Message from His Excellency David Dabede Mabuza, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa

on the occasion of the unveiling of the busts of Nelson Mandela and Dedan Kimathi

at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

Fellow Africans and the People of Kenya,

On behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, we wish to convey a message of gratitude on this special occasion to immortalise the values and contributions of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The diplomatic and socio-economic ties between the people of Kenya and South Africa, give hope of a better Africa. They are bound on a shared commitment to building a united and peaceful Africa in the global family of nations.

These historical ties are inspired by the values and vision to create a better Africa and better world, a world grounded in democracy, non-racialism, non-sexism, peace and human solidarity.

These relations are cherished fruits of struggles nourished for Africa's independence and her right to be counted amongst the sovereign nations of the world.

Where we are today, our progress, development and path of self-determination, is the work of legendary and awe-inspiring luminaries such as Dedan Kimathi and Nelson Mandela.

When Nelson Mandela visited Kenya in 1990, first time as a freeman after 27 years as political prisoner, he paid homage to Dedan Kimathi, the great leader of Mau Mau. On that visit he laid wreaths at his grave and paid homage to his widow Mukami Kimathi.

We are grateful of the role played by the South African High Commission in Kenya in making this initiative a success.

Nelson Mandela was inspired by Dedan Kimathi's courage of conviction, revolutionary love for his people and his passionate integrity, selflessness and humility—this the rod and stuff with which he carried the aspirations of his people.

In the popular saying of the Zulu in South Africa, we learn of an African Proverb that "the travellers of today, should ask for direction from those who have passed before". This can be no truer than from this gesture of goodwill from the people of Kenya and the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

This occasion serves as one-good turn to deserve another for Nelson Mandela could only be a luminary and great leader because he followed in the foot-steps of Dedan Kimathi.

By honouring him in this way is to handover their wisdom and struggle to a new-generations of Africans that must take the sage struggle for unity, peace and development forward.

Dedan Kimathi and Nelson Mandela paid for our freedoms, our duty is to pay it forward to generations of Africans that are yet to come.

Through their association and example, they are sending us to march forward to complete what they started all those years ago. We must emulate their example. We must do our part to leave this place better and more sustainable than we found it.

The centenary of Nelson Mandela, celebrated around the world is the work of multiple-generations; it is their assurance and hope that one day Africa will claim her birth-right and reclaim this as indeed - The African Century!

This recognition leaves South Africans with pride. It reignites our commitment to African Solidarity and participating meaningfully in her emancipation.

What seems like a small gesture of goodwill, is more of an affirmation to continue this journey together, side-by-side until Africa is truly free.

Let the examples and achievement of Nelson Mandela inspire the next-generation to dream of an Africa that thrives on its own development and resources; an African steeped in good-governance and ethical leadership; an Africa of infinite possibility.

I can think of no better tribute to Madiba on this occasion than to remind all Africans, especially the young that:

"Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great, you can be that generation"

And so on this occasion, I would like to dedicate this monument to the youth of Africa, may it inspire them to take his baton and become a greater generation that his.

Let each, in his honour and memory, make the commitment today - the time for Africa is now!

Let each say today that "We do not want today to be men and women of yesterday, nor do we wish tomorrow to be those of today. For yesterday, today and tomorrow the time is always now.

The time for Africa is now! Much progress has been made since the days of struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Equally, we must all say it is not done – for the struggle to end poverty, unemployment and inequality remains the challenge of the moment. Aluta Continua!

I thank you.

