



His Excellency  
Mr. Jacob Zuma  
President of the Republic of  
South Africa  
Union Buildings  
Private Bag X1000  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa

December 6, 2013

Excellency,

It is with profound sadness that we learned today of the passing of former President Nelson Mandela. On behalf of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and myself, I would like to extend to you, to the family of the late President Mandela and to the great nation of South Africa, our heartfelt condolences for a loss which is being felt so keenly throughout the entire world.

President Mandela was a truly great man. He was – and will always remain – an incomparable source of inspiration to us all. He dedicated his life to creating, not only a better life for the people of South Africa, but a better world. He preached understanding, forgiveness and goodness. He turned enemies into partners. Countless millions saw in him a brother, a father, a leader.

Nelson Mandela believed that access to knowledge and education is the world's most powerful weapon against social inequality. He embraced science and innovation as crucial components of his economic growth strategy for South Africa and he saw technology as fundamental to raising the standard of living of his people. He has given his name to universities and institutions of science and technology which strive to take forward his vision. Indeed, the whole of WIPO is proud that we have had, and continue to have, the opportunity to work closely with the Government of South African and some of its great innovation institutes.

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c.c.: His Excellency Mr. Abdul Samad Minty, Ambassador, Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva

H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, Pretoria – December 6, 2013

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WIPO joins the world in mourning the passing of a great statesman, a crusader who fought injustice and a great son of Africa. His legacy will live on for generations to come.



Francis Gurry  
Director General