

World is full of Madiba magic

NASHIRA DAVIDS

AFTER being a prisoner for almost three decades, Nelson Mandela became free in a way few can rival.

According to the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, the icon received 165 civic awards, honorary citizenships and freedoms of the city. Countless streets, parks, squares and gardens have been named after the 94-year-old.

There is even a small town in Lazio, Italy, called Mandela, with a population of about 900.

Mandela's name has been incor-

Towns, spiders, restaurants and more named after him

porated in the taxonomy of zoological finds.

Matjaz Kunter, of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Gustavo Hormiga, of George Washington University, discovered a new species of spider that they named *Singafrotypa Mandela*.

"Gustavo and I described this species back in 2002 and named it in honour of Nelson Mandela's lifelong struggle to rid Africa of

racism," said Kunter.

"We discovered a single specimen of this previously unknown form in a collection in the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg."

A few months ago, Kunter found one of the spiders in Mozambique.

In New York, Madiba has united all races and ages in a universal love — food. Madiba Restaurant, in Brooklyn, was described as one of the most interesting places at which to eat in the US, said owner

Mark Henegan.

"We have been fortunate to serve the likes of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and family members of Nelson Mandela," said Henegan, who is from Umhlanga.

"We have catered at events for the UN, the South African Consulate and SA Tourism," Henegan said, adding that he had overseen "braais in the Hamptons" and "weddings in Nicaragua".

According to the Nelson Mandela

Centre of Memory database, there is also:

- A sea slug called *Mandelia Micocornata*, named by marine biologists Angel Vlades and Terry Gosliner;
- A computer game in which Mandela "escapes Robben Island to free his daughter" Zindzi;
- A landfill site in Georgetown, Guyana, in South America, that is named after Mandela;
- Race horses and a nuclear particle are named after Madiba; and
- A Venezuelan music group is called the Danzas Mandela.



'WE THANK YOU': Mbuso Mandela, Madiba's grandson, collects the flowers and get-well messages left outside the Mediclinic Heart Hospital, in Pretoria, where Mandela is being treated for a recurring lung infection. Picture: MOELETSI MABE

ANC gets down on its knees

PHILANI NOMBEMBE and YOLISA MKELE

THE ANC organised prayer meetings for Nelson Mandela yesterday while children and their parents continued to flock to Madiba's Houghton, Johannesburg, home to offer support.

Yesterday ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu invited people to join hourly prayer meetings at ANC provincial offices at 6pm daily.

Prayer meetings took place at Vilakazi Street, in Soweto, where Mandela once lived, and at ANC branches and at several churches.

ANC national chairman, Baleka Mbete and Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Zou Kota-Fredericks joined about 200 people in a Khayelitsha hall to pray for the ailing statesman yesterday.

Bafana Bafana coach Gordon Igesund said the soccer team was praying for the leader.

"He's in God's hands now and we just pray for him," he said.

Josh Weinberg, a 10-year-old who shares a bond with the statesman, visited Madiba's Houghton home for the 18th time in 18 days.

Josh's mother, Lara, said: "On the day my son was born Mandela came to the hospital to give him a blessing and told him: 'One great soul comes to meet another'."

She said: "Because of that we've come here every day for the past 18 days."

The younger Weinberg said: "I hope he dies peacefully." — Additional reporting by Sapa

Siwela's long journey to say goodbye to Tata

SIPHO MASOMBUKA and TSHEPANG TLHAPANE

AT ABOUT the time when rumours of Nelson Mandela's death were spreading like wildfire, Josephine Siwela, 93, arrived at the Pretoria hospital at which he is being treated to "say goodbye to Tata".

Siwela had travelled from Queenstown, Eastern Cape, to join hundreds of people outside the Mediclinic Heart Hospital, clutching Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*.

Relieved that she made it, she said: "I was in the struggle in the

1960s and Mandela was my commander. I arrived [on Wednesday] night at my daughter's place in Randburg and begged her to bring me here."

But Tata was not ready to bid the world goodbye.

President Jacob Zuma allayed fears by announcing that Mandela's medical team had assured him that Mandela's "condition improved during the night".

"He remains critical but is now stable," said Zuma. "I cancelled my visit to Mozambique so that I could see him and confer with doctors."

Zuma said Mandela was much better than when he saw him on Wednesday night.

The Presidency appealed for respect to be shown for Mandela's privacy and dignity, saying false rumours about Mandela's health were disturbing.

At least 15 buses carrying well-wishers from across Gauteng arrived at the hospital yesterday.

Members of the Mandela family for the first time this week collected flowers, and cards and messages addressed to Mandela, that had been left outside the hospital.

Mandela's granddaughter, Ndileka Mandela, told the well-wishers at the hospital that the family was grateful for their support and prayers: "This has been the source of comfort for the family," she said.

Ndileka was accompanied by her aunt, Makaziwe, and other grandchildren of Mandela, Swati, Ndaba and Zoleka.

In a SABC TV interview yesterday, Makaziwe said Mandela had responded to their touch and had tried to open his eyes.

But "Tata's situation is critical, yes."

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THE WEATHER

Source: SA WEATHER SERVICE

Sunny/warm ☀️

Cloudy ☁️

Partly Cloudy ☁️☀️

Cloudy with rain ☁️🌧️

Thundershowers ⚡️🌧️

Snow ❄️

Fog 🌫️

Frost ❄️

Sunrise Sunset

Cape Town
Sunrise: 07:51
Sunset: 17:46

Durban
Sunrise: 06:51
Sunset: 17:05

Johannesburg
Sunrise: 06:55
Sunset: 17:26

Polokwane 9/23

Nelspruit 11/18

Pretoria 6/23

Johannesburg 5/21

Mafikeng -5/13

Kimberley -5/13

Bloemfontein -4/15

Pietermaritzburg 6/13

Beaufort West 2/17

Port Elizabeth 6/18

East London 8/18

Durban 15/19

Cape Town 9/16

Wind: 5km SE, 22km SE, 19km SW, 9km NW