



09 July 2021

To: Subject Advisors, Teachers, Departmental Heads

Message Objective:

To :

- Advocating reading in communities through Nelson Mandela legacy
- Outline the Nelson Mandela legacy
- Use Nelson Mandela legacy to champion reading in communities.

The month of July is dedicated as the Mandela month in South Africa and in the rest of the world. Nelson Mandela was known in South Africa as the “Father of the Nation” not only for his role in liberating the country but also for the love and support he has shown to its children. Among the many awards and prizes he received include the 2005 World’s Children’s Prize and the Decade Child Rights Hero in 2009 for his lifelong struggle to free the children of South Africa from apartheid, and for his unwavering support for their rights.

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child; in everything we do. Together with various partners, a lot of initiatives were established, focusing on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children everywhere while working to create a safer and healthier environment for every child.

Communities can learn a lot from the legacy of Nelson Mandela. If he were not reading a newspaper, he would be reading a book. So, parents can follow his footsteps by buying at least one weekend newspaper and read it with their children at home. The newspaper does not have to in English, it can be in any home language.

According to Sampson (1999), even under adverse conditions, prison inmates would study. Prisoners would work in the sun with picks and shovels for eight hours, and then spend the night in our cells studying. Madiba was always adamant about the importance of education. This is one motivation parents should use to encourage their children to read.

Communities can promote reading by inviting members of the public to donate books relating his life as well as to the lives and history of other liberation heroes of South Africa to schools, libraries or other organizations in need. The National Reading Coalition has also placed book collection boxes in malls such Riverside mall (Mbombela), mall of the North in Polokwane and Thavhani mall in Venda. Communities who are closer to these malls can donate their books in those boxes, the National Education Collaboration staff (NECT) will then distribute them to communities where books are needed most

Resourced schools can make a call to present and launch to hand over generous donations of reading materials to less resourced schools.

bailey@nect.org.za.

Reference: Sampson (1999), Authorised Biography of Mandela, Hammersmith-London, Harper Collins Publishers.