

NELSON MANDELA
(18 July 1818 - 5 December 2013)

LIFE AND BIOGRAPHY

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. He was born on 18 July 1918 in Mvezo, South Africa. He died on 5 December 2013, Houghton Estate, Johannesburg, South Africa of respiratory infection.

He got married thrice before his death, survived by one wife after his death, Grace Machel and children.

His government was known for focusing on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalised racism and fostering racial reconciliation. Mandela was an anti-apartheid activist, which means that fought for those who were disadvantaged by the system of racial segregation. He was repeatedly arrested for seditious activities and was unsuccessfully prosecuted in the 1956 Treason Trial. Influenced by Marxism, he secretly joined the banned South African Communist Party (SACP). Although initially committed to non-violent protest, in association with the SACP he co-founded the militant Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1961 and led a sabotage campaign against the government

Mandela became a civil rights leader, leading many against the apartheid government. despite his arrest and imprisonment in 1962, and subsequently being sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring to overthrow the state following the Rivonia Trial. Mandela served 27 years in prison, split between Robben Island, Pollsmoor Prison and Victor Verster Prison respectively. He was released in the year 1990 by F.w Klerk . In 1994, Mandela was of key importance in negotiating the freedom and equality of all South Africans.

ACHIEVEMENTS

He was a philanthropist, politician, lawyer, activist and writer, among his most notable works was *Long walk to freedom* which he wrote three years after his release, in 1994, in the book he gave an autobiography of himself. he studied in University of South Africa (1989). He won a Nobel Peace Prize (1993) and Lenin Peace Prize (1990).. He also 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. After the National Party's white-only government established apartheid, a system of racial segregation that privileged whites, he and the ANC committed themselves to its overthrow. Mandela 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 a recognised personality while alive and a legend who runs in Africa's history even after his death for his movement, in the struggle for freedom of the South Africans from apartheid jurisdiction.

LESSONS TO LEARN

1.It always seems impossible until it's done

2.The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling but in rising every time we fall

3.As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind,I'd still be in prison

NOTE:All the lessons above,are of a few quotes, words given by Nelson Mandela while alive.

May His Soul Rest in Peace.