**Media invitation**

**Attention: News Editors, Journalists**

**Date: 27 December 2013**

**Usher in the New Year in praise and worship**

This year, the MRM Ubuntu Festival will celebrate the remarkable life and times of the late former state president, Dr Nelson Mandela.

Aptly themed, *Inspire Change and Live Everyday a Mandela Life of Doing Good,* the festival will encourage patrons to emulate Mandela by living out his values such as reconciliation, forgiveness, promotion of social cohesion and making the world a better place for all those who live in it particularly children.

Madiba, as the late president was popularly known, died on December 5 and there has been an outpouring of emotions since his passing on. “As Culture, Sport and Recreation, we want to use these gatherings as a way of preserving the memory and legacy of Madiba,” says departmental communications manager, Mr Setshaba Mphahlele.

The MRM Ubuntu Festival will be held on December 31 across three venues in the province. In Ehlanzeni it will be held at Mbombela Stadium; in Nkangala at Puma Stadium, eMalahleni and in Gert Sibande at Mpumalanga Stadium, Wesselton. Gates open at 18:00 until 06:00. Artists billed for the festivals include Worship House, Mxolisi Mbethe, Sicelo Moya, Pretty Mhlongo, Anderson (Ehlanzeni), Ayanda Shange, Pastor Phin, Zodwa Mahlangu, Soz Network, Angelique Vocal Fusion (Gert Sibande) Solly Mahlangu, Odwa, 3D Sounds, Delight Sounds, Mpumalanga Gospel Expo, Noah and Thandanani Holy Choir (Nkangala).

The overall purpose of the MRM Ubuntu Festival is to restore the moral fibre of society. The Festival is also committed to pursue the ideals of peace and compassion as well as advocating for community safety and security from social malice that continue to plague our country including crime, substance abuse, diseases, poverty and moral decay particularly over the festive period.

This festival is an annual occasion that brings together an estimated 15 000 people from all over the country and beyond. This year will be no different as people are expected to flock to the main event at Mbombela Stadium from as far as Swaziland and Mozambique. The festival was started in 1999 as a way of creating a centre of pilgrimage during the festive season. Since then, it has grown in leaps and bounds and this year it celebrates its 14th anniversary.

The media is invited and the event is scheduled as follows:

**Date :** Tuesday, 31 December 2013

**Venues :**  Mbombela, Puma and Mpumalanga stadia

**Time :** 18:00 – 06:00

**Enquiries: Mr Setshaba Mphahlele on 083 290 9959.**