



*in the footsteps* ...

NELSON MANDELA MUSEUM

Bhunga Building, Owen Street, Mthatha, South Africa | P O Box 52808, Mthatha, 5099, South Africa

Telephone: + 27 (0) 47 501 9500 | Facsimile: + 27 (0) 047 532 3345

Email: [info@nelsonmandelamuseum.org.za](mailto:info@nelsonmandelamuseum.org.za) | [www.mandelamuseum.org.za](http://www.mandelamuseum.org.za)



## **International Nelson Mandela School visits South Africa**

In 2023, St John's College established a partnership with Nelson Mandela School in Berlin. The three educators from Nelson Mandela School were hosted by St John's College, for five (5) days, in March 2023. Nelson Mandela School shares a namesake with the iconic leader Nelson Mandela and it embodies principles of social justice and international understanding.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2024, there was another reciprocal visit by the International Nelson Mandela School in Berlin to St Johns College in Mthatha, with a welcoming programme hosted at the Nelson Mandela Museum. In attendance were the representatives from International Nelson Mandela School, St. John's College, Nelson Mandela Museum, Anglican Diocese of Mthatha and local dignitaries. The speakers delivered their speeches welcoming the visit of the Nelson Mandela School and made mention of the partnership between the two schools that underpins a commitment to educational exchange and mutual learning. It aimed at developing joint projects, share resources, and engage in student exchanges that enriched cultural understanding and academic pursuits as advocated by these institutions.

Key stakeholders included representatives from Nelson Mandela Museum, Nelson Mandela School, St. John's College, local government officials, educators, students, and community members. They shared their welcoming remarks and the importance of the visit to South Africa, as an opportunity not only for an exchange programme but to share several benefits, such as cultural exposure, academic enrichment, language skills, funding opportunities, digitisation of St John's College and others. The participation and support of the museum was very crucial in ensuring the success of the welcoming session. The museum further arranged a tour to all its sites of significance that included the village tour in Qunu along the Mandela Footprints Hiking Trail – sliding stone, remains of the church where Mandela was baptised, Mandela Family Grave Site and his home in Qunu. The tour provided some cultural experience of a life in the village as they spent the night in one of the homestays in Qunu, after a very busy day.

The event garnered significant social media coverage, both locally and internationally, highlighting the importance of cultural exchange and educational partnerships. There were media outlets covered speeches, cultural performance, social media uploads, radio and television interviews with stakeholders, amplifying the impact of the event and promoting its objectives.

The welcoming event successfully launched a partnership between Nelson Mandela School and St. John's College, emphasizing educational collaboration, cultural exchange, and a shared commitment to Nelson Mandela's values. It set a positive precedent for future engagements and highlighted the transformative power of international educational partnerships.