



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Nelson Mandela pays tribute on the passing of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr

Mthatha, 18 February 2026: It is with great sadness that the Nelson Mandela Museum notes the passing of the founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. Reverend Jackson will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and human dignity across the world. As a Reverend and American Civil Rights Leader, he associated himself firmly with the Anti-Apartheid Movement and stood in solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa during the darkest days of apartheid.

He had a profound and meaningful relationship with Nelson Mandela, founded on shared values of freedom, reconciliation, and human rights. Reverend Jackson was among those who witnessed the historic release of President Mandela on 11 February 1990, a defining moment not only in South Africa's history but in the global struggle for justice. He also actively participated in international campaigns calling for the release of Mandela and other political prisoners who had been jailed by the apartheid regime.

To mention but a few of his contributions, Reverend Jackson marched at Trafalgar Square in London alongside former ANC President Oliver Tambo, Reverend Frank Chikane, and the late ANC stalwart Johnny Makhathini, amplifying the global call for sanctions and freedom. He further led campaigns with African American activists advocating for the removal of President Mandela and the ANC from the United States

terrorist watch list, strengthening international solidarity and diplomatic pressure against apartheid.

Reverend Jesse Jackson's contribution to the struggle and freedom of this country forms part of the broader global movement that isolated the apartheid regime and accelerated South Africa's journey to democracy. His activism extended beyond South Africa to the liberation struggles of Namibia, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique, demonstrating his commitment to the total emancipation of the African continent.

The passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson is not only a loss to his family, but a profound loss to the civil rights community of the world. His legacy of courage, solidarity, and moral leadership will forever remain in our minds, hearts, and souls.

The Nelson Mandela Museum Family and its stakeholders express their deep appreciation for his enduring commitment to the struggle for freedom and human dignity.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

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