

THANK YOU GIFT AND HANDING OVER OF ORDER OF OR TAMBO

Prime Minister, before you leave the stage, I would like to hand over two tokens of our appreciation to you.

Ladies and gentlemen, in my welcoming remarks a few minutes ago I mentioned that South Africa bestowed the Order of the Companion of OR Tambo in Gold on the Right Honourable Mulroney in 2015.

In awarding the order, Nelson Mandela's letter of 2004 to Prime Minister Mulroney was quoted wherein he said *"Mulroney had provided strong and principled leadership in the struggle against apartheid. He also said this was not a popular position in all quarters, but South Africans today acknowledge the importance of his contribution to South Africa's eventual liberation and success."* <end quote>

This elegant, beautiful masterpiece is bit difficult to travel with. So it was a little damaged during its first voyage from South Africa to

Canada. We sent it back to South Africa and I am honoured to be in a position to return the Order of OR Tambo in Gold to its rightful owner.

This order is reserved for eminent foreign nationals for friendship shown to South Africa. It is therefore concerned primarily with matters of peace, cooperation, international solidarity and support.

Ladies and gentlemen, you'll see a mole snake, or a *majola*, winding its way over this Award. In African mythology, the majola visits babies in a spirit of benevolence. The snake comes as a friend and protector to prepare the baby for a successful and safe adult life. The majola's visitation is seen as an active expression of solidarity and support, encouraging long-term success of the young and, by extension, the human race.

So now, Honourable Mulroney, it is my honour to return this Order to you. Just like a benevolent *majola*, your support – and the support of ordinary Canadians – was indeed a good omen and will never be forgotten.

GIFT BASKET

The second item I would like to hand to you, is a little token of appreciation from all the organisers of today's event. Deputy Minister Shugart and I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to honour the Nelson Mandela seminar today. As a token of this appreciation we would like to present you with this South African gift basket.