



**The Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Sibongile (Bongi) Mkhabela**

With an honors degree in Social Work and several graduate diplomas, Bongi has immense experience in development issues nationally and internationally, gained from working in senior positions at the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Education Programme in South Africa and the South African Council of Churches. Bongi served in the office of the then Deputy President Mbeki as programs director responsible for overall programming, with specific responsibility for NGO/Government partnerships and children's programs.

The CEO's Corner

NMCF CEO's message on the Children's World Colouring Day and Birthday Card wishes generated by SA's Children to mark NMCF Founder, Nelson Mandela's 90th Birthday.

In the league of world leaders that have inspired the ability to do good for others beyond the duty of political office, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund is truly blessed to be counted as one of the causes that are most dear to its founder and former President Nelson Mandela.

While his exemplary leadership is best remembered in the corridors of power, economic forums and world bodies, to the children of the world and South Africa in particular, he is their undisputed champion for placing their well being on the agenda of his as well as the good offices of other leaders.

His is a vision that has not only inspired the free nations of the world to walk their share of distances to making the world more humane but also fit for children. That vision aptly directs us to ***Changing the Way Society Treats its Children and Youth***. Therefore every step that the Fund takes, in the course of doing its work, is propelled by the vision that spurs us come closer to living the dream in which society can be more familiar with the smiles of children rather than their tears.

In keeping with this dream, a conversation initiated by Edcon, including CNA and Staedtler, gave birth to providing an opportunity to the SA's children to salute their champion by means of drawing birthday card wishes in honour of his 90th birthday. The activity simply fitted like a hand in glove in an ongoing effort of affirming children's participation to this august event.

Nothing better captures how children feel about Nelson Mandela than the cheerfully frank and enthusiastic massive outpouring of good wishes that have so ably been packaged for easy read in the form of this book. By this book, all who wish to see the world through the eyes of children



stand invited to peruse and enjoy with affection. Even more special to this invitation is the fact that cards came from children from the age group of 6-12 years.

Hopefully, the book will not only give us insight into the innocence of children, but also help gain foresight of the dreams that flicker in their tiny hearts. The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund is truly blessed to be in the company of stakeholders that are prepared to walk an extra mile, with it, in championing a cause that is most dear to Nelson Mandela.

As demonstrated in this book, the children simply say Happy Birthday Madiba!! And so say all of us on your 90th birthday.

SIBONGILE MKHABELA (MS)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Nelson Mandela Children's Fund