



THE ANNUAL NELSON MANDELA PUBLIC LECTURE

Monday
18th July
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM

VENUE
Yusuf Lule Central Teaching
Facility - Auditorium
Makerere University

THEME

The Legacy of Nelson Mandela, & the Role of Higher Education in the African Union Agenda 2063

NELSON MANDELA

The first black President of South Africa

Nelson Rohilhlhla Mandela was born on 18th July 1918 and died on 5th December 2013. He was South Africa's first black head of state.

His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by fostering racial reconciliation.

Ideologically an African nationalist and socialist, he served as the president of the African National Congress (ANC) party from 1991 to 1997.

He studied law at the University of Fort Hare and the University of Witwatersrand before working as a lawyer in Johannesburg. There he became involved in anti-colonial and African nationalist politics, joining the ANC in 1943 and co-founding its Youth League in 1944.

He was appointed president of the ANC's Transvaal branch, rising to prominence for his involvement in the 1952 Defiance Campaign and the 1955 Congress of the People.

He was arrested and imprisoned in 1962, and, following the Rivonia Trial, was sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring to overthrow the state.

Mandela served 27 years in prison, split between Robben Island, Pollsmoor Prison and Victor Verster Prison.

Amid growing domestic and international pressure and fears of racial civil war, President F. W. de Klerk released him in 1990.

Mandela led efforts to negotiate an end to apartheid, which resulted in the 1994 multiracial general election in which he led the ANC to victory and became president.

Mandela's broad coalition government promulgated a new constitution, emphasized reconciliation between the country's racial groups and created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate past human rights abuses.

Globally regarded as an icon of democracy and social justice, he received more than 250 honours, including the Nobel Peace Prize. He is held in deep respect within South Africa, where he is often referred to by his Xhosa clan name, Madiba, and described as the "Father of the Nation".

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