



CELEBRATING MADIBA'S LEGACY

MESSAGE FROM THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO THE PEOPLE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Introduction

As the nation holds its breath regarding the health situation of former President Nelson Mandela we, the faith leaders of KwaZulu-Natal, wish to express our thoughts to our constituencies, at this critical time for our nation.

Prayer support

The collective experience of prayer which has been offered since the news of his most recent hospitalisation over a month ago has been welcomed by the family, and has been acknowledged as fitting testimony to the incredible influence this one man has had on our collective identity and psyche as a nation. We commend these prayers, and encourage you to continue with them on an individual as well as collectively within our communities and as a nation.

Realism and moral support

Whilst our prayers are focused on the healing of Madiba and bringing peace to him, his family and the nation, we need to be realistic, and accept that beyond the prayers for healing and peace for Madiba, there will come a time when he will go to his eternal rest which he so richly deserves. When the inevitable collective grief of the nation occurs, it is here that the influence of the faith communities can and should be felt by the nation, as we hold onto and bear witness to the hope that all of us carry. Grief should not overwhelm us or our nation, rather we should point the way to the future that Madiba would want of us, a future of hope, peace and creating a country that embraces all the values for which he stands.

The Legacy

We believe that the lasting legacy of Nelson Mandela to our nation lies in the values he has espoused during his life and leadership among us which are integral to our identity as faith communities, and to the future of our nation. We ought to be able to model these values in the manner in which we relate to one another and to the world around us, enabling his values to be translated in our manners and unity as a nation.

The Values

Mandela stands for:

- Forgiveness and reconciliation. It is imperative to accept one another and seek to continue to be at peace with ourselves and the nation

- Equality for all
- The rule of law
- Liberation of all people in South Africa black and white, men and women
- Human dignity, human freedom (*speech, association, movement, expression and choice*) and human development
- Transparency, accountability, integrity and respect among the peoples

The future

There will, inevitably, be sadness. But beyond the sadness is hope and a new future, and we encourage you to model that new future in the values that have been lived by Nelson Mandela, and have won him the respect of world leaders. Our nation could earn that respect too, if we ensured that the values for which he stands for are an integral part of our life together.

Endorsed by:

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