing vision. I bring you lots of love from your mothers who compromise 54% our society. You have our full support. We are sure of delivering to the ANC the 2/3 majority as the last onslaught on apartheid and effective transformation to empower the youth is to empower the nation and reduce the level of crime.

We as mothers bleed each time we see lives lost during heist bank robberies, hijacking etc. we regret the level of corruption in some organs of state. We congratulate home affairs for taking drastic steps by arresting all those who were involved in corruption within that department.

As we launch you into the millennium we rely on your footsteps behind us as we continue to seek a better life for our people. AMANDLA NGAWENU !!!