

MEDIA RELEASE

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MILLIONS MOURN MANDELA'S PASSING

Millions of people around the world are mourning the sad passing of Nelson Mandela, including about 25,000 Victorians born in South Africa.

One of the world's most recognised and admired people, Mr Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for his work to end apartheid in South Africa and unite people from different backgrounds in harmony and peace.

Victorian Multicultural Commission Chairperson, Mr Chin Tan said Mr Mandela's passing marked the end of one era and the beginning of another.

"There is no doubt that Nelson Mandela's life's work has brought about positive change for millions of people and the world is a much better place for it," Mr Tan said.

"Affectionately referred to as the 'father of the nation', Nelson Mandela was a tireless campaigner and became the face of the quest for justice, equality, and human rights – not just in South Africa, but across the globe.

"His work has inspired generations of people to embrace communities from all cultures and faiths and the challenge now is to maintain that momentum.

"His achievements are many, and there is still more to be done to realise his vision.

"For the growing African community here in Victoria, I encourage you to continue to be inspired by Madiba and exercise your right to full participation in all aspects of Australian life – culturally, socially and economically.

"On behalf of the VMC I offer condolences to the Mandela family, the people of South Africa, and the millions of people across the world who've lost a great man," he said.

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