



LET'S LIVE MANDELA'S LEGACY: PRESS STATEMENT ON THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF NELSON MANDELA

On 5 December 2013, Tata Nelson Mandela, Father of the nation, was called to eternal rest.

On that day, we mourned the loss of an iconic and influential giant whose sense of justice, equality and respect for human dignity, the world has rarely seen.

We lost him at a time in the history of our democracy when we needed the values which he championed the most.

As we mourned the sad loss and celebrated his legacy, Diakonia Council of Churches reminded the nation to prioritise those principles that he espoused and lived by, and prayed for the nation to rediscover the values that he so steadfastly and passionately dedicated his life to.

On this first anniversary of his death, Diakonia Council of Churches once again takes this opportunity to remind the nation of these immortal values and principles. These should always be written in our hearts and should form the essence of who we are as a people. We should not only remember him on Nelson Mandela Day - when we do 67 minutes of charity or on 5 December - the day he died - to do a charitable act or two.

Each and every day of our lives should be for South Africans a day to remember the legacy of Mandela and translate it into action. Each and every day should be for us a day to promote justice, equality and human dignity, by standing in solidarity with those who suffer injustice, those who are marginalised, the poor and those who are not yet benefitting from the fruits of this democracy that Mandela made those priceless sacrifices for.

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