

*Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho
lwayo.*

*Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le
matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke
setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika -
South Afrika.*

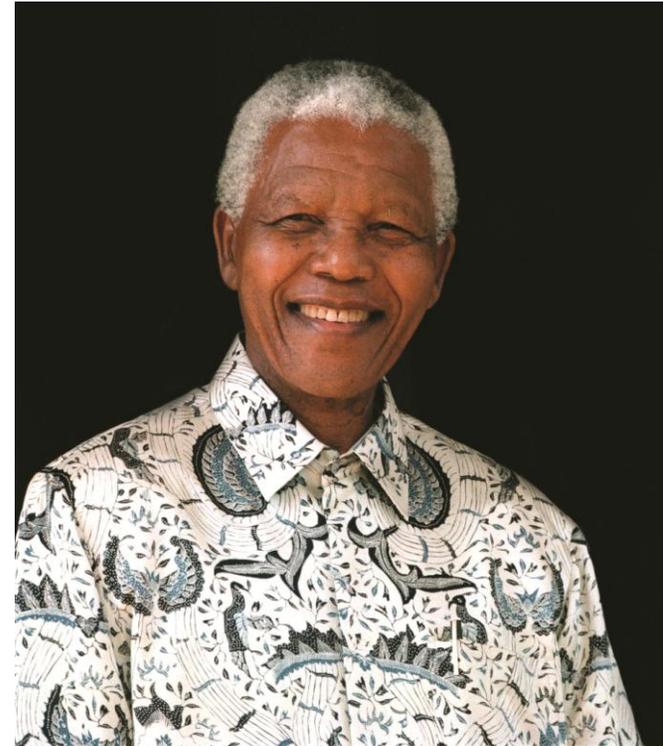
*Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,*

*Sounds the call to come
together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for
freedom,
In South Africa our land!*



***Service of Thanksgiving for the
life of President Nelson
Rolihlahla Mandela***

18 July 1918 - 5 December 2013



12 December 2013

10:00

***Cathedral of Saint Michael and
Saint Gudula***

*"I have cherished the ideal of a
democratic and free society in which
all persons live together in harmony
and with equal opportunities. It is an
ideal which I hope to live for and to
achieve. But if needs be, it is an
ideal for which I am prepared to die."
- Nelson Mandela, Rivonia Trial 1964*

Obituary

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in Mvezo, Transkei on 18 July 1918, to Nongaphi Nosekeni and Henry Gadla Mandela. His father was the key advisor to the Thembu royal house. After his father's death in 1927, the young Rolihlahla became the ward of Chief Jongintaba Dalindyebo, the acting regent of the Thembu nation. It was at the Thembu royal homestead that his personality, values and political views were shaped.

When he was only 25 years old, Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress. His political career would span decades more – as he himself said: "The struggle is my life." The young Mandela also qualified and practiced as a lawyer. Together with Oliver Tambo he opened the first black legal practice in Johannesburg.

He was instrumental in the formation of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) and was elected the League's National Secretary in 1948 and President in 1952. He was an instrumental force behind the formation of a new section of the liberation movement, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and was Commander in Chief of MK.

He left the country in 1962 and travelled abroad to arrange guerilla training for members of Umkhonto weSizwe. On his return to South Africa he was arrested for illegally exiting the country and incitement to strike. At the Rivonia Trial, Mandela was charged with sabotage and with other accused was sentenced to life imprisonment in Robben Island, near Cape Town. He served a total of 27 years in prison for his conviction to fight apartheid and its injustices.

Released on 11 February 1990, Mandela plunged wholeheartedly into his life's work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost four decades earlier. In a life that symbolises the triumph of the human spirit, Nelson Mandela accepted the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize (along with FW de Klerk) on behalf of all South Africans who suffered and sacrificed so much to bring peace to our land. The era of apartheid formally came to an end on the April 27, 1994, when Nelson Mandela voted for the first time in his life – along with his people.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was inaugurated as President of a democratic South Africa on 10 May 1994 and served one term.

Even as he retired from politics, his attention shifted to social issues such as HIV and AIDS and the wellbeing of the nation's children. Mandela also formed the prestigious group called The Elders – to help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.

Mr Mandela is survived by his wife Graça, three daughters and 18 grandchildren.

Hamba kahle Madiba! Your legacy will live on.

Order of Service

A. Diplomatic Introduction

Welcome.....Bishop Jean Kockerols

Introductory words.....H.E. Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi, South African Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Union

AddressH.E. Mr. Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

AddressMr. Peteris Ustubs, Director for West & Central Africa, European External Action Service

Address.....H.E. Ambassador Dirk Achten, Secretary-General, Federal Public Service, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Development Trade

Address.....H.E. Ms Joëlle Milquet, Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister for Home Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Federal Government of Belgium

B. The Service

Introductory words.....Dr. Robert Innes

Reading from the Scriptures & Sermon

Musical item: Ms Tutu Puoane

Prayers & Benediction

C. Vote of thanks Ms Janine Van Rooy, Counsellor - South African Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Mission to the European Union

D. The National Anthem of South Africa
The Anthem of the European Union
The National Anthem of Belgium