

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

NO. 7325

30 March 2026



AN AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS, AND CULTURE

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF THE COLLECTION OF GIFTS BESTOWED ON NELSON MANDELA
AS A SPECIFICALLY DECLARED COLLECTION

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), in terms of section 32 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999), SAHRA hereby declares the collection of gifts bestowed on Nelson Mandela and in the custodianship of the Nelson Mandela Museum as a Specifically Declared Collection.

Statement of Significance

“The collection of gifts ranges from children’s drawings to diplomatic gifts from heads of state and expresses admiration, gratitude, and solidarity with Nelson Mandela’s life and values. The variety of gifts reflects the respect, connection, inspiration, and diplomacy Mandela invoked as a leader.

Mandela’s commitment to unity and generosity is further reflected in the condition that he would accept the gifts. He accepted gifts under a single condition that they be preserved and shared with the people of South Africa, particularly near his home village of Qunu. The gifts were bestowed upon Mandela during and beyond his presidency - gifts given in recognition of his commitment to justice, reconciliation, and human rights.

The collection, comprising approximately 3,900 verified objects, includes beadwork, textiles, sculptures, portraits, medals, orders, newspaper articles, handcrafted postcards, gold and leather items, paintings, brass artefacts, and more. Together, these speak of the high regard in which Mandela was held across continents and cultures.

Individually and collectively, the objects in this collection offer insight into the life, values, and impact of Nelson Mandela. An acclaimed recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mandela was also a sportsman and community advocate. Among the collection’s items are a pair of boxing gloves, a Springbok jersey, and a rugby ball - all tributes to his love of sport as a unifier. Handmade cards from children reflect his deep care for young people, and a horse saddle evokes his rural roots and identity as a village boy of the Eastern Cape.

This is more than a collection of gifted objects; it is a living archive of love, unity, values, meaning, and profound respect for the late Former President Nelson Mandela. Each item, whether symbolic artworks, handcrafted treasures, letters, and/or cultural artefacts, represents a heartfelt gesture from individuals, communities, and nations who saw the former President as a beacon of hope and humanity.

These gifts transcend language, race, and borders, uniting people across continents and generations; they stand as powerful reminders of the shared values Former President Mandela embodied - dignity, justice, compassion, and reconciliation, and continue to inspire young people to engage meaningfully with South Africa's democratic journey and their role within it."

DESCRIPTION

The collection consists of gifts of various memorabilia and materials . All of them in their original form. A complete inventory is available, on request from SAHRA Head Office, with the approval from the Nelson Mandela Museum.

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