Los Angeles Celebrates Mandela with

The Honorable Consul-General Cyril Ndaba joined hundreds who paid tribute to Nelson Mandela at events hosted by the Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement, July 12th-14th.

The opening ceremonies took place at the First A.M.E Church, the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles. Among those who spoke sentiments of how Mandela had changed their lives were Johannesburg born Pastor, Rev. Kelvin Sauls, who shared his reflections on Madiba and what this global icon means not only to him, but to mankind; Actor Robert Guillaume affectionately known as “Benson”, read an excerpt from Mandela’s “Long Walk Freedom”; Actor Danny Glover related how he had been inspired by Madiba and the conversations the two had over the years; Actor William Allen Young reminisced on how his love and admiration for the Former President Mandela led him to visit South Africa and how his affection for Madiba grew even stronger after visiting Madiba’s prison cell in Robben Island; Actresses Sheri Belafonte, Victoria Rowell, Beverly Todd and Dawn Lewis all recalled how they had been inspired by Madiba and became drawn to promoting causes which the founding President felt so strong about, particularly working with children. Singer Eloise Laws gave her rendition of “Impossible Dream” along with the resident FAME Choir Justified Crew (gospel choir) who gave us the food of love (music). The Divine Praise (young dancers of between 6 and 10 years) also performed, before the CG was asked to deliver a vote of thanks to all.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters & Consul-General Ndaba joyously celebrating with others for Madiba’s 95th Birthday

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Hon. Consul-General Ndaba, and guests

“...Our single most important challenge is therefore to help establish social order in which the freedom of the individual will truly mean freedom of the individual.”

Mandela
Expressions Continued

in attendance. Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who fought diligently for Mandela’s release, led celebrations at Lemeire Park Village. For many years, Congresswoman Waters worked tirelessly to help rid South Africa of apartheid and was privileged to organize the Welcome of Former President Mandela to Los Angeles in 1990 where over 90,00 attended to rejoice in his liberty, with over 700 remembering his visit as the celebrations went on.

Mandela’s heart of forgiveness was expressed by actress Marla Gibbs. There was such a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude as each one took the stage. Among those that spoke from their hearts were speakers, dancers, poets, and other musical guests. Actresses Vanessa Bell Calloway, Brenda Shockley, and Barbara Morrison all added their voices on how Nelson Mandela had had an influence in their young lives. Mayda de Valle, a renowned poet, who has spoken in the streets of Chicago all the way to the White House, graced the stage along with Taylor Code & the Street Poets sharing words that stirred the hearts of men.

Prayer Services were held at the First Church of God, where Pastor Geremy Dixon glorified Madiba as worthy of supreme recognition for his firm belief against injustices in the whole universe. He further invited his parishioners to continue praying for the global icon. Congresswoman Maxine Waters shared with the congregants her experiences with Madiba specifically how she felt when she was received by Madiba, her hero, at the attendance of his inauguration of as the first democratically-elected Black President of South Africa.

The Watts Labor Community Action Center hosted celebrations that included girls from the Lula Washington Dance Company. The Shaluza South African Gumboot Dancers also performed artistic expressions in honor of Madiba. Congresswoman Janice Hahn of the 44th district, shared how Nelson Mandela had been an influence to her, her family and her community in San Pedro and how all mankind has a duty to uphold the values that Madiba represented and continues to embody.

Tributes to Mandela continued on his birthday with the “My Hero Project” at the Steven Spielberg & Kate Capshaw Center in Los Angeles. Consul General Ndaba affectionately shared his experiences with Mandela as he visited New York and London. Among others that gave sentiments were the Africa Project, an organization devoted to surviving orphans of HIV; Kathy and Amy Eldon, who shared excerpts from their film, “Global Tribal visit to Robben Island.” Mr. Zosukuma Kunene

From the Desk of the Consul-General

Greetings,

During this quarter July—September our activities were dominated by the Nelson Mandela’s Birthday Celebrations. Our Mission joined hands with the likes of the founders of the Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement (LAFSAM), church leaders both in Los Angeles and San Francisco, actors and actresses, the Committee for South African Solidarity and the San Francisco African-American Chamber of Commerce and Trade Unions to celebrate our icon’s life and legacy.

All in all, the Mission participated in all ten (10) events that took place both in LA, San Francisco and Oakland and Madiba continues to make the whole world proud of his contributions to mankind in his lifetime.

Sit back, relax and enjoy our second quarter newsletter!

Ndaba

Continued on Page 3
Hundreds gathered in San Francisco to celebrate the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. Throughout many years, the world has taken the journey alongside of the former President, fighting against apartheid and injustices that destroyed the lives of the majority of the people in South Africa.

It was in San Francisco, that Nelson Mandela upon his release from prison, addressed nearly 70,000 people at the Oakland Coliseum expressing his gratitude for the anti-apartheid movement that took up the fight to isolate the minority racist regime in South Africa.

The Honorable South African Consul-General Cyril Ndaba, along with the Committee for South African Solidarity (COSAS), the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce (SFAACC) and senior clergy at the Grace Cathedral joined in humble celebration of Nelson Mandela’s 67 years of service and his 95th birthday. Poignant words were given by Consul-General Ndaba and Professor Boatamo Mosupyo, Head of Pan African Studies at California State University of Sacramento, as many remembered Mandela’s visit nearly 24 years ago. Fervent prayers went out for the Elder Statesman along with songs of victory and great jubilee. Special honors were given to Madiba from the Mayor of San Francisco and the International Longshore Warehouse Union Local 10. The Vukani Mawethu Choir and other musical guests led triumphant melodies in honor of all that Nelson Mandela has achieved and continues to accomplish even in his old age and retirement.

Los Angeles Expressions Continued...

recited portions of the epic work, “Emperor King Shaka,” by Mazisa Kunene and still others gave expressions in their own way.

Madiba is truly revered and the Venice Love Shack celebrated on July 21st with Drum performances and African music from the likes of Ms. Refilwe Morake and Ms. Stu Perlman. World renowned muralist, Mr. Bernard Flores—painted a mural depicting Madiba’s Life, Legacy and Values. Consul-General Ndaba addressed the eager audiences sharing his passions about time spent with the beloved Madiba.

“Ther is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.”

Mandela
“Working Together, We Can Do More”

On 16 September 2013 the official opening of the Honorary Consulate of Tanzania and the inauguration of Tanzania’s first Honorary Consul to the West Coast took place in San Rafael, California. Consul-General was invited to deliver a speech in the presence of H.E. Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete the President of Tanzania and Deputy Secretary General of the ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). H.E., President Kikwete officially swore-in both the Honorary Consul Mr Ahmed Issa and officially opened the Office. Consul-General Ndaba thanked the successive leadership and the ordinary people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the moral and political support they gave to ANC and PAC cadres during the struggle for Liberation in South Africa.

The Mission is bent on this bold step of moving with the times and challenges by promoting our sub-region SADC and also of marketing the proposed Trilateral Free Trade Area.

Committee for South African Solidarity

On 15/09/2013 Consul-General Ndaba touched base with the Committee for South African Solidarity (COSAS) regarding school supplies destined for the office of Deputy Mayor Shabalala, of Durban, South Africa. COSAS is pivotal in educating communities in California about conditions and changes in South Africa. During his visit to San Francisco the Consul-General addressed the role that COSAS should be playing, not only in South Africa but in the South African Development Community (SADC) region.
An evening of elegance rendered delectable South African delights, exquisite entertainment and extraordinary wine. The Wines of South Africa sponsored the event at the Luxe Rodeo Drive Hotel. Eight local importers showcased 42 different wines from 28 wineries. The evening’s favorites included Mischievous, Edgebaston Pepper Pot 2010 and Diemersfontein Pinotage.

The Mission is poised to continue the promotion of South African products. Wine sales in the US have increased by 2% from the previous year. The US is the largest wine market in the world; hence the Mission's goal is to carve a niche in the West Coast market for South African Wines.

The Los Angeles Mission continues to develop relationships to promote an increase in trade of South African Wine. This year marks the 2nd Wine Tasting Event to take place between the Mission and prominent Wine Vendors.

“Africa Today” was the topic addressed by Consul-General Ndaba at the Congress of the African People (CAP) event, held in Sacramento 14/09/2013. Under this topic he examined the status quo of all the 54 African countries in terms of their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and the prospects of each of the six regions constituting the African Union (AU). He was also a panellist on “Culture, Education and Trade and Investment” in Africa.
Serving with MetroKidz on Nelson Mandela Day

Former President Nelson Mandela has set an unprecedented example of wisdom, leadership and service. Once in office Mandela worked tirelessly to encourage the expansion of healthcare services, to eradicate poverty and to bring justice for those who had been abused. We are compelled to do our level best to follow in his footsteps.

On July 18th, Madiba’s 95th birthday was celebrated globally! In honor of his dedicated service to countless people, the Mission emulated his passion by serving a local community in Los Angeles.

It is at the heart of the Mission to do good and to be a help to those in need, in South Africa and within our jurisdiction. It was a pleasure to serve, especially for those who were grateful for the little things we seem to take for granted.

“I was humbled”, were the poignant words of Consul Johan Klopper, about what he experienced. The Mission volunteered with Metrokidz International, Los Angeles which is a non-profit organization that seeks to meet the needs of children and their families, while offering hope, in the urban areas of L.A. Metrokidz provides children with fun, educational activities and family support as an alternative to drugs, gangs and prison.

Providing weekly gatherings and local trips, Metrokidz affords immigrants a sense of belonging even though they are far from home. The families now give back and assist with setting up events, providing food and various activities.

Ms. Marcia Kay, Secretary to the Consul-General shared her sentiments by saying, “The opportunity to volunteer was truly humbling, heartwarming and a never-to-be forgotten experience for me, the impact of which led me to realize, more than ever before, how blessed I am in my life, in comparison with the lives of these little children and their families.”

Consul-General Ndaba is forever grateful for the path that Madiba has trudged and the foundation of service that has been laid. The Mission desires to be of service to South Africa and abroad.

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

MANDELA
Power Up SA with Renewable Energy

The Hon. Consul-General Ndaba met with leaders in the Renewable Energy Industry for the express purpose of bringing additional sources of energy to South Africa. Distributed Renewable Energy Technologies (DRET) has longevity in the business and has designed technology that will assist in providing power to families that lack electricity and much more.

The recent meeting between the Consul-General and DRET was a follow up to previous ground work that had been done to begin a business partnership/joint venture between Mzesi Energy of South Africa and DRET.

Mr. Jim Moore, business partner at DRET, discussed ideas and technologies that DRET could implement which would be an asset to South Africa. On DRET’s upcoming visit to South Africa, plans are being made to move forward with key elements of their joint business plan with Mzesi Energy.

The Los Angeles Mission looks forward to further negotiations with DRET and welcomes the possibility of new and exciting innovations being introduced.

Are You Registered?

Registering with ROSA allows the Department to assist SA travellers in locating them quickly in the event of:

- Natural Disasters
- War
- National Emergency

The registry of South Africans abroad is a benefit to all who register.

Register Today!!

Simply go to www.dfa.gov.za and click on the ROSA icon, it will take you directly to the registry.

Promoting SA Film

The Hon. Consul-General Ndaba, recently met Mr. Joe Brown at the Watts Learning Center, where together they joined in celebrations for Madiba’s 95th birthday. Mr. Brown met with the Consul General to assist Mr. Mosese Semenya on an upcoming film project.

Mr. Brown has directed, written and produced films as well as worked in the video industry and has been in the business for the past 30 years, working on over 200 films.

Consul-General Ndaba saw the benefit of forming a relationship between Mr. Brown and the Department of Arts and Culture and the National Film and Video Foundation, Mr. Brown’s expertise in the film industry will prove beneficial enhancing the knowledge base of South Africa’s Filmmaker’s.

September is

This is a perfect time to re-evaluate your plans and preparations in case of an emergency.

Visit the following sites for excellent tips to help keep you and your family safe in case of a disaster.

www.Ready.gov
www.Redcross.org/prepare
www.72hours.org
www.phe.gov

There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

---Mandela---
I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.

I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended.

~ Nelson Mandela