

At his trial in 1964, Nelson Mandela closed his statement from the dock saying: "I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished an 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 needs be it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

And Nelson Mandela lived for that ideal, and he made it real. He achieved more than could be expected of any man. Today he has gone home. And we have lost one of the most influential, courageous, and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this earth. He no longer belongs to us- he belongs to the ages.

10 Through his fierce dignity and unbending will to sacrifice his own freedom for the freedom of others, Madiba¹ transformed South Africa- and moved all of us. His journey from a prisoner to a president embodied the promise that human beings- and countries- can change for the better.

15 His commitment to transfer power and reconcile with those who jailed him set an example that all humanity should aspire to, whether in the lives of nations or our own personal lives. And the fact that he did it with grace and good humour, an ability to acknowledge his own imperfections, only makes the man that much more remarkable. As he once said, "I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying."

20 I am one of the countless millions who drew inspiration from Nelson Mandela's life. My first political action, the first thing I ever did in politics was a protest against apartheid². The day he was released from prison gave me a sense of what human beings can do when they are guided by their hopes and not their fears.

25 To the people of South Africa, we draw strength from the example of renewal and reconciliation and resilience that have made you real. A free South Africa at peace with itself- that's an example to the world, and that's Madiba's legacy to the nation he loved.