

NELSON MANDELA'S LESSONS OF LEADERSHIP TO THE YOUTH

Social activist and founder of the Thembekile Foundation, Ndileka Mandela is the deputy chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Museum Council.

According to Ndileka Mandela, Nelson Mandela opened the museum upon seeing what museums could do with culture and the preservation of it. She explained that “culture is actually something that connects us to other people because of the common thread that runs from one culture to the next.”

The museum preserves artefacts and stories of Nelson Mandela throughout his life and the lessons he imparted. She explained that she was chosen to sit on the board as a representative of her family as “the first grandchild from the first wife from the first son of Nelson Mandela.” “For me to be here is to safeguard the interest of my family so that we stay on course,” she explained.

She shared the museum’s plans to build an amphitheatre within the museum’s boundaries where they will showcase the story of Nelson Mandela’s story, A Long Walk To Freedom, to younger audiences.

“That is what we envisage in doing within the museum of talking of how we extrapolate these lessons of Madiba and impart them to the youth,” she explained.

“We bemoan the fact that our youth do not have leadership qualities, forgetting that leadership is developed over time. You can’t expect an adult who has never known how to be a leader and how to lead themselves first, to lead other people,” she said.

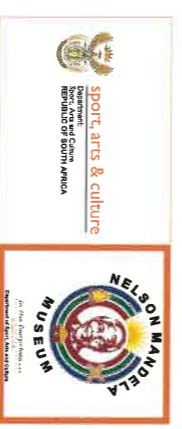
“That’s why we have a leadership vacuum across the globe,” she said. “It’s because we forget the missing link, children. You have got to teach leadership from an early age,” she reasoned.

The museum will be launching a leadership programme under the Thembekile Mandela Foundation, called Reading Like Mandela which focuses on the development of leadership skills, that are drawn from the leadership style of Nelson Mandela himself, in the youth community.



Ndileka Mandela explained that the programme is designed to take these lessons and adapt them to the different environments of children. “If, for instance, you have a child from the rural areas, your reference point is going to be different from a child in the urban areas,” she explained.

“Our generation is busy exiting. If we don’t start crafting our next crop of leaders to lead with an ethical and moral compass, we will be doomed as a country,” she concluded.



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