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## AIRCO NATIONAL OFFICE MOURNS PASSING OF MADIBA

The former President of South Africa, Honorable Nelson Mandela once said "South Africa is fortunate enough to have a strong cultural sector, rich in potential and emerging talent to feed and sustain its future growth, one of the South African's most significant cultural industries is the local music industry. The South African music industry is a powerful means of enhancing the country's identity and distinctiveness, while simultaneously creating employment, developing human skills and generating social capital and cohesion". The South African music industry organized formations mourn the passing of Madiba at 95, in his own words he taught us to live a fulfilled life and serve our people selflessly. We hereby echo tons of worldwide condolences to the Madiba family, friend, colleagues and veterans of the struggle.

The music industry has an economic and political impact in our people's lives dating as far back as 1900s, during the African National Congress's Centenary celebration in Free State on 08 January 2012, our President, Honorable Jacob Zuma reminded us that the creative industries practitioners played a vital role in liberating us from colonialism, apartheid system and conglomerate monopoly. It is their sound recordings that inspired the new generation of independent record companies and musicians.

AIRCO (Association of Independent Record Companies of South Africa)

On behalf of the AIRCO board of directors, trustees and independent music producers countrywide send their deepest condolences to the family of Rholihlahla. The Chairperson of AIRCO, Mr Dodo Monamodi said "in celebrating Madiba's legacy, today, we celebrate independent record companies such as Cool spot, TS Records, Ghetto Ruff, 999 Music, Kalawa, Dojam, and many more that continues to produce music icons that we celebrate today. We will uphold the ideas of Madiba to transform the music industry to level the playing field for all music producers".

Comrade/ Commissar/ Freedom Fighter/Father of our Nation/ Isithwalandwe President Madiba was a great inspiration to our Music Industry and the Arts, this can be seen in the number of songs composed and not living out the Mandela Dance that has inspired our nation. President Mandela will also be remembered by us, the South African music Industry, for being the very first President of South Africa to recognise our industry and efforts when he called a meeting with the "Kwaito Nation" at the Gold Reef City during his years as the first President of the Democratic South Africa. We've seen this grow during the leadership of our current President Zuma.

The Arts and Culture will continue to be inspired and grow in the principles of Dr Mandela! We thank the Department of Arts and Culture for continuing in the spirit of Madiba to un-shuttle the chains that had oppressed the arts!

We will continue to ensure that our role continues in releasing music that will free our people as he believed...

Thank you for being the father of our nation, for your leadership, humbleness and most of all for fighting for our freedom. You will always be remembered as an African Giant amongst other legends. May the Almighty open the Heavens for you.

Hamba Kahle Tata, lala kahle mkhulu Madiba, - may everything you fought for – live on in the lives of all who will carry your message of hope through music across the globe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dodo Monamodi", written in a cursive style.