

OPENING SONG: Welele Qaleane

FIRST VOICE: The African National Congress salutes Nelson Mandela on his 60th birthday; today he is still conducting the struggle from his fighting post within the confines of Robben Island. 16 years of imprisonment has failed to break his spirit and he still is an inspiration to our people.

2ND VOICE: Mandela became a fighter for the liberation of our people since the age of 16. He joined the ANC in 1944 and since then, together with Tambo, Sisulu and others he contributed in making the ANC the powerful force that it is today. By transforming the A.N.C. into a people's movement, Mandela and his colleagues, firmly put the task of liberation in the hands of the masses themselves.

SONG: Ma'Afrika hlanganani.....

3RD VOICE: Conscious of the fact that the Coloured and Indian people are themselves oppressed and that they constitute comrades-in-arms of the African majority, Mandela and his comrades worked to cement the bonds of common struggle, binding these peoples and thus significantly raised the combat strength of the liberation movement. From the time of the defiance campaign in 1951 through to the congress of the people

4TH VOICE: Still concerned to build up the most powerful united force against fascist tyranny, Mandela and his co-leaders were at the centre of the struggle to win over to the side of the revolution the democratic-minded whites. Thus, arising out of the unity in action of all South Africans, in 1955 the Freedom Charter was adopted on June 26th at Kliptown.

5TH VOICE: Of the Freedom Charter, Mandela said: "for the first time in the history of our country the democratic forces, irrespective of race, ideological conviction, party affiliation or religious belief, have renounced and discarded racialism in all its ramifications, clearly defined their aims and objects in a common programme of action....The Charter is more than a mere list of demands for democratic reforms. It is a revolutionary document precisely because the changes it envisages cannot be won without breaking up the economic and political set-up of present South Africa."

6TH VOICE: In the infamous Treason Trial of 1956-61, the fascist regime put the outstanding representatives of our people on trial for having adopted the Freedom Charter which the fascists claimed was a communist document.

SONG: Hap usizi Lo'mto Mnyana.

7TH VOICE: In 1960 when the A.N.C. was banned, Lutuli, Tambo, Mandela and the rest of the leadership of the A.N.C. had to consider whether it was in fact correct and proper for them and the rest of the membership of the A.N.C. to demolish half a century of national construction work by acquiescing to the destruction of the A.N.C. by complying with the banning order. In Mandela's words: "For us to accept the banning was equivalent to accepting the silencing of the Africans for all time. The A.N.C. refused to dissolve but instead went underground."

8TH VOICE: It was during this period of underground activities that Umkhonto we Sizwe was formed on December 16th 1961. Mandela became

its first Commander-in-Chief. He secretly left for abroad to organise for the training of uMkhonto soldiers and on his return started to organise the underground military structure. He was arrested and sentenced to five years for leaving the country illegally and during that period he was tried for leading uMkhonto in the Rivonia trial and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island.

SONG: Sizomkhulela uMandela.

9TH VOICE: The central issue that occupies his mind today is that all the oppressed people of our country and especially the youth should stand firmly on the advances made by the A.N.C. over the last 65 years, make that supreme effort of an escalating revolutionary offensive which will ensure the defeat of the criminal Botha regime and the transfer of power to the people.

SONG: Shanyelani amabala zingane.

10TH VOICE: On this occasion of the 60th birthday of Nelson Mandela, we call on all of you to step up the fight to free Mandela and all political prisoners and our country. Angola and Mozambique are free, Namibia and Zimbabwe will soon be free. We must seize the initiative and strike at the enemy now. Join the A.N.C. and Umkhonto we Sizwe. Freedom in our lifetime.

Amandla ngawethu!
Matla ke arona!
Power to the People!

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