



'We can build a society grounded on friendship and on our common humanity - a society founded on tolerance. That is the only road open to us. It is a road to a glorious future in this beautiful country of ours. Let us join hands and march into the future' Nelson Mandela



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The editors have taken every care to make sure that the contents of this newsletter are as accurate as possible. The authors have ultimate responsibility, however, for the content of individual articles.

the EDITOR Speaks

Nelson Mandela was a courageous and dignified leader, respected throughout the world. He served as an example to all the values needed to make Africa a great continent. NAYD, Afrika Speaks and its continental and global partners therefore propose that every country in Africa should have a monument to remember him by, to serve as a permanent reminder that great personal sacrifice, love and forgiveness are the values African Youth should aspire to ensure his legacy. We propose the monument to be 95m tall to reflect the number of years he lived and that his famous quotes should be inscribed around the side in a language(s) suitable to the country in which it is erected. We further propose that adjacent to the monument is created a Peace Garden. We have written to Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and trust that she will give our proposal serious consideration.

To help give a powerful African youth voice to our campaign we have organized a [petition](#). Please sign it!

EDITORIAL TEAM.

Building Nelson Mandela Legacy, What Youths Can Do

His life has been described as an evolution from militant freedom fighter, to prisoner, to unifying figure and eventual elder statesman -- in the process winning the hearts and minds of world leaders and average citizens alike.



In his 95 years he accomplished what many thought impossible. Held prisoner for 27 years and later becoming South Africa's first democratically elected president, he practiced reflection, negotiation and incredible stubbornness. His capacity for forgiveness and reconciliation made him one of the most remarkable and respected individuals of modern times.

"Nelson Mandela showed us that one man's courage can move the world. And he calls on us to make choices that reflect not our fears, but our hopes — in our own lives, and in the lives of our communities and our countries."

We the youth can learn these following from his personality:

Making the best of your current situation: "It is possible that if I had not gone to jail and been able to read and listen to the stories of many people. ... I might not have learned these things," Mandela once said in 2000 during an interview with the Christian Science Monitor.

He said reading biographies helped him realize problems make some people, while destroying others.

Don't judge a book by its cover: "I have been surprised a great deal sometimes when I see somebody who looks less than ordinary, but when you talk to the person and he (or she) opens his mouth, he is something completely different," "People are complex and dynamic, capable of change and evolving,"

Use your passion to persuade others: "If you have an objective in life, then you want to concentrate on that and not engage in infighting with your enemies," "You want to create an atmosphere where you can move everybody toward the goal you have set for yourself." Remaining focused on a goal despite adversity requires a deep level of commitment. Ask anyone who's ever overcome great odds to achieve their version of greatness.

Change yourself first: "One of the most difficult things is not to change society -- but to change yourself," Mandela said in 1999 at a tribute to billionaire businessman Douw Steyn, who had made his Johannesburg residence available to Mandela as a retreat after his prison release in 1990.

While Mandela clearly fought for change in the world he lived in, he also changed himself.

Don't be afraid to acknowledge weaknesses: "If you come across as a saint, people can become very discouraged. I was once a young man and I did all the things young men do," Mandela told the Christian Science Monitor. "But, the responsible airing of his weaknesses -- including his own acknowledgment -- in fact humanized Mandela and focused on his extraordinary strength of character and commitment in overcoming both his weaknesses and adversity in his own lifetime. It augmented Mandela's greatness."

Get educated -- educate others: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," Mandela said during a speech at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in 2003.

Mandela failed twice to complete his bachelor's degree and readily admitted he was a poor student. Eventually he earned a law degree.

Six weeks after being elected President in 1994, Mandela called on South Africans to solve the country's "profound education crisis,"

Look people in the eye and shake their hands: "Nelson Mandela made such a common gesture something transcendent -- a greeting that crossed all societal barriers, a symbol of reconciliation, even a declaration of victory," wrote CNN's Tom Cohen in his piece, "Nelson Mandela: Man of many handshakes." Before meeting visiting dignitaries or political adversaries in five-star hotel conference rooms, Mandela made sure to approach the security guards, servers and other workers outside to shake their hands. A simple handshake, can convey to others that the person making the gesture is demonstrating the belief that, "this person has value, has a perspective."

Maintain a sense of humour: "You sharpen your ideas by reducing yourself to the level of the people you are with and a sense of humour and a complete relaxation, even when you're discussing important things, does help to mobilize friends around you. And I love that," Mandela said in a 2005 interview, published by the Nelson Mandela Foundation. "The cult of Mandela had become so pronounced that celebrities, world leaders and ordinary people often became tongue-tied and gibbering when they met him," she said. "Self-mockery was a typically savvy Mandela used as a ploy to ensure that people would relax around him."

Forgiveness: "It enables me to go to bed with an enriching feeling in my soul and the belief that I am changing myself [by reconciling with former adversaries]," Mandela told the Christian Science Monitor about his experiences with Douw Steyn. Steyn was a white businessman who befriended Mandela and began sharing his resources with the poor.

"For someone who had been imprisoned, it (forgiveness) was a fundamentally transformative experience," He explained that people unable to forgive may experience an inability to move forward. "Mandela wanted to find a way to unite all the people of South Africa -- something only the power of forgiveness could produce," he said.



"To this day, I am so passionate about the role forgiveness played in Madiba's life. I remember so clearly how I had to personally take steps to overcome the ingrained apartheid mentality in South Africa."

"It's almost like a miraculous, supernatural transformation had taken place in Mandela's life, and consequently, in the whole nation.

"Forgiveness freed Madiba, and forgiveness freed his country,"

Culled from CNN.

Nwodi Daniel Chinedu (*CEO/Founder Students without Borders International Lagos, Nigeria*)

"Nelson Mandela"

The Heart of the South African Miracle...

The fascinating D-word – "DIVERSITY" is a cardinal feature of South Africa. No wonder it is also called "Rainbow Nation". Archbishop Desmond Tutu coined this phrase to describe post-apartheid South Africa, after its first successful democratic election in 1994. The past was very tough for the Rainbow Nation. Pro-freedom activists and guerrillas spent most of the last century fighting down the repressive apartheid government, which divided black and white communities. The black and white lived in separate areas; travelled in different buses, traded in separate markets and stood in separate queues.

After much iron and blood, the apartheid government finally came to a dead end, and the Nelson Mandela led African National Congress encouraged reconciliation. Mandela forgave his captors after emerging from 27 years of incarceration, without animosity or bitterness; bearing witness to the fact that "to be free is not merely to cast off

one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." He exuded courage of a revolutionary and wisdom of a statesman.

Success has a way of looking impossible in foresight and inevitable in hindsight. No wonder, Mandela himself said, "It always seems impossible until it is done". Mandela's reconciliatory spirit salvaged South Africa from being plunged into perpetual civil war. And South Africans from all walks of life and political persuasions embraced an inclusive peaceful political revolution. Clearly, Mandela's rare qualities created the political trust and emotional space for a constitutional process that ushered in South Africa's democracy. Nelson Mandela was an epitome of triumph of good over evil and a very good example of the resilience of the human spirit. One can learn from his journey that "where there is will, hope, patience and firmness of purpose, there is no mountain too high to climb".

Tata Madiba was an embodiment of virtues that are far too rare to find in our world today. He was a rare political leader, whose life abundantly oozed out integrity, magnanimity, human dignity, decency, courage, friendship, playfulness, moral splendour and tactical genius. He not only saw where South Africa needed to go, but *he understood how to take the country there*. He knew that "after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb." Mandela practiced forgiveness, not as a political strategy but as a way of life. He reached out to South Africans of all race; men and women, children and youth, and established partnerships with former enemies. His strong moral values and courage amazed even his captors. He undoubtedly turned off their bestiality and turned on their humanity.

As the next generation of political, business and moral leaders, we must all learn from the examples set by Tata Mandela. "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great." We are that great generation. Let our greatness blossom! - **Samuel Duru**

WHILST WE MOURN THE DEATH OF A GREAT AFRICAN LEADER WE ALSO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE. BELOW ARE TRIBUTES FROM AFRICAN YOUTH WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY HIM.

'Mandela touched the Royals and Commoners alike and the world will surely feel a big void in his passing on. I join NAYD to wish you fare well Sir. May your soul rest in peace.' *Chinedu Opara*

'The news of Nelson Mandela's passing away, took me like an eclipse that occurred to the world. But as I struggled to recall 'Madiba's life and impact on humanity as a whole, I couldn't hold but visualize this African legend as a symbol of Love & Compassion; Justice; Equality; Forgiveness; Freedom; Ubuntu; and above all PEACE to the entire human race. With such indelible ink left on all and sundry, I believe, Mandela's physical presence on earth is no more, but his legacy lives and inspires all forever. A DIEU, MADIBA!!!' *Sakah Bernard*

'Nelson Mandela's legacy will remain forever not only across Africa but also across the globe. We hope African leaders will closely follow his path way to build their respective states accordingly! I commiserate with the bereaved family and South Africa as whole. May Our Madiba rest in total peace' *SABUSHIMIKE Gorgon*

'By your passing, humanity and womankind has lost one of its best. Indeed Africa has lost its greatest son; an extraordinary man, with extraordinary qualities. Your passage through earth has shown/taught us the triumph of human spirit. You were an embodiment of all. As a protester, you protested against injustice and oppression, thus becoming (if not) the greatest freedom fighter, the world has known. As a prisoner, you resisted all attempts to break your will/determination. While in prison, you exhibited courage, and fearlessness against all odds. As a president, you taught us that power can be relinquished freely, especially in a continent where sit tight presidents are the order of the day. As a peace maker, you taught forgiveness and peace. These are extra ordinary qualities found only in an extra ordinary person like you. May your soul rest in peace.' *C.V.Akuta*

'He has left unparalleled legacy that young people have an opportunity to take after. I am lucky and thank God that I have a gift of life at a time that this great son of Africa lived and I hope his example in leadership and personal life will not depart from us for a long time to come. See you later Madiba.' *Eric Mwangi (NAYD Climate Change BLOGGER)*

'Sorry! My lovely teacher has passed away. He taught me how to struggle on the peace path.' *Abdikafi Osman Mohamud*

'He was an inspiration - a humble great leader. He will never be forgotten in history, not of just South Africa but in the world' *Nokwanda Langazana*

'Mandela was an icon that would never be forgotten in world history. I studied in South Africa, I know how he is respected. I wish African leaders would emulate him.' *Gava Kanadi*

'He lived to validate the statement that the best revenge is forgiveness. He was a symbol of unity, an exemplary leader who risked his life for the survival of many and an epitome of love.' *Oyewale Abioye (NAYD summit member)*

'We give thanks for his life, his leadership, his devotion to humanity and humanitarian causes. We salute our friend, colleague and comrade and thank him for his sacrifices for our freedom. The three charitable organizations that he created we dedicate ourselves to continue promoting his extraordinary legacy.' *Hamba Kahle Madiba (Nelson Mandela Foundation)*

'I am amazed by the courage, resilience, bravery, playfulness, character, hopefulness, long-suffering, leadership and incredible wisdom of the departed extraordinary statesman. He forgave his captors after a long and hard walk to freedom. Tata Madiba was colour blind – he didn't see colour, race, sex or belief – he saw human being. He epitomizes the values needed to make the world a peaceful and livable place. It's now left for us to learn from the unique example he set and preserve his legacy by living in peace with one another. z ndokwa! Repose en paix! Rest in Peace Tata Madiba!' *Samuel Duru (NAYD summit member)*

'One of the my favourite quotes by Nelson Mandela: **"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."** This is one of the inspirations in my life, to live selflessly and work for the happiness of others. He has passed, but his work lives on and should inspire us to work together and make a difference in the lives of others.' *James Gondwe (NAYD Publicity Officer)*

'I have consistently followed the life and times of Madiba until his death. I have learnt so much from his life but most outstanding is that one should be ready to sacrifice their time, money and other resources even willing to die for a worthy course. His death is one of those which require a celebratory kind of mourning. We should not cry tears of pain but rejoice that God gave him strength to fulfill his purpose in life even to such a sweet old age. The best send off we can accord Madiba is to live true to his desires for a United Africa.' *Zablon Samba*

Nelson Mandela's Legacy: the way Forward for African Youth?

Many would call Nelson Mandela a Saint but he would argue ***"I am not a saint unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying."*** Nelson Mandela was a human being, just like you and me, yet he became a great liberator, breaking the shackles of an immensely powerful Apartheid regime to lead South Africa to a new, free democracy. The question is 'What can African Youth learn from his life so that they in turn can use their lives to transform Africa into a great continent?'

I have been active with founder, 'together



NAYD development. degree of individual

Our members' vision of a sustainable, united Africa is more important to them than their individual gain, and this selfless attitude is what made Madiba the man he was. Not just a great orator, he was a man of action, accepting that standing up to the wrongs of South Africa would carry a price, a price so heavy it transpired that it took many years of his freedom away. ***"I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I've 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 which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."***

NAYD's motto of 'Together is Better' is like Ubuntu. Madiba realised that we are all somehow connected. In the beginning space, time, matter, and consciousness were all one, and humanity evolved from this 'oneness'. We may lead separate lives now but there is an invisible link that connects us back to the start of time itself. As an individual you can either take the positive or negative path in life. The positive and natural way is to work together for the betterment of humankind. The unnatural or negative way is to be selfish, to consider one's needs more important than the lives of those around us and our neighbours across the world. Ubuntu means the universal truth, a way of life; it underpins the concept of an open society. In simple terms it is being humane.

Nelson Mandela believed that following the Ubuntu philosophy would eventually lead to freedom but he was prepared to lay down his life if necessary. The apartheid regime was inhuman and cruel, yet when released from prison, a great part of his life gone forever, he didn't seek revenge like others may have done - at his inauguration he introduced his jailers as honoured guests, and in power he led a peaceful, reconciliatory government. ***"You will achieve more in this world through acts of mercy than you will through acts of retribution."*** There was never a desire to pit black against white or tribe against tribe, ***"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."***

NAYD since it started in March 2007. Pochi Tamba, NAYD's sowed the seeds then of 'holding hands' and is better' - she recognised that it was only through co-operation and collaboration that African Youth could help solve the continent's and humanity's urgent problems. What we now have in NAYD are thousands of people sharing their community activities, ideas and opportunities for the betterment of the continent. NAYD's success has been its members' belief that Africa has a sustainable future if we work together - simply provides the platform for that For this process to work there has to be a great selflessness, for there is no immediate personal advantage.

I would argue that Africa must learn from the harsh lessons of inter-tribal and religious differences and strive for peaceful co-existence, for that is the sustainable way for Africa to grow. A free Africa must be an Africa free from hatred - tribal and religious differences must be resolved. "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

Many of the problems with Africa's development lie in a poor understanding of the factors that affect development, sometimes through cultural issues, sometimes through malevolent political maneuverings. Education, and even more importantly, development of a questioning mind are critical to understanding what is wrong with the status quo and the actions required in improving it. Madiba's training and practice as a lawyer was a powerful tool for his arguments with the Apartheid bullies "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Education on its own wasn't sufficient though. It also required courage to take the actions to bring about change. "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

Nelson Mandela brought freedom to South Africa, but his work is far from finished. Mankind faces many challenges - climate change, malaria, HIV/AIDS, overpopulation, food and water shortages - as President Obama said in his tribute to Madiba "We still see children suffering from hunger and disease. We still see run-down schools. We still see young people without prospects for the future. Around the world today, men and women are still imprisoned for their political beliefs, and are still persecuted for what they look like, and how they worship, and who they love".

So, how can African Youth ensure Madiba's legacy? My advice would be to grasp Ubuntu with both hands, to action its philosophy wherever you can. Do not be afraid to speak out for what is wrong, be prepared to demonstrate against injustices, get involved in your community's development, facilitate dialogue between tribes to keep the peace and organize meetings between religious groups to encourage tolerance, because in the end we are all human, and each of us has a right to a peaceful, loving life...and don't forget to ask for help from

your fellow humankind, we are there to hold your hands, for the truth is with you and, as Nelson Mandela has shown us, it will prevail in the end. **Paul Shaw**



New Year Message

The start of a New Year is the time to reflect on progress in the last year and consider the opportunities and challenges for 2014.

Membership

2013 brought thousands more people together to the NAYD family. Our facebook membership increased rapidly, presently adding over 2000 members per month. We are currently at 16,000 people and counting. Other social media membership includes LinkedIn: 459, Yahoo: 496, Google Inspire group: 1996. We also started a twitter account @NAYDinfo - please follow us! Our registered members reached 1650 in 48 African countries and beyond. Details and geographic locations of registered members can be seen

at <http://www.nayd.org/members.htm>. If you wish to join us please complete the form at <http://www.nayd.org/join.htm>.

Energy Globe Award

NAYD was awarded an energy globe award in June for its efforts in promoting youth and sustainable development in Africa. Energy Globe is recognised as a world leader in sustainability awards and honours sustainable projects in



the 5 categories of fire, water, earth, air and youth. Further information about the award can be found at <http://www.energyglobe.info/>

African Youth Development Summit

The purpose of the AYDS was to set benchmarks for a youth-led roadmap to sustainable development in Africa. The continuous relative failures of the UN led climate change and sustainability talks and the deep concern that if the world leaders weren't (and still aren't) willing to commit to a global sustainable future sparked the move to hold a summit where African Youth could take ownership of the problems facing humanity by driving a sustainable future for Africa. Many of the continental youth groups and some global youth organizations held hands with NAYD to help realize the need for Africa to have its own post 2015 MDG's since the continental's problems are unique in many respects. We received 700 applications and 50 abstracts but unfortunately, despite concerted efforts by a UN volunteer-led fundraising team we had to postpone the summit until a later date. We suspect many potential funders held back because they were concerned that supporting an independent African youth-led summit would conflict with many political agendas. We are presently working with the World Youth Peace Movement, in conjunction with the African Union 50th Anniversary to see if we can resurrect the summit in 2014.

Debate: Aid versus Development.

NAYD held its first ever debate on Google Hangout entitled 'Aid versus Development' (it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbXtBRhS3G8>). The idea behind the debate is to bring to the fore a topic which is affecting youth-led sustainable development in Africa. We selected 6 volunteers, 3 on each side of the argument to offer the case for and against Aid. Although technical issues restricted the number who could take part we still managed to get robust comments from both sides. It's definitely an issue that needs to be discussed further because it was felt that a dependency culture on Aid is detrimental to development and, apart from emergency relief, should be treated very cautiously. We are hoping to hold further debates this year and we will be calling out to you to get involved.

BLOGS and INSPIRE

Our expert volunteers continue to write BLOGS for HIV/AIDS and Climate Change for which we are very grateful. Please support these BLOGS by clicking on the share buttons and by making comments. We also support many of our members BLOGS by RSS feeding them to our 16,000 facebook members to ensure they enjoy a wide, global readership. We also make every effort to promote our members activities through INSPIRE, NGO of the month and through providing a free web design service and specific NAYD emails. INSPIRE gives you a platform to Inspire others, and no-one inspired the world more than Nelson Mandela, and we share South Africa's deep sorrow for his loss. He touched so many of our lives, some of our members tributes can be read here. Our first edition of INSPIRE in 2014 will feature a special edition of Madiba.

Finally, NAYD would like to express its heartfelt gratitude for your kind support, professional advice, appreciation, emails and messages in the year 2013. We are very much encouraged by your kind words. 2013 is now gone and we find ourselves in a new year and a new chapter in our lives. We wish that it brings you peace, health, happiness and fulfillment.

NAYD Board

NGO of the month - International Centre for Accelerated Development, NIGERIA.

ICADNG is a community organization based in Nigeria that seeks to promote effective development in the community especially with a focus on the youth and women. It does so by improving the health and socio-economic status of women, children and the youth through initiatives in the areas of health, ICT,



human rights and gender.

Besides these initiatives, ICADNG also conducts research in the community and documents related needs of communities so as to implement relevant intervention programs to effect community development, mobilize resources and reduce poverty in the community. As such ICADNG has had various projects in the past in the areas of Gender Development, Information Communication for Rural Development, Human Rights initiatives among other projects in the community.

Under Climate Change, they hold tree planting academies in the community where they bring a community of children, volunteers, members of the press and other stakeholders together to plant trees and set a practical example to the children on the importance of conserving the environment.

Below is a report of ICADNG's 2nd and 3rd Tree Planting Academies in Nigeria.

2nd Tree Planting Academy Jos, Nigeria

International Center for Accelerated Development conducted her 2nd and 3rd tree planting academies in Jos Plateau state. It was a fun filled academy that took the shape of workshop, expositions and cultural display of different heritage and tree planting party.

The 2nd tree planting academy took place on the 23rd of November 2013 at the St. Peter's parish Kabong Jos with ninety eight (98) participants from ten (10) schools. The schools in attendance include:

- Millennium private school Jos
- Command secondary school Jos
- Daisy land divine academy
- Valley Pride Private school
- Royal rangers academy
- Effective Private school
- Global international
- Mariam kindergarten
- Tintop academy
- Beethoven's college

The academy took place inside the St. Peter's church with many dignitaries witnessing the opening ceremony including Priest, members of the media, the academia and parishioners who had come to lend support to their children and learn one or two things about climate change.

Chukwunonso Ozokolie -whose discipline is Agricultural Engineering, helped the children to landscape and map out locations for planting while volunteers Calistus, Daniel, Charles and George supported the children to dig the soil. The event was supported by Golden Penny mobile kitchen which prepared the meal that the children ate. Volunteers Christy, Ann, Grace and Francisca prepared a sumptuous meal of noodles and pasta for the children.

The mobile kitchen also provided music and table water and juice for the children while they planted; it was a fun packed event under the hot sun. The children sang and danced, they also formed a slogan with the theme "stop talking start planting" "if you must cut down one tree, then plant three" Miss Ruth Daniel presented the action plans derived from the word game and café held in thematic sessions while Miss Chiwendu Ogudiegwu presented the rhetorics.

A total of one hundred and twenty trees and flower seedlings of different varieties were planted including forest trees, Melina, pine, economic trees like orange, pawpaw, mango and pear trees and flowers. Each of the children made a promise to plant at least one tree and nurture it until the tree survived and can carry on by itself; they planted one tree/flower within the premises and took one seedling back to their schools for planting.

The occasion was witnessed by the Nigerian television Authority, plateau radio television cooperation and two print Medias – Development times and the National Guide newspaper.

3rd Tree Planting Academy Plateau State Nigeria



It was fun again on the 5th of December 2013 when schools gathered for cultural heritage and tree planting at the Fatima private school Jos. This event was spectacular as many of the children showcased their culture, their kind of dance, food, drinks and trees that grow around their area. About one hundred and twenty children participated in this cultural carnival that brought together rich cultural diversity of people from different backgrounds including Cameroonians, Guineans and Benin republic.

Our Lady of Fatima Private hosted the event with ten other schools in attendance for the epoch making event these schools as follows:

- Fatima Private school Jos

- St. Theresa Girls school
- St. Louise College
- Township Primary school
- Government Day Secondary school Township
- Methodist high school
- Local Education Authority primary school Bukuru park Jos
- St. Paul's Academy
- Nurture academy
- Mariam Memorial Academy

The event was witnessed by many dignitaries including the revered "Eze Igbo 1" of Jos, high level government officials and members of the paramilitary.

Each ethnic group from different schools appeared in their cultural attire and converged in their 'village' – a make shift hut which symbolizes the village where they come from. In this hut, cultural items, food and clothing, trees which are found in the locality are symbolically placed in and around the hut for visitors to view.

All the participants danced in a match past - cultural group by cultural group, after which, dignitaries visited each village where the paramount ruler (an elder) explains what the culture of the people were, their kind of food and where they originated from, the kind of trees found in their areas and its significance.

It was an outdoor event because of the size of participants and schools. There was an unusual high number of children given the magnitude of the event, this eventually prevented the use of slide to teach the lessons of climate change, gaseous emissions and its effect on the human race although that was mentioned in the presentation and visitation of different huts.

One other impact of the occasion was that the carnival allowed only for symbolic planting of few trees around the huts to symbolically show what tree does well in what community. Economic trees such as pawpaw (Carica Papaya), orange (Citrus) were planted while Cactus tree which is most common in Jos due to the cold nature and because many homes in Jos use it as means to fence their houses. Wild forest trees were also planted. The children made a promise to plant trees in their various schools when they resume from the Christmas break with a hope that it would rain then. Their materials had not arrived at the time of the event as such they were told it would be given to them later.

The Netherlands Gives Mandela Great Respect and Deep Sympathy

The Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte called the death of Nelson Mandela "a moment of silent and be thankful to look back."



"Nelson Mandela was a unique man with an unprecedented charisma and a great moral authority. Even after 27 years, Robben Island, he continued to believe in humanity. In his new South Africa there was a place for everyone. Mandela was a reconciler and a linker with his kindness and wisdom made the difference for his country and inspired the world," said Rutte.

On behalf of the government, Prime Minister Rutte in a letter to President Zuma, the Dutch feelings of great respect and deep sympathy conveyed to the people of South Africa.

To Forgive Is Divine

To forgive is divine and it takes a special person to forgive those who have wronged them. An ordinary person would seek revenge, and would want those who offended them to suffer twice as much. From a deeper perspective this quest for revenge (we like to think about it as quest for justice) is a big contributor to the war ravaging Africa. Dissidents who think that they have been wronged or down trodden upon by their governments pick up arms to rebel against those governments, a situation which does not seem to end. Unfortunately the bulk of such rebels groups are youth, young men and women who would otherwise have a better future. The Late former South African President Nelson Mandela suffered under the proponents of apartheid, the worst form of racism seen in Africa. He was arrested under the most pathetic conditions, which left him with a lungs damage that he finally succumbed to on 5th December 2013. The difference between Mandela and many of us is that he diligently served his 27 years jail term without wavering in his belief for a just society where skin colour did not determine what you got, where you entered or what you did. 27 years is time enough to break anyone's back, but not Mandela's. Like the bedbug that patiently waits for the hot water poured on it to get cold, Mandela bore the 27 years' torture of prison, he was denied the chance to bury his own mother and first son, both who passed on while he was a guest of the state, a basic human right that even the worst criminal deserves. All this did not kill

Mandela's spirit but most importantly, it did not sow the seed of hatred and revenge in his heart. Tata, as he was famously known did not leave prison a dejected man with a broken spirit, but a man determined in his mission so he picked up from where he had left and when the time came, he had his name on the ballot paper and against all odds, he won the South African General Election in 1994. As uncommon in politics, Mandela beat an incumbent, and other 'black' people who had been 'free' when he himself was in jail. But that was not what was surprising. After bagging the presidency, he would have taken the opportunity to 'right all the wrongs' that had

been meted out on his race. This was the perfect chance for cold revenge, as president he could have given the whites a dose of their own medicine, but instead he fulfilled an earlier agreement and made de Klerk his vice president (we don't see much of such in our current politics), then he did all he could to preach reconciliation and urged the black to forgive the white, and that all should live together in peace. Nelson Mandela did this despite pressure and provocation that he should use his position to revenge against the white race. He forgot about all the ills that he and his race had been subjected to and worked with the former oppressors. He transformed a whole nation and changed the face of society. This aspect of the late Mandela's life should serve as an inspiration to everyone, and especially the youth all over Africa, that revenge is not always the best way out. I am inspired to live and let live, to not let the hate eat me up, to not waste my time planning revenge, because it only messes me up and above all it is against the Almighty's teachings. To live with peace of heart we have to do good to everyone, even our enemies. The world came to a stop when he died, and all world leaders wanted to be associated with him. As president Zuma said, we all have had a Mandela moment, and for me, it is in reflecting that Nelson Mandela decided to forgive his oppressors, and he still come out a winner, even in his death.

OPPORTUNITIES/RESOURCES

SCHOLARSHIP

Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development Master of Science (MSc) Fellowship Programme

Deadline- 28 February 2014

Applications are being accepted for Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development Master of Science (MSc) Fellowship Programme. This program is offered under The Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). The fellowship is offered to pursue master degree level studies.

The Fellowship will cover tuition, books, and subsistence costs for the entire duration of the course. The awarded students will be responsible for financing their travel to and from Hungary. Family members cannot be supported in any way under the framework of the Fellowships programme.

Thematic areas: Agricultural Sciences, Horticulture, Rural development and agribusiness

Documents required:

- Application form duly completed
- A recent curriculum vitae
- A copy of high school/college diploma and transcript/report of study or copy of the diploma attachment
- A copy of certificate of proficiency in English
- Copies of relevant pages of passport showing expiration date and passport number
- A letter of recommendation
- Statement of motivation
- Health Certificate issued by Medical Doctor
- Certificate of Good Conduct

Eligibility & Criteria-

Citizenship and residency of one of the eligible countries

Students holding a BSc/MSc or equivalent. Specific requirements may be applied by single Universities

<http://www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/scholarships/en/>

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Christian Tabifor

"There are some things you can't learn at any university, except for one, the University of Life...the only college where everyone is a permanent student."

E.A. Bucchianeri, Brushstrokes of a Gadfly

"No one can make us feel inferior without our consent".

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

"Being happy is better than being king".

Hausa (West African)

'We are thousands of African youths impacting positive change in lives all over Africa. Join us!

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NAYDmembers/>