

## Honoring the Sacrificial, Public Life and the Legacy of Nelson Mandela

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July 18 marked a hundred years since the birth of Nelson Mandela, the human rights champion, president of South Africa (1994–1999) and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Shortly before the celebrations began in Mvezo, South Africa, his birthplace, his grandson Chief Mandla Zwelivelile Mandela, spoke in a televised interview of UPF's participation in planning and carrying out the celebrations. He added, "As you can see, gathered here are young people who have come from all across the world, brought by the Universal Peace Federation to come and be part of this historic moment." This speech was delivered during the celebrations to a large audience of Mandela's family and compatriots.

Honorable President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, Former President F. W. de Klerk, Former President K. Motlanthe, Former President Jacob Zuma, His Royal Majesty Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, the

Royal House of Mandela, International Former Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Parliamentarians, Honorable Ministers, Religious Leaders, Civic Leaders, Traditional Rulers, and Invited Guests:

Warm greetings from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in Korea. Your Excellences, ladies and gentlemen! I stand before you today to venerate a man who epitomized the words extolled by Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, that is, "live for the sake of others." The life Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela lived was never self-serving; he always lived for the betterment of the collective whole. I am deeply and profoundly honored to deliver this message on behalf of the founder of the Universal Peace Federation, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.



Today, as we celebrate the centennial birthday of President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, let us be reminded and indeed reflect on his selfless service not only to the Republic of South Africa but to the entire human race. We call on all peace-loving citizens in the world to observe this day in particular and this centenary year of Mandela with appropriate activities and ceremonies that honor and give thanks to this icon of humanity. Madiba's life was devoted to securing the democracy and blessings of freedom that South Africa and much of the world enjoy today, and he deserves our respect and unending gratitude.

Honored guests, President Mandela's greatness did not only come about because of his long years of incarceration in the dungeons of oppression and injustice, nor only because of the grievous torture and humiliation wrought by the apartheid oppression; his greatness also lies in his audacity to defy the masses, who demanded brutal and unmitigated justice, by forgiving and reconciling with his oppressors. In his visionary mind, Madiba acceded to the words found in the Holy Book that implore us to forgive our enemies and echoed the words of Dr. Martin Luther King who declared that "no one is free until all are free."



### **He placed his life on the line**

Let us remember and honor Madiba's valor and the sacrifices that he made for the cause of peace. It is worth noting that Madiba, in his magnanimity, always pointed out and reminded us that he did not fight the struggle single-handedly. We therefore want to remember and honor his comrades, too numerous to mention by name. Suffice to mention Mama Abertina Sisulu, Oom Beyer Naude and Ahmed Kathrada. Because of their selfless dedication and sacrifices, we enjoy freedom and democracy today.

Let us remember the words President Mandela uttered during the Rivonia trial in 1964, "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 that I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." As we celebrate President Mandela's centenary year, let us reflect on his legacy of nation building, national reconciliation and social cohesion. South Africa has achieved so much under Madiba's astute leadership, but we must also realize that the long walk to freedom is far from accomplished.

Madiba helped open the doors to freedom and democracy and laid the foundation upon which we can build. In pursuit of his ideals, the Royal House of Mandela is partnering with the Universal Peace Federation to celebrate his life and legacy in a way that is worthy and indeed iconic in this historic venue, Mvezo, the birthplace of our dear president. Mandela's name and legacy is cherished, loved and owned by those who believe in peace, justice, prosperity and human rights for all. His legacy is invoked in international and global forums, and his words of inspiration are on the lips of those fighting for freedom and democracy around the globe.

### **Lives with holy purpose**

Your Excellencies, Ladies And Gentlemen: it is worth noting that President Mandela was born in 1918 and another global icon was born two years later in 1920. These contemporaries, in my view, were raised by divine purpose to bring peace to the world. Dr. Moon and Mrs. Moon are the cofounders of the Universal Peace Federation. The Universal Peace Federation is an international and inter-religious network of individuals and organizations, including representatives from governments, religions, academia, civil society and private organizations dedicated to the promotion of world peace. UPF supports the work of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of interfaith peace-building, peace education, and the strengthening of marriages and families. UPF, inter alia promotes the following principles: Stand on the common ground of universal moral principles, promoting reconciliation, overcoming barriers and building peace; promote co-operation beyond boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity and nationality; practice "living for the sake of others" as the guiding principle for building a global human community; form a network representing the diversity of the human family and all disciplines of human endeavor.

Your Excellencies, Ladies And Gentlemen! Is it not quite remarkable and profound that the ideals that President Mandela stood for and indeed "was prepared to die for" are in resonance with the principles espoused by Rev. and Mrs. Moon? One wonders what the world would have become had these colossal human beings met and worked together!

UPF is presently working with the Royal House of Mandela to actualize this, starting with today's celebration. His Majesty Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela was with us in Dakar, Senegal, and again in South Korea earlier this year. We are together in Mvezo and I would like to use this opportunity to remind you of our joint hosting of the second Africa Summit to Celebrate the Centenary of Nelson Mandela's Birth. May the legacy of President Mandela -- of peace, reconciliation and justice for all -- live on as we navigate our way through these trying times. Let us not defer Madiba's cherished dream of a democratic and free society, in which all live together in harmony. As South Africa works to realize President Mandela's ideals of peace and prosperity for all, rest assured that UPF intends to join you in your long walk to freedom! Siya bulela mawethu! Enkosi. [Thank you my friends! Thank you]