

Address by Executive mayor Parks Tau on the Passing Away of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

06 December 2013

Madam Speaker Clr Cony Bapela

Chief Whip Clr Prema Naidoo

Chairperson of Committees Clr Solly Mogase

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Committee Chairpersons

Councilors

City Manager Mr Trevor Fowler

Executive Directors

Senior Management

Staff of the City of Johannesburg

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you

One and All

Today we woke up to Headlines all over the National and International Media announcing the Passing of our Most Celebrated Statesman and Freeman of our City Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. He was the indeed most celebrated resident of our City, the father of the Nation and a man of integrity celebrated the World Over.

The City of Johannesburg pays tribute to the memory and legacy of this most loved and celebrated resident of our City. Although the father of our democracy belonged to all South Africans – and indeed to all freedom-loving people across the world – Johannesburg held a special place in his heart.

It was here that he started his career and his quest for the liberation of our country, and it was to Johannesburg that he returned after a lifetime of service to the nation. The people of our City responded by conferring on him the highest honour of Freeman of the City in addition to his many other distinctions he received, was the Nobel Peace Prize and the Ikhamanga Award.

The City expresses its deepest condolences to his wife and family upon the loss of their beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. We are grateful for the opportunities he had to serve the people of Johannesburg and our City.

Nelson Mandela was a brave Young man who joined the ANC in the 1940s because he could not bear the brutality of oppression and racial discrimination. Together with his peers they founded the ANC Youth League in 1944 where they said they wanted Freedom in their Lifetime. Nelson Mandela fulfilled the mission of that generation of Youth when he became the President of South Africa in 1994. He became a statesman dedicated to justice and reconciliation and to building a common goal for our country. He became the torch bearer for the commencement of Nation Formation and Nation Building in South Africa.

For his bravery and sacrifices Nelson Mandela gets to be celebrated by humanity across all religions, races and classes around the world. This is the man whose humility brought about a peaceful transition from racial discrimination to racial tolerance which still permeates through the thickest walls in our country.

As we discharge our responsibility on a daily basis we should do so in honour of this great man who was resident of our city. We should discharge our service to the residents with the intension of making the City of Johannesburg administration into a high performance institution, dedicated towards building a World Class African City of the Future. We should hold our hands together to respond to poverty, unemployment and inequality in our city. We should much together to transform our city.

I would like to thank the management and all members of staff who have woken up very early in the morning to ensure that the City of Johannesburg is ready for the traffic of people from all over the world who will come to pay their respect to the Family of Tata Nelson Mandela.

The memory of Isithwalandwe, Seaparankoe, Nelson Mandela, will live on in Johannesburg through the many landmarks named after him – the iconic Nelson Mandela Bridge, the Nelson Mandela Square in Sandton, and his homes in Orlando West and Houghton.

We honour his memory and as a City, we will continue to build on the legacy he bestowed on us. We will continue to build a United, nonracial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa

Thank You.

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