



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CBTU President Salutes Nelson Mandela on His 95th Birthday

Statement of Rev. Terry Melvin
President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
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Happy 95th Madiba!

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists is overjoyed to be wishing Nelson Mandela "Happy Birthday!" today. This day seemed only a dim hope a month ago, but now has burst forth as a jubilant celebration worldwide. Born in 1918, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela personifies the dignity and unbreakable resilience of black South Africans who triumphed over the racist apartheid regime and the incalculable violence and exploitation of the black majority.

When Mandela spoke to a crowd of 100,000 in Harlem, New York in 1990, he delivered a poignant message that resonates just as much today as it did then:

"Struggle that does not strengthen organization can lead to a blind alley. Struggle without discipline can lead to anarchy. Struggle without unity enables the other side to pick us off one by one."

Amandla!
[Power!]

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