THE SPECIAL ADVISER

REFERENCE: 026-04/2018/OSAA/JVN 5 April 2018

Excellency,

We have all been shocked and saddened by the death of Mrs. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

Mrs. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was a mother and daughter of Africa. In the annals of the fight for justice and equality, her name will be indelible. Her decades of leadership and courageous fight for freedom will be her legacy. But it will be the resilience of this remarkable woman that will surely be celebrated by many.

The outpouring of heartfelt tributes from all corners of our world reflects the esteem with which Mrs. Madikizela-Mandela was held and reminds us of the special role she played in favor of universal human rights, including women’s rights. Her contribution was outstanding and we are so grateful, even as we stand diminished by the passing of this great lady we mourn.

The staff members of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa join me in extending our most sincere condolences to the family of Mama Winnie, to the Government and people of South Africa, and to all those who cherished her in Africa and beyond.

As Africans, we share the pain and sorrow of the South African nation. Africa and the wider family of nations are indebted to Mama Winnie.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Bience Gawanas
Under-Secretary-General and
Special Adviser on Africa

H.E. Ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila
Permanent Representative of South Africa
to the United Nations
New York, NY