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NELSON MANDELA

Born Umtata, Transkei, 18th July 1918. Father Chief Henry, Polygamist with 4 wives.

Father and mother never been to school. Father died 1930. DAVID DALINDYEBO, then acting Paramount Chief of the tribe became my guardian.

Am related to both SABATA DALINDYEBO, present Paramount Chief of Tembuland and to KAIZER MATANZIMA, Chief Minister for the Transkei. Both are according to Tembu custom, my nephews.

Hold degree of B.A., University of South Africa Attorney.

Married to Winnie, daughter of COLUMBUS MADIKIZELA, Minister of Agriculture in the Transkei. Have 5 children, 3 by former marriage and 2 with Winnie.

Political interest first aroused when I listened to elders of the tribe in my village as a youth. Elders told of the good old days before the arrival of the white man. Then our people lived peacefully under the democratic rule of their Kings and councillors and moved freely all over their country. Then the country was ours. We occupied the land, the forests and the rivers. We set up and operated our own Government, we controlled our own armies and organised our own Trade and Commerce.

The elders would tell us about the liberation and how it was fought by our ancestors in defence of our country, as well as the acts of valour performed by Generals and soldiers during those epic days.

I hoped and vowed then that amongst the pleasures that life might offer me would be the opportunity to serve my people and make my own humble contribution to their struggle for freedom.

At 16, as is our custom, I went to a circumcision school, the place where many of my ancestors were circumcised - on the banks of the Bashee River. By the standards of my tribe, I was now a man ready to take part in the "parliament" of the tribe IMBIZO.

At 23, my guardian felt it was now time for me to get married. He loved me very much and looked after me as diligently as my father had. But he was no democrat and did not think it worthwhile to consult me. He selected a girl, fat and dignified, paid lobola and arrangements were afoot for the wedding. I escaped to Johannesburg.

I applied for a job at Crown Mines. I <sup>felt</sup> from home with my nephew (four years older than me) Chief JUSTICE MTIRARA, now a member of the Transkeian Territorial Authority.

The cousin would start off as a learner Mabalana (clerk) and I as a policeman for a short time, it was said, and thereafter when a vacancy occurred, would become clerk.

I left the Mines and worked for a year as an estate agent at £2. per month plus commission. It was the most difficult time in my ~~fi~~ life, but I lived through it. In 1942 I was articled to a Johannesburg firm of Attorneys - MITKIN, SIDELSKY & EIDELMAN. To Mr. Sidelsky, I will always be indebted.

#### Experiences in the firm

##### 1. European typist tells me:

"Look Nelson, we have no colour bar here. When the tea boy brings the tea, come and get your tea from the tray. But we have bought two new cups for you and Gaur Radike (another employee). You must use these. Tell Gaur about your cups. Be careful of him Nelson, he has a bad influence."

I duly reported to Gaur. "I will show you what you should do. Do exactly what I do." The tea came and Gaur boycotted the new cups and picked one of the old ones. I wanted to quarrel neither with him nor with the woman. So for months I did not drink tea.

2. A new typist (also European) was in the habit of asking me for work. One day I was dictating to her when a European client came in. She was a bit upset. To make it absolutely clear that I was no boss of hers, she took out a 6d from her purse and said "Nelson please get me a hair shampoo from the chemist."

In 1944 I formed the ANC. <sup>You'll beque</sup> 1952 became President of the ANC (Transvaal). The same year became Deputy National President. Ordered to resign in 1953.

In 1953 sentenced to 9 months imprisonment for my part in organising the campaign for the Defence of Unjust Laws (suspended).

➤ In 1956 arrested on charges of high treason. Discharged March 1961.

Married Winnie June 14, 1958, during Treason Case. A girl with lots and lots of courage and who has inspired me in all of my efforts. Domestic life of most politicians very basic. During the Treason Case had to be in my office at 6 a.m. daily, returning very late at night. This continued until 29th March 1961, when we were discharged. Early in April 1961 went \* underground to organise May strike. Have never been home since.

In January 1962, I toured Africa, visiting Tanganyika, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria.

I also visited England.

In all these countries, I met Heads of State or other senior Government officials. In England I was received by Hugh Gaitskell, then leader of the Labour Party and by Abe Grimmond, Leader of the Liberal Party.

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