



## THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

---

### **A Tribute to Nelson Mandela**

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of tobacco farmers, manufacturers and workers in Southern Africa represented by the Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa, we wish to pay tribute to the former President of South Africa, Rohlihlala Nelson Mandela.

Great men live and are all too easily forgotten in history. Men of wisdom, understanding, courage and fortitude, whose honoured actions have been recorded and passed down from father to son, then tutor to student, through generations for centuries; and then forgotten.

Nelson Mandela is not such a man.

He will not be forgotten, not in this century, nor those that follow. His legacy will endure for all humankind. Madiba's love and understanding of all South Africans irrespective of race, creed or ethnicity, his humanity in the face of adversity; his statesmanship and leadership of a people initially on the brink of civil war, now a proud rainbow nation, will forever be an inspiration to leaders and ordinary people around the world.

Nelson Mandela never forgot or turned his back on his rural roots. Born amongst farmers, Mr Mandela found peace, happiness and contentment among rural folk in his hometown of Qunu. He was a son of the soil, yet an African colossus, at once modest and humble and yet globally iconic.

The essence of Mr Mandela's greatness was his unfailing and unending capacity to forgive and to reconcile. He opened doors to those who had slammed them shut on him for 27 years. He sought dialogue over confrontation. He sought compromise over diktat. The consummate bridge-builder, Mr Mandela held out a hand to those who had shunned him. He delivered an olive branch to those who had demonised him. Mandela recognised that, no matter how far

apart people or governments are on issues, dialogue and consultation can lead to compromise and the achievement of long-term goals.

From the arid soil of racial discrimination and exclusion, Mandela sowed the seeds, nurtured the soil and irrigated the saplings of our non-racial democracy. He was not just the Father of our nation, he was the farmer who nurtured our nation, bequeathing to us strong intuitions of democracy that, if cherished, will continue to nourish our nation and quench its thirst for justice, peace and happiness.

We and the hundreds of thousands of tobacco farmers, processors, importers and manufacturers in Southern Africa pay homage to Madiba and commit to live his legacy of tolerance, dialogue, reconciliation, justice and fairness.

## **HAMBA KAHLE MADIBA**

**Issued by:**  
**The Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa**  
**Francois van der Merwe**  
**Chairman and CEO**  
**Mobile: 082 891 6252**

**6 December 2013**