Los Angeles Mission

San Francisco
Pays tribute to a LEGEND

The city and people of San Francisco gathered in their hundreds to pay tribute to the departed founding President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. In this regard we thank the Mayor of San Francisco, Mayor Lee for the memorial service he organized in the rotunda of the San Francisco City Hall. Consul General Ndaba joined the likes of the four term Secretary of State, George Schulz, Speaker Willie Brown, Senator Mark Leno and Mayor Lee who all delivered eulogies for Nelson Mandela. We thank you San Francisco, we thank you!!! Madiba loved you, he still does and he will always love you.

Inside this issue

Los Angeles celebrates Mandela.......................P2-3
Tributes in L.A and San Francisco continue..................P4
Oakland honors Nelson Mandela..........................P5
Africa-US Investment.......................P6
California State Senate Rules Committee....................P7
20 Years of Freedom and Trade Partnerships.............P8

Photos taken by Charlotte Fiorito
Hundreds gathered in honor of Nelson Mandela as services were held in Los Angeles, at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (First A.M.E. Church). Many attended out of their respect in honor for the life and character of Nelson Mandela. He has always had a distinct ability to gather the people as one, and continues to draw people by the values that he has instilled in South Africa and the world.

Consul General Ndaba shared the legacy of Nelson Mandela with the audience as he had the privilege of several personal encounters with the Founding President of South Africa.
Consul General Ndaba graciously opened the Book of Condolences at the Official Residence as well as the Los Angeles Mission to assist with the influx of people desiring to pay their respects for Nelson Mandela.

Among those that signed the book were Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti and a host of others with the intent expressing their hearts sentiments. Many journeyed from near and far and lighted upon the Consulate-General recounting their memories of Madiba’s struggle, his freedom from prison, his character and how he changed the lives of South Africans and many others around the world.

One such person felt led to share her emotions as she, choking back tears wrote these words,

“As I reflect on the implications of your magnificent life and special kind of power you harnessed, what I’ve come to believe is this: It was your conviction, like a stake driven irrevocably into the earth, declaring freedom and justice for all that summoned forces seen and unseen – to bring it about. Your unrelenting courage, endurance, determination, and soul-searching brought forth from within you a private power so great, that the world stepped up at every turn to meet it. If only we all accessed the courage and power you beheld for the highest good...

Rest easy. Rest well. Rest Satisfied, recognizing that you bent the future toward a higher, finer course of equality, compassion, forgiveness, and possibility; and rekindled in us all a renewed sense of universal humanity…”

Ms. Janis Peterson,

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From the Desk of the Consul General

Greetings,

Belated compliments of the New Year to all of you. We entered the New Year still reeling from the sad departure of the Founding Father of the South African nation, the Icon of icons, the late Former President Nelson Mandela. The Consul General criss-crossed the length and breadth of the State of California attending Memorial Services in Los Angeles, the Bay area and Sacramento on behalf of the government and the liberated people of South Africa.

I would like to thank all of our friends in churches, city halls, state legislature, universities, media (print and electronic) and the public at large for messages of condolences and the signing of the Books of Condolence during the period of National bereavement. You showed that you were not only with us during our struggle for liberation and freedom but also with us as we mourned the passing of the international legend that Madiba was.

Sincerely,

Ndaba
Cathedral of St. Paul

Poignant words were given by Consul General Ndaba, Bishop Mackenzie and others as many attended the Memorial that took place at the Cathedral of St. Paul, in the City of Los Angeles.

The congregation was led into declarations of truth and songs of victory which confirmed that Nelson Mandela’s legacy continues to live on. Tribute was also paid by South African Gumboot dancers as they gave a rousing performance lifting the spirits of many.

Bishop Mackenzie reminded the congregation of how through many treacherous attacks, unfair acts of violence and ruthless racial crimes Mandela kept the nation together. At times when there could have been retaliation and all out war, Madiba encouraged peace...ultimately Mandela has kept the world together through his character and values.

The Bay area is historically one of the major hubs of the anti-apartheid movement. Vigilant people in the heart of this region fought hard to push the Divestment Movement and raise up other anti-apartheid agencies such as the Committee for South African Solidarity (COSAS). Sagie Govendar and friends of South Africa joined together in celebration of the life of Legend, and Former President Nelson Mandela.
Dozens of South Africans expats living and working in Berkley and Oakland, California gathered their dozens of young and old, black, Indian, white and coloured at a South African Restaurant, "Conga" to pay tribute to their beloved, Tata Mandela. The President’s life was celebrated in song, dance, prose and poetry.

Mayor Jean Quan of Oakland, California, Deputy Mayor Sandre Swanson and Mayor of Berkley, Gus Newport and hundreds of people joined CG in paying tribute to the departed Nelson Mandela at the Rotunda of the Oakland City Hall.
Los Angeles

Consul General Ndaba greets Senator McCain as the Mission continues to build relationships with key leaders in the areas of jurisdiction for the Los Angeles Mission.

Africa-US Investment Forum on the RISE

The Los Angeles Mission is playing a leading role in Regional Integration primarily South African Development Committee (SADC). Consul General Ndaba recently met with Gilbert Tong; First Vice President of Merrill Lynch and Munashe Furusa; Dean of College of Arts and Culture and Director of the California African America Political and Economic Institute (CAAPEI) at CSU Dominguez Hills. Additional participants to the Africa-US West Coast Investment Forum included Larry Kimaara, Manager of Business Process Mgmt at CSU Dominguez Hills, Paquita Kimbrough, Vice President of Wealth Management at Bank of America and Mathew Woolley of Blackrock Investments.

Discussions included the opportunities that exist with high net worth individuals that are ready to expand into frontier markets within the African nations; the possibility of CAAPEI becoming a knowledge–base or repository for potential investors as well as confirmations of those that are willing to become investment vehicles by working with their existing partners.

The Missions aim is to continue the promote investment in the SADC regions and abroad.

(l-r) Mr L Kimaara, CG Ndaba, Mr G Tong (1st VP Merrill Lynch), Ms P Kimbrough (VP Bank of America), Dr M Furusa, CG Codo and Mr M Woolley of Blackrock Investments.
Invited by the Hon. Darrell Steinberg, Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee to a recent reception the Consul General found himself surrounded by overwhelming adoration for South Africa. Almost immediately upon his arrival to the state capitol he was in the midst of many friends of South Africa in high places. The invitation came be the way of the MR. Steinberg who is also the Chairman of the California State International Relations Foundation (CSIRF), an organization made of Senate members as well as philanthropists and business owners that make it possible for the State Senate programs to be carried on worldwide.

The Mission quickly realized that there was a clear appetite within the State of California to engage with South Africa and Africa at large. The Mission purposed to participate in discussions with Senate members, Board members and Contributors alike hoping to leverage relations that will help to further affairs between California, South Africa and other regions of Africa. Several members spoke highly of their previous visits to South Africa and hinted of their possible return for a greater purpose in 2014.

Discussions ensued around the proposed Trilateral Free Trade Agreement (TFTA), the developments of the Southern African Development Committee (SADC) and the interests SADC countries have expressed in opening missions in the Los Angeles and San Francisco regions of California. The promotion of the SADC and other African countries are priority to the Los Angeles Mission. As the mission plans introduce potential investors to developments within South Africa and the SADC region it will unveil its first annual SADC Day in August of 2014.

Welcomed Surprises at the Senate...

Senator Bob Huff (R) Senate Minority Leader and CG Ndaba
Trade City Partnership forges AHEAD

The trenches have been dug by the Los Angeles Mission to forge relationships between the City of Portland and The City of uMhlathuze in Richards Bay. The similarities between the Port Cities have opened up possibilities in the areas of arterial and corridor development, freight development, community development and much more... to solidify the relationship between the cities, the Mayors have reached an agreement which concluded with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

During a recent working trip to South Africa, the Consul General met on 12 March 2014 with Mayor Elphas Mbatha of Richards Bay and Mr. Pumi Motsoahae, CEO of the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone and Mr. Sam Zungu, Director of Umfolozi FET. Mr. Motsoahae graciously shared the proposed development plans for the Mhlatuze and Zululand. The mission is gathering potential investors from Los Angeles and Portland for a meeting in May/June 2014, when the RBIDZ delegation will pass through Los Angeles on their way to Portland Oregon.

As we will be celebrating 20 years of Freedom this 27 April 2014, the Mission began its series of symposia by showcasing the film, “A Dry White Season,” which depicted South Africa prior to 1994. On this visit to the Bay area, where the struggle against apartheid was the strongest, it was important to share with interested groups the historic details of South Africa. Therefore, a second symposium was hosted by Mr. Sagie Govender of the Committee for South African Solidarity, Judge Lise Pearlman and Consul General Ndaba. The history of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) was discussed from the Batavian rule through to the passing of the Land Act of 1913. Many topics were shared such as the Black Conscious Movement, the roles played by the South African Student Organization and the Black People’s Convention in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s.

The Consul General was invited to several events during this trip which included an invitation to speak on the topic, “The Mighty Continent of Africa; The Next 50 Years; there he shared with attendees celebrating Black History Month.

In line with the Mission’s APP, the Consul General attended festivities organized by the Tanzanian Investment Group. It was in this setting that Consul General began to discuss the strengthening of the SADC presence on the West Coast.

Further meetings took place with Deputy Mayor of Oakland, Mr. Sandre Swanson and Teach with Africa to fortify relations between these organizations on the West Coast and the Republic of South Africa.

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