



## Media statement by the Bench Marks Foundation

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### **Bench Marks Foundation hails a true fighter against injustice and poverty**

6 December 2013

The Bench Marks Foundation is deeply saddened by the death of the great activist against poverty and injustice, Nelson Mandela.

Says Bishop Jo Seoka, Chairperson of the Bench Marks Foundation: "Madiba was the champion for the oppressed.

"He fought his life for the freedom of our country, for this we are eternally grateful.

"Our hope is that our leaders carry on his legacy".

"We all have a renewed responsibility to fulfil his legacy of freedom," says John Capel, Executive Director for the organisation.

"This includes liberty for those who are still oppressed by poverty and injustice and the growing inequalities that Nelson Mandela struggled so hard against.

"We hope that his legacy may now drive us to address our many social problems and that our leaders live by his example. Not to do so would be to blemish his name and what he stood for".

Rest in peace Madiba.

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Bench Marks Foundation is an independent non-governmental organisation mandated by churches to monitor the practices of multi-national corporations to

- ensure they respect human rights;
- protect the environment;
- ensure that profit-making is not done at the expense of other interest groups; and
- ensure that those most negatively impacted upon are heard, protected and accommodated within the business plans of the corporations.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu launched the Foundation in 2001 and the Rt Rev Dr Jo Seoka chairs the organisation.

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