

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the
Nelson Mandela Foundation

In looking ahead in 2015, I am reminded of our Founder's words: "I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."

There are several milestones this year that give pause for reflection including: the 21st anniversary of our democracy, the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter and the 25th anniversary of Madiba's release from prison.

What does this coming of age mean for the work of the Foundation? And how will that first incredible step to freedom after 27 years of incarceration continue to resonate in the years ahead?

The unbanning of the organisations and the release of Madiba and all political prisoners heralded a process that led to the dismantling of apartheid and the advent of democracy. However, arguably, true freedom remains elusive even 21 years on.

We can't claim that the wounds of a deeply racial past have healed or that, as a country, we have moved beyond petty racism, as evidenced by a recent news report of an [alleged racial incident](#) at an upmarket hotel in Cape Town. For particularly the youth of this country, the challenge remains a fight for social justice and socio-economic freedom, while not losing sight of those who gave up their lives for these struggles. More so than ever before, it is in their hands to make a difference and to contribute towards the making of a country of their dreams.



Which brings us to the third significant moment of 2015, the deadline for the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals, a global blueprint for the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, and the improvement of human lives. As the deadline for these goals runs out at the end of 2015, work has already begun to shape a new set of objectives through the [MY World project](#), which offers people a chance to influence world leaders. Over 7-million people from all walks of life across the globe took part in the UN's MY World survey, and voted for the changes they want to see.

And thus, in endings there are always fresh beginnings, and the horizons remain dotted with hills to climb.

Similarly, we too have begun to contemplate our future a year after Nelson Mandela's passing. Some might wonder whether the Foundation's significance will fade with time as the Mandela legacy begins to fade within the collective memory.

This could not be further from the truth.

A bleak global outlook illustrates that our work at the Foundation is more pressing than ever and that Madiba's many lessons are increasingly relevant in a fractured world, marked

by conflict and alienation. Thus, we must continue to focus on our key imperatives in the promotion of social justice: that of keeping the memory and legacy of Nelson Mandela alive; encouraging open and constructive dialogue and advocacy; and living Madiba's ethos through making every day a Mandela Day.

A large component of our work in the year ahead will be around the ongoing challenge of racism that continues to cast a long shadow across the world, from Ferguson in Missouri to the suburbs of Pretoria. We will run a [series of crucial dialogues](#) in the upcoming months together with the SAHRC on the issue of racism, and expect this work to help address some of the scars we carry as a collective and as individuals.

More than ever before, we need peacemakers and visionaries of the calibre of Nelson Mandela, of Oliver Tambo, of Walter Sisulu and of Govan Mbeki – and in honouring his legacy we pledge to find ways to encourage others to follow in his footsteps – so that they, too, can summit those many hills that lie ahead.

Our journey is far from over.

Sello Hatang



SOME NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014

A core function of the Foundation is to promote a trusted voice on the life and times of Nelson Mandela, and to do the research and analysis needed for its ongoing work. The Foundation has a substantial and growing physical collection, but also documents a more fragmented archive held by institutions across the world. By documenting Mandela-related information, the Foundation is able to facilitate access for scholars and conserve this resource for generations to come. This year, the Foundation celebrates several highlights in this regard.

Correcting Long Walk to Freedom: marking the 20th anniversary of the book's publication

Nelson Mandela first started writing his autobiography in secret on Robben Island in 1976 at the behest of his comrades, including long-time friend and Foundation trustee Ahmed Kathrada. The idea was for it to be smuggled out of prison and published in time for his 60th birthday in 1978, in what was one of the most elaborate and complex publishing exercises ever to have been conceived.

Although the autobiography only found its way into print in 1994, it remains the primary resource on the life and times of Nelson Mandela for people around the world. Inevitably the text's evolution generated elisions, collisions and imprecisions. Most significantly, the teams that worked on it did not have access to critical archival resources. For a decade now the Foundation's Research and Archive team have been locating, documenting and interrogating those resources. [Read more about this project.](#)

Saving paper for the future

"Slow fire" is a term used to describe what happens to archival paper over time if the paper is too acidic, causing it to become brittle and decay. To prevent this happening to thousands of President Mandela's papers that are currently housed in the Foundation's archive, the Embassy of the United States of America has sponsored a [deacidification process](#) that painstakingly removes harmful acids and extends the lifespan of the paper for at least another 50 years.

Exhibition: In the Frontline

During the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, neighbouring countries, known as the Frontline States, supported the liberation movement and suffered intensely as a result. This period, between 1975 and 1994, is to be showcased through a selection of iconic photographs that show the devastating effect of the apartheid war in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. [The exhibition](#), a collaboration between the Foundation, Zimmedia and ProGroup, will launch in the first quarter of 2015.

25th anniversary of Madiba's release

On 11 February 1990, Nelson Mandela was finally released from the Victor Verster Prison (now the Drakenstein Correctional Facility) near Paarl after 27 years in prison. On the evening of this historic day, he addressed a crowd at the Grand Parade in Cape Town with the words: "Friends, comrades and fellow

South Africans. I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom for all.” Keep an eye on our website for details on how we will mark this event.

DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY

Dialogue and advocacy lie at the heart of the Foundation’s work. It is through these two instruments that we seek to promote justice and social cohesion by pursuing sustainable solutions to critical social issues of the day. South Africa’s history of transformative dialogue, problem-solving and social renewal are the driving forces behind this aspect of our work, which will continue to be a big focus in the year ahead.

International Mandela Dialogues open hearts and minds

As the Foundation’s Director of Research and Archive, Verne Harris, points out, Madiba gave the Foundation “the mandate to do the difficult work of memory in reckoning with our pasts”. This is not limited to South Africa alone but extends across the world to all countries grappling with oppressive pasts. [The International Mandela Dialogues](#), which took place over a period of nine months between November 2013 and July 2014, brought together 26 participants from 10 countries in three sessions held in South Africa, Phnom Penh in Cambodia and Berlin in Germany. The dialogues were a collaboration of the Foundation and the Global Leadership Academy, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). During the 12 days of active dialogue, participants were able to discuss openly their personal, collective and professional challenges in reckoning with the past, a process that is documented in the final report entitled [The Mandela Dialogues on Memory Work](#).

Racism Dialogue Series

This year, the Foundation will host an [invitation-only Racism Dialogue Series](#), looking at what racism means in the context of South Africa’s 21-year-old democracy and for the legacy of Nelson Mandela. The series will bring together thought leaders across generations and communities in South Africa to explore the issue of race, which remains a critical faultline in South Africa’s social landscape and frequently bubbles up during public debate.

MAKE EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY

Behind the Nelson Mandela Day Campaign is a simple call to action that says each individual has the ability and responsibility to make a difference, following the example of Nelson Mandela’s 67 years of service. [Nelson Mandela Day](#) is now a global movement for positive change, bringing together people from all walks of life from government through to the general public. All those who participate are united in the mission to inspire change through personal action, and 2015 brings with it several exciting projects.

Trek4Mandela Executive Kilimanjaro Challenge 2015 (in support of the Caring4Girls project)

Research shows that many girls from impoverished backgrounds miss up to 50 days of school a year due to menstrual hygiene-related challenges. This sobering fact is what gave rise to the organisation Caring4Girls, which has joined hands with the Trek4Mandela Executive Kilimanjaro Challenge to raise funds to supply girls with sanitary towels, so that they need never miss another day of school.

[Trek4Mandela will take place in July this year](#), and challenges South African leaders to tackle the ultimate African outdoor challenge of summiting Mount Kilimanjaro for Mandela Day. Participants are expected to collectively raise sufficient funds to support 270 000 girls in South Africa, in honour of Madiba’s 27 years imprisonment for our freedom.

Literacy for Leadership

Literacy, and a culture of learning and reading, are key elements of a sound education, something that always lay close to Nelson Mandela’s heart. In the year ahead, the [Nelson Mandela Literacy for Leadership project](#) aims to encourage youngsters to read the stories of Mr Mandela’s life and times.

To this end, accessible publications on Nelson Mandela have been developed specifically for youngsters and will be rolled out this year. These materials include the Authorised Comic Book on Nelson Mandela, aimed at teens, and a children’s version of the Long Walk to Freedom, adapted for six- to 10-year-olds, and available in all of South Africa’s official languages.



MEET OUR 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 look forward to welcoming three new Trustees to the Board in February 2015. In the meantime, here are the current Members of the Board who have helped guide and support the Foundation as we move forward.

The former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Professor Njabulo Ndebele ([bio](#)), is a thoughtful and reflective Chair. Aside from being a renowned academic, he is also the author of acclaimed pieces, including *The Cry of Winnie Mandela*.

Nelson Mandela's friend and former prison comrade, Ahmed Kathrada ([bio](#)), continues to remind us of the values that his old brother in arms stood for.

Trade unionist Kgalema Motlanthe ([bio](#)) is a former President and Deputy President of South Africa, and served 10 years on Robben Island for his political activities.

Tokyo Sexwale ([bio](#)) was released from Robben Island at the same time as Nelson Mandela in 1990. More recently he founded Global Watch, an organisation working to eliminate racism in all sporting codes.

Non-Executive Chair and the Founder of the diversified investment holding company Thesele Group, Sello Moloko ([bio](#)) also chairs the Investment Committee for the Foundation.

A medical doctor and the former MD of the World Bank, Dr Mamphela Ramphele ([bio](#)) has stepped away from her recent involvement in national politics and now devotes her attention to her work as an "active citizen".

Qualified chartered accountant and the first black woman to be appointed a partner at one of the four big accounting firms in South Africa, Dr Futhi Mtoba ([bio](#)) holds many awards for her role in business.

Social campaigner Irene Menell ([v](#)) holds the Order of the Baobab in Silver for her pioneering literacy work as the founding chair of the READ organisation. She also worked closely with the late Helen Suzman, who regularly visited Nelson Mandela in prison.



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