

## Media Release

### For Immediate Release

27 July 2016

### Nelson Mandela Children's Condemns Cruelty against Children

The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Fund) is deeply saddened by the recent occurrences of cruelty against children in our country and the SADC region.

As proponents of the child's rights advocacy, the Fund's vision to "change the way society treats its children and youth" inspires all to be more vigilant in dealing with challenges affecting the children in our communities.

The Fund is disturbed by recent media reports regarding corporal punishment unleashed on learners in the Western Cape schools and the Fund is equally shocked by the human trafficking incident involving 57 Malawian children who were rescued by the Northwest police in the town of Rustenburg.

The Fund's CEO, Sibongile Mkhabela, has described both occurrences as inhumane and a betrayal of African Children.

"These acts of cowardice and brutality against the most vulnerable members of our society must be condemned in the strongest terms; our anger and disgust must however go beyond condemnation, we must all recommit ourselves to Nelson Mandela's purpose of establishing a Children's Fund and its vision to change the way society treats its children and youth. It is truly un-African and ruthless to squash 57 children in a panel-van with no windows and drive thousands of kilometres from Malawi to South Africa, what kind of a man does these terrible things to children. In the African culture we say it takes a village to raise a child and we should embrace this narrative and practice it diligently," commented Mkhabela.

The Fund urges members of the society to be vigilant in ensuring the safety and protection of children and reminds all by quoting its founder's speech, Nelson R. Mandela - *"There can be no keener revelation in the way society treats its children and youth. We come from a past in which the lives of our children were assaulted and devastated in countless ways. It would be no exaggeration to speak of a national abuse of a generation by a society which it should have been able to trust. As we set about building a new South Africa, one of our highest priorities must therefore be our children. The vision of a new society that guides us should already be manifest in the steps we take to address the wrong done to our youth and to prepare for their future. Our actions and policies, and the institutions we create, should be eloquent with care, respect and love."*

The Fund also conveys its good wishes to the families and children affected by the devastating tornado blitz in Tembisa.

End...

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