



Der Oberbürgermeister
STADT OLDENBURG i.O.



It is so hard to find the appropriate words for the deep sorrow we're feeling since Nelson Mandela passed away on Thursday the 5th of December; and we can't even imagine the grief the people of South Africa must endure these days.

Mandela was a truly great man and an example to all humanity.

He went through so much hatred and suffering in his life, but he was not bitter, instead he chose to forgive. His courage, determination, humility, and generosity inspired us all – and will continue to do so forever. Mandela is rightfully considered the father of modern South Africa.

I dare say, he has been and will always be the most important figure in the country's history. Mandela's extraordinary achievements are the most precious gift he has passed on to both, South Africa and the world.

I offer everyone in South Africa my deepest condolences and grieves. May Mandela's ideals and objectives outlive him and may he always be an example for everyone. I am sure he will live on forever in peoples' memories and hearts.

Oldenburg, 12. Dezember 2013

Prof. Dr. Gerd Schwandner
Oberbürgermeister Stadt Oldenburg

