



EFF OBSERVES THE 3rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF STRUGGLE ICON MAMA WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA

Friday, 02 April 2021

The EFF observes the 2nd of April, as the day the country the continent and the world lost one of the greatest icons of our liberation struggle, and a champion of the poor, Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

Born in what was formerly known as Mbizana, a municipality which now bears her name, Mama Winnie became the torch bearer of the struggle against Apartheid and a fierce women who defied the brutal machinery of a racist regime without fear. She carried the hopes of our people and kept the fires of resistance burning at a time when all political leadership of black people was either arrested, exiled or killed.

At a time when the regime of terror was its most cruel, it was Mama Winnie who would boldly shoot her fist of black power in the air, refusing to be trapped by fear of Apartheid police. Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was the pillar of strength in black communities, becoming a shoulder to cry on, a voice of inspiration and a symbol of powerful black women leadership.

The Apartheid regime feared her so much, subjecting her to constant arrests, torture, terrorising her family and any who dared to associate with her. Her ability to mobilise and inspire shook the regime to a point where it subjected her to 491-days of solitary confinement in prison, later house arrest in what was the unfamiliar Brandfort, Free State.

Despite all of this, Mama Winnie never tired or lost hope, and was embraced by the community that the regime thought she would be isolated in, continuing with her activism. Her spirit of defiance defined a generation, as she attracted people from all walks of life and

led generations of youth to never retreat in the battle against a the crime against humanity that is Apartheid.

She was a fearless soldier, whose commitment and love she received from her people created enemies for her even within her own organisation.

Having defeated Apartheid, Mama Winnie was confronted with a well-coordinated campaign to criminalise her to ensure that she never led government in the new dispensation. She was persecuted by Stratcom media, state intelligence and even those within her own organization for her commitment to the return of the stolen land and her position on collapsing the monopoly a white minority has over the wealth of this country.

South Africa was denied a President, because of cowardly men whose commitment to patriarchy robbed this nation of a gallant, noble and loving leader. There are traitors today who pretend as if they have always loved her, yet Mama Winnie died knowing that many of the scars and pain she suffered was inflicted on her by those within the ranks of her own movement.

There however is no torture, no racist media campaign and no humiliation that was able to remove Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela from the hearts of our people. She remained the most loved liberation hero, who continues to enjoy organic popular expression, that is not manufactured by media to push fake reconciliation.

It was on the day of her funeral that we witnessed just how much Mama Winnie was loved, as people of al races and backgrounds, lined the streets in the rain, to salute her as she went to her final resting place.

She was respected even by those who we thought hated her, because of her commitment to the truth and justice, and her unwavering demand for equality and genuine social cohesion, that is not based on lies.

The EFF is inspired by her defiant spirit and will always ensure that her memory is cherished in the history of our struggle.

It is for this reason that the EFF will name its new Headquarters after her, and name the state of the art school that the EFF has pledged to build, as Mama Winnie Mandela Combined School.

We continue to honour her, passing legislation that will have sites named after her, most recently the renaming of her home municipality of Mbizana after her. We continue to call for the Cape Town International Airport to be renamed to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela airport, in her honour.

We say to Mama Winnie that her legacy is safe in the hands of the EFF, and she will forever remain an organic Mother of the Nation, a title given to her by the masses of our people.

Lala Ngoxolo Mbokodo! May your defiant spirit inspire this generation to achieve Economic Freedom in our lifetime.

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