

SANParks mourns passing of Madiba

South African National Parks (SANParks) has joined the world in mourning the death of Nelson Mandela. The CEO Dr David Mabunda passed on his condolences on behalf of SANParks.



Madiba at the launch of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

"It is befitting to pass our heartfelt condolences to Madiba's family and the country as a whole."

Dr Mabunda said, the former statesman played a significant role in the formation of the Transfrontier Conservation Area concept and personally agreed to be a special patron of the Peace Parks Foundation which saw the establishment of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area linking the Kruger National Park in South Africa, Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, the Gonarezhou National Park, Manjini Pan Sanctuary and Malipati Safari Area in Zimbabwe as well as the Makuleke region of South Africa.

The Peace Park concept

Nelson Mandela, speaking at the handover of 1000 elephants on the border between South Africa and Mozambique in 2001, said in a world beset by division, he knows of no philosophy or ideology that does not agree with the Peace Park concept. "It promises to bring a better life to some of the poorest citizens of southern Africa... in many ways the project is a demonstrable manifestation of the African Renaissance," he stated at the time.

Dr Mabunda recalled Mandela saying that the elephants were part of his "lobola" after he married Graca Machel.

"Our deepest condolences go to the Mandela family and every single South African in this dark hour. May we all be reminded of the sacrifices that Madiba made in shaping the future of our country. Lala ngoxolo Tata Madiba."

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