



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Nelson Mandela Foundation

Twenty-five years is a solid chunk of time: a quarter of a century, a third of a lifetime for those who live beyond 70, certainly enough time to grow up and take responsibility for yourself and others if you are a 25-year-old.

Thus, because we like to carve our lives into these measurable entities that trace our passage through life, the 25th anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela had particular resonance this month.

Twenty-five years ago, on 11 February 1990, Madiba walked out of the gates of Victor Verster Prison (now Groot Drakenstein Correctional Centre) in an atmosphere of exuberance and expectation. But first there were the four long years of hard and painful negotiations before the first democratic election was held in 1994.

What gave South Africans hope during those fraught times was Madiba's unshakeable strength and faith in an inclusive, non-racial future for the country.

For the youth, into whose hands we place South Africa and its future, a 25th anniversary means this event now belongs to their historic past. It is no longer a thing of living memory,

but a milestone that will be passed down to them by those who recall, the emotional experience of witnessing Madiba's first steps as a free man.

Our task is to find ways to reach out to the youth so that Madiba's objectives and ideals, so clearly reflected on that glorious day, remain central to the South African democratic project.

Through memory work, engagements, dialogues and ongoing efforts to tell Madiba's remarkable story and capture the essence of his thinking, we have much legacy work to do hence the ongoing initiatives that the Foundation has planned this year, many of which reach out to the youth directly.

It is, after all, the energy and optimism of the youth that will drive us forward, and our duty to remind them of the fine legacy of leadership and hope that they can draw on in their endeavours to realise social justice.

That is why our task at the Foundation remains necessary.

Sello Hatang

RECENT NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

Race and identity

The Foundation has been engaging in a focused way around the interlinked issues of reckoning with oppressive pasts, reconciliation, inherited societal divides, inequality, xenophobia, race and identity since 2005.

Most recently, the NMF partnered with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in convening focus groups on race and identity. The NMF plans these focus groups will lead to a national strategic dialogue programme to address issues in the communities in which they occur. The current outcome of these focus groups is a position paper that draws heavily on inputs from participants. This paper acknowledges that the strategies adopted in 1990s around issues such as land reform and employment equity were necessary and appropriate but that failures of implementation have ultimately undermined the reconciliation project. Social cohesion remains elusive. [Read more about the key insights and ways forward in the paper.](#)

Long Walk to Freedom in braille

Learners at the Prinshof School for the Visually Impaired in central Pretoria can now read Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom in braille. Eqstra in partnership with the NMF donated braille versions of his autobiography to the school on 23 February ([read more here](#)). Prinshof is a multi-cultural, dual-medium (English and Afrikaans) school with around 350 learners from all over South Africa. About 55% of the school's learners are from previously disadvantaged communities.

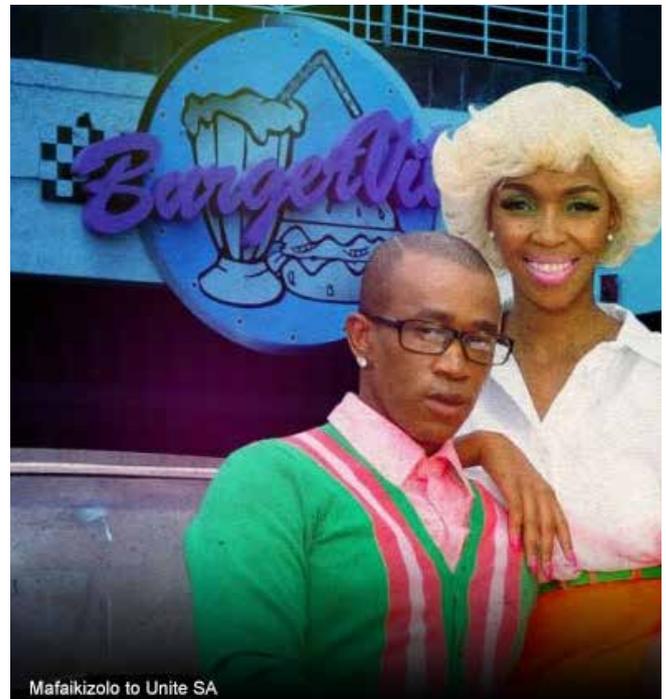
Mafikizolo Reunited South Africa Tour

The Afro-pop group Mafikizolo, together with the Foundation, have announced a six-city Mafikizolo Reunited South Africa Tour ([read more here](#)). For the tour, the award-winning duo, Nhlanhla Nciza and Theo Kgosinkwe, have partnered with the Foundation and the cities of Tshwane, Polokwane, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Nelson Mandela Bay and Johannesburg. Mafikizolo will entertain fans with their music, and engage youth in correctional services institutions. The idea is to create a platform to discuss critical social issues confronting today's youth, including alienation, identity, leadership, community and crime.

MAKING EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY

Trek4Mandela Kilimanjaro Challenge 2015 launched

The names of over 20 local ambassadors and participants in the fourth annual Trek4Mandela Executive Climb were announced on 17 February ([read more here](#)). This year, the initiative aims to raise sufficient funds to ensure that 270 000 girl children won't miss a day of school due to a lack of access to sanitary towels. Among those who have signed up for the challenge are Richard Mabaso, Imbumba Foundation founder and Trek4Mandela concept innovator; Sibusiso Vilane, South African adventurer and pack leader; Sello Hatang, CE of the Nelson Mandela



Foundation; Leanne Manas, SABC: Morning Live presenter and her husband Marc Menelaou; Isidingo actor Jack Devnarain; Kaya FM's Mo G and television personality Penny Lebyane. The climb is scheduled to summit on 18 July 2015 to coincide with Nelson Mandela International Day. There will be 27 climbers, one for each year that Madiba was in prison. Each climber is aiming to raise at least R1.5-million for Caring4Girls.

To play your part in achieving this goal, SMS "GIRLCHILD" to 42513 and pledge R30 (terms and conditions apply)

67 Blankets for Madiba going for World Record

It's a year since a group calling themselves "KnitWits for Madiba" launched their initiative, 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day. On 27 January this year, they celebrated their first birthday and guests were asked to bring along one completed bed-size handmade blanket, two baby blankets or 1.5kg of wool. The blanket challenge was sparked by Madiba's trusted assistant Zelda la Grange who suggested to philanthropist Carolyn Steyn that she knit 67 blankets for the needy. She called on her friends and the idea took off. It now involves hundreds of people from around the world knitting for Mandela Day. This year the knitting project has set an ambitious goal, a challenge of some 21 000 blankets by 21 April to mark 21 years of democracy. The blankets will be spread across the lawns of the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 21 April at the feet of the Nelson Mandela statue before being donated to charity organisations around the country. To see what the group is up to visit their [Facebook page](#) or [website](#).

Nelson Mandela Book Drive still open

There is still time to donate books to the [Nelson Mandela Book Drive](#). The drive, which was launched on 1 December last year in partnership with the Book People, aims to collect 67 000 books in three months. All books ordered and paid for on the Book People website will be donated to the initiative, an important part of the Foundation's work. The Nelson Mandela Leadership for Literacy project has identified education, literacy and cultures of learning and reading as key aspects of Madiba's legacy.



Foundation CE Sello Hatang, 67 Blankets for Madiba Founder Carolyn Steyn and Cell C CEO José dos Santos

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

A strong [Board of Trustees](#) ensures good governance and the preservation of Madiba's legacy within our organisation, and we are fortunate in this respect. We welcome three new Trustees to the Board.

During her prolific career, Ms. Maya Makanjee ([read her bio](#)) has gained experience across a number of different fields, including director positions in human resources, marketing and communications, corporate affairs, strategy, and business re-engineering. Maya joined the Board of Trustees at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in 2015, bringing her extensive commercial background, as well as a good understanding of and passion for making a difference to society at large.

She says: "For me, Madiba's legacy is not only about his vision for South Africa, but his vision for a better world. His reconciliatory attitude and his forgiveness are part of a huge legacy he left behind, and I think we have to remember that when we hit difficult times, not only as a country, but also within our personal lives."

As one of South Africa's leading radio and television news personalities, Ms. Nikiwe Bikitsha ([read her bio](#)) brings a fresh, youthful dynamic to our Board of Trustees. Her broad media experience puts her in good stead to champion the Foundation's work in promoting Madiba's legacy through various outreach programmes, and to create awareness around the Foundation itself and help facilitate its dialogues.

"At times when it seems our society is fractured, we need to tap back into his beliefs and what he stood for. He gave us the building blocks and we must not let them crumble. I strongly believe that whatever role you fulfil in society, you can make a difference," she says.

Trained as a historian, Prof. Carolyn Hamilton ([read her bio](#)) holds a National Research Foundation Chair in Archive and Public Culture at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and has published widely on the pre-industrial history of South Africa.

Prof. Hamilton will contribute to the Foundation's work in investigating the role of archive in public life.

"What social and political roles have the memory and archive of Madiba played in public life up until now and what role should or could they play going forward? Who mobilises the memory and archive of Madiba, and with what purposes and effects?" she asks.

"These are the kinds of questions I have spent a lifetime researching and the area in which my research chair is located."



Some Trek4Mandela 2015 Ambassadors (from left): Sibusiso Vilane, South African adventurer and trek leader; Leanne Manas, SABC: Morning Live presenter; Foundation CE Sello Hatang and Richard Mabaso, Imbumba Foundation Founder and Trek4Mandela concept innovator.

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