Happy 90th Birthday Madiba

A MESSAGE FROM THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

We feel so humbled to be given the privilege of making a birthday message for this remarkable man. As we celebrate the 90th birthday of Madiba, we reflect back on the life a hero, the life of the son of soil. As we do that we cannot separate the story of his life to the history of our nation as it unfolds through the years of the struggle for liberation.

The past 90 years has indeed been very significant in the history of our country.

Who knew that the 20 year old Nelson who came from the Transkei to Johannesburg would one day be an icon that would be recognized by the whole world. This brings into mind the Rivonia Trial, the event that marked a significant event in the political life of our nation. The sentence left an unspeakable pain in the hearts of the non white South Africans. 27 years later, when Madiba and other activists were released from the Robben Island, the day marked the beginning of a new dawn in our history.

On the 27th of April 1994, at the ripe age of 65 years, the books of history were rewritten when for the first time in our country the first democratically elected president was put into power. That was non other than our very own Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. That came at a time when the struggle had reached its highest peak.

In 1999, when Madiba left the seat of presidency many though that was the end of Mandela, but for many years after that this man kept on doing the hard work. He assumed a very special role in human rights activity by playing a mediating role in political conflicts around the African continent. After eight years out of active politics Madiba is still the most admired personality in the whole world.

Today we celebrate the 90th birthday of Madiba, the man who has taught us what it is to be a leader. The icon of our liberation, a living example of dedication, self denial and sacrifice.

Happy birthday son of soil, Madiba

Eastern Cape, a compelling place to Live, Work and Invest... and Play!