



On 19 June 2008 at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Limkokwing University was proud to bestow upon His Excellency Nelson R. Mandela the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanity to honour his legendary leadership that has benefited not only his motherland but also set the example for other leaders to emulate in serving people through the philosophy of reconciliation and peaceful intervention.

Citation

H. E. Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Former President of South Africa

This University is honoured to stand before this exceptional human being so we can bestow upon him this Honorary Doctorate for Humanity.

An exceptional human being, a humble person, a selfless soul

Here is a rare human being, one who sits in the hearts of the world's people, revered for his humanity, recognised for the love he carries for his people and venerated for the initiatives he has set in motion to help the poor, the orphaned and those stricken with HIV/AIDS.

His fight for the freedom of his people is renowned, a tale etched in the hearts of every freedom-loving South African. A story written into the history books, as a leader of the African National Congress, in its fight against the cruel practice of Apartheid.

But far greater than his fight for his people was his battle to expunge hostility and bitterness from his heart for his captors who imprisoned him for 27 years. His Christ-like forgiveness, is today legendary and an oft-repeated story by an incredulous world.

A South African Prince, a courageous fighter of human rights, yet, a compassionate, peace-loving person

Born 90 years ago into a royal lineage in South Africa's Eastern Cape, he carries the genes of leadership in his blood. He is the son of the chief of Mvezo, of the Thembu people. Upon the death of his father he was taken into the care of the Regent of the Thembu people.

His upbringing and exposure to leadership built in him an appreciation for the traditions of his people. When Apartheid was imposed in

1948 he was appalled by the brutality meted out on his people, reducing them to mere slaves in their own land.

The young Mandela resisted and fought by every means he knew. The price he paid was his long imprisonment, from 1962 to 1990, that snatched away 27 years of his life. While in prison, he refused to succumb to victimization and continued to resist in his own way. Stories that leaked out of his defiance, spurred others to continue their fight for freedom.

But it was as a prisoner that Nelson Mandela performed his greatest deed of patriotism. He negotiated successfully for the freedom of his people. He walked out in 1990 to begin the arduous task of reconciliation, rebuilding and renewing as South Africa prepared to build a new future as a free nation.

A revered global statesman, a relentless crusader for human rights, fighting to build a better world

Among the most revered statesmen in the world today H.E. Nelson Mandela still strives to correct injustice wherever he finds it. Since he stepped down as South Africa's first black President in 1999, he has been relentless in his pursuit to build a stable Africa.

He has been tireless in resolving conflicts by brokering peace between warring factions.

He has been determined in working to protect the environment.

He has been unyielding in his quest to reduce poverty.

He has been untiring in his efforts to settle differences between people.

It is through the examples set by a leader, such as H.E. Nelson Mandela, that the leaders of today can shape the future of Africa.

It is through the leadership of H.E. Nelson Mandela that South Africa stands as a leading nation of the African continent, respected by the world.

Here is a peace maker that the world of today torn by widespread conflicts and bitterness, can learn that the greatest journey a human being makes is in bridging the distance between the hate in the mind to the love in the heart.

For the wonderful legacy he leaves behind, the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology Worldwide feels privileged to bestow upon H.E. Nelson Mandela this Honorary Doctorate of Humanity.

