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6 December 2013

**TO: DISTRICT SECRETARIES
EXECUTIVE
MEDIA**

CIRCULAR 56/2013

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela 1918 - 2013

The thousands of bowlers who daily enjoy their wonderful sport might well dwell on what might have happened in South Africa had it not been for the greatest statesman and leader of the late 20th and early 21st century – Nelson Mandela - who after 27 years' cruel incarceration on Robben Island "turned the other cheek.

Indeed, South Africa can thank his presidential gifts of forgiveness and comradeship to all citizens for its prosperity and growth as the powerhouse of Africa.

Alas, aged a magnificent 95, the only man in world history to successfully dismantle an oligarchy (domination of a majority by a minority) without civil strife and great bloodshed, is at peace with his Maker.

He brilliantly used sport to unify this nation, appease African leaders and signalled to his beloved youth everywhere that team spirit and a will to honestly succeed spelt virtue

A nation and the world, without exception, mourns; doubtless for decades to come.

Mandela, lawyer, family man, sportsman, freedom fighter, prisoner, pacifist, visionary, was a man of peace and reconciliation for all reasons and for all people; his international awards, from a Nobel Prize to a handful of flowers at a Transkei primary school, far too many to record here, bear testimony to his wisdom, greatness and humility. World leaders were in tears on receiving the news of his passing.

But, perhaps one of his favourite awards was the 2009 ESPN Espy's Arthur Ashe Award for Courage presented to Mandela for his work to unite his country through love of sport; no one will forget his smile, when dressed in a Springbok green and gold shirt, he proudly held aloft the Rugby World Cup.

We bowlers, sometimes in the heat of action, act without thought, forgetting the "other man" also has an opinion... Mandela always considered another's view; he epitomised balance, resolution and great sense.

Sports organisation worldwide will toast Mandela; bowlers everywhere will be part of a global commemoration to the memory of a remarkable man, South Africa has truly lost its "Tata."

Rudyard Kipling's poem *If* has a father tell a son: "*If you can ... walk with kings, nor lose the common touch* and ends after listing qualities, or tests, which, if one achieves, shall allow him to inherit the earth, "*and what is more*", truly be a Man.

Nelson Mandela will always be "that Man."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Freeman".

**ALLAN FREEMAN
PRESIDENT.**

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