

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

Usually the months of September and October are relatively quiet on the Nelson Mandela Foundation calendar; they provide a period of reflection and review after the demands of Nelson Mandela International Day and the Annual Lecture.

This year, however, our Annual Lecture programme unfolded in the last week of September and first week of October, providing us with a second operational peak on the calendar.

It has been an extraordinarily rich and fruitful period for us. The focus, of course, has been on the 13th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture, but at the same time we have sustained an array of routine memory and dialogue projects and interventions.

Highlights since the last newsletter include: the launch of the exhibition *Between States of Emergency*, a photographic representation of the tumultuous 1980s in South Africa; the acquisition of two new archival collections documenting political violence in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Codesa negotiations, the transition to democracy and the work of the Constitutional Assembly; another successful Mandela Day relay in partnership with Kaya FM; a dialogue engagement with SRC representatives from universities around the country; and a full programme of dialogue interventions on race and identity, in partnership with the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation.

The latter has seen considerable preliminary work completed for the establishment of an anti-racism network, to address what has become a critical fault line in South Africa.

In addition, we welcomed the first incumbents to the new positions of Dialogue Analyst/Co-ordinator and Media Analyst/Co-ordinator, and undertook a sustained drive for new funding streams.

Another extremely busy period then, in which the 13th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture loomed largest. Delivered by world-renowned French economist Professor Thomas Piketty, this was arguably our most successful Annual Lecture ever. Professor Piketty has done ground-breaking research and analysis on patterns of poverty and inequality globally, and brought to the South African context a range of proposals for addressing this twin scourge.

In addition to the Annual Lecture, he engaged South Africans in three formal dialogue forums, as well as a number of informal gatherings.

The lecture itself was broadcast live by the SABC and was available in more than 50 African countries on the continent. In addition, the lecture was live-streamed on the Internet and delivered directly to the University College Dublin, Ireland; Polytechnic of Namibia; University of the West Indies; Ibadan University, Nigeria; Lund University, Sweden; National University of Singapore; University of Ghana and the Pan African University. The media coverage and impact on public discourse was unprecedented.

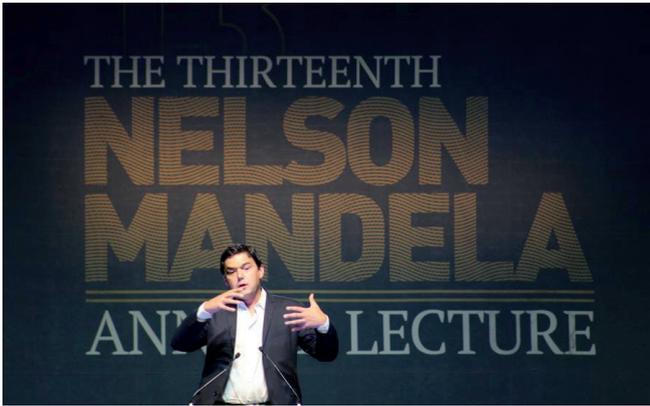
A transcript of the lecture, the full video, links to media reports and other resources are available on our website. And, for the first time, in partnership with the University of Johannesburg (UJ), we hosted more than 2 000 guests on the day. UJ made its Soweto campus available for the event, providing a venue appropriate for the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter in Soweto in 1955.

In another first for the Annual Lecture, we used the lecture programme to launch a major new national project on poverty and inequality. This demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that the lecture is a catalyst for continuing work, rather than a stand-alone event.

The project, named the Mandela Initiative, is designed to address the challenge posed by poverty and inequality in South Africa. A partnership between the Foundation and a think tank representing universities and structures of the state and civil society, the Mandela Initiative will draw on an extensive body of research and analysis to generate a national conversation on identifying sustainable solutions to what is an intractable problem.

I am grateful to all our stakeholders and partners for their support over the past two months. Please continue to work with us, as we keep exploring ways of ensuring that Madiba's legacy remains a living one.

Warm regards
Sello Hatang



RECORD ATTENDANCE AS THOMAS PIKETTY DELIVERS NELSON MANDELA ANNUAL LECTURE 2015

Renowned French economist Thomas Piketty delivered the highly anticipated 13th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture on 3 October 2015, addressing a 2 000-strong audience at the University of Johannesburg's Soweto campus.

High-quality public education, a wealth tax, a national minimum wage and involving workers in the decision-making of companies will help South Africa successfully tackle inequality and poverty, he said.

According to Piketty, available data confirmed South Africa was one of the most unequal countries in the world and that this could not only be explained by high unemployment, which stands at 25.2%.

He said while apartheid had played a part in entrenching inequality and poverty in South Africa, the poor quality of public education was not helping.

“It is fair to say the quality of education in this country is not satisfactory and should be a national priority, and a lot of progress needs to be made in this direction ... There is no other option than to try to improve the quality of education. There is no other strategy – privatising education will not work as well in order to have sustainable and reputable growth; a well-functioning education and health system will do so,” he said.

[Read the full story.](#)

Transcript and video of the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture 2015

[Click here to read the edited transcript of Piketty's 2015 address.](#)

[Follow this link to watch the full video.](#)

Reactions from the audience

The 13th Nelson Mandela Annual lecture, held at the University of Johannesburg's Soweto campus, was met with much excitement – from ordinary South Africans to the country's entertainers and newspaper editors.

[Click here to read what some of them had to say.](#)



NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

The year 2014-15 was the moment in the Foundation's history when we confronted the reality of life and work without our founder. All the hard work over a decade to ensure the sustainability, relevance and impact of the organisation after his passing was given its first test.

[Click here to download and read the latest Annual Report.](#)



BETWEEN STATES OF EMERGENCY - HONOURING PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO RISKED ALL TO EXPOSE APARTHEID

A photographic exhibition honouring photographers in the 1980s who defied martial law to expose the atrocities of apartheid, is now open at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg.

Between States of Emergency highlights the work of 40 photographers working in South Africa from 21 July 1985 to 7 June 1990, when a series of States of Emergency were imposed to clamp down on anti-apartheid protests. The emergency regulations were continually refined to prevent the media reporting on these protests, and the brutal crackdown that followed.

Giving the keynote address at the launch of the exhibition, Rehana Rossouw, a journalist, anti-apartheid activist and author, saluted the Nelson Mandela Foundation for honouring the photographers in this way and particularly noted the work of journalists at that time in the anti-apartheid media, also known as the “the alternative media”. She noted publications such as Grassroots, South, Saamstaan, Vrye Weekblad and the Weekly Mail.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

COLLECTIONS DETAIL SOUTH AFRICA'S PAINFUL TRANSITION

Centre of Memory ‘the best’ home for donated archives To the world, South Africa’s transition from apartheid to democracy was a peaceful and miraculous process. Two archival collections donated to the Nelson Mandela Foundation Centre of Memory detail the inaccuracy of this perception.

The year after Nelson Mandela’s release from prison on 11 February 1990, the country was plunged into violence. Multi-party negotiations to end white minority rule, which began in December 1991, had to repeatedly claw South Africa back from the precipice before finally reaching agreement on an internationally hailed constitution.

[Click here to read more.](#)

TRACING THE UNBREAKABLE THREAD: A DIALOGUE ON RACE

The South African History Archive and the Nelson Mandela Foundation hosted a dialogue on non-racialism in contemporary South Africa, on 22 September at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg.

Marking the event was the online re-launching of Julie Frederikse’s *The Unbreakable Thread: Non-racialism in South Africa*, 25 years after its first publication. The dialogue was part of continuing efforts by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to critique concepts of race and racial relations in contemporary South Africa, and builds on the Foundation’s position paper published earlier this year.

Joining Frederikse on a dialogue panel were Neeshan Balton (Ahmed Kathrada Foundation), Obenewa Amponsah (Steve Biko Foundation) and Sello Hatang (Nelson Mandela Foundation). A robust interchange between the panellists broadened into discussion and debate with the audience. A strong sense of South Africa being stuck around issues of race and identity emerged. However, views differed markedly on how to find a way out of this impasse.

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

ONE MILLION COMFORTS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Independent Media, in partnership with Dis-Chem and the Dis-Chem Foundation, recently announced the launch of the One Million Comforts campaign aimed at keeping girls in school by ensuring that there are no interruptions to their education owing to monthly menstruation.



The project, in association with the Imbumba Foundation’s Caring4Girls project, aims to amass over one million sanitary towels between 14 September and mid-October. It is calling on the public and readers of Independent Media titles to assist in collecting the products.

According to the Foundation’s research, it is estimated that girls between the ages of 12 and 18 in disadvantaged areas can miss up to a quarter of their schooling when menstruating because they do not have access to adequate sanitary protection, or are unable to afford it. The distribution of sanitary towels in areas affected can have a practical impact on school attendance.

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



LONG WALK TO FREEDOM LIBRARY ARRIVES AT ISIZIBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday, 4 September, 1 264 children gathered at the Isiziba Primary School in Tembisa for the opening of the Long Walk to Freedom Library, which was made possible through the partnership of Saray Khumalo, Momentum and the Mandela Bangle Programme via Participate for Good, the public benefit organisation.

Preparation of the library had been happening for weeks. The Momentum Multiply team painted the library on 28 August and sourced fantastic bean bags made by local women using recycled materials, as well as chairs and tables for the reading corner.

Two hundred pencil cases were made from recycled Momentum banners, filled and given to the school to be handed out for achievement and motivation of the kids.

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