



**PREMIER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DR. THE HONOURABLE D. ORLANDO SMITH, OBE
on the passing of Nelson Madiba Mandela**

Thursday, December 5, 2013

The Government and people of the Virgin Islands join the world community in mourning the loss and remembering the life and legacy of the late Nelson Madiba Mandela.

It is a sad moment for all of us, and it is important that we celebrate his life, which has played a magnificent role in the development of world peace.

Mandela represents the best that humanity has to offer. His light shone brightly in every corner of the world.

As an elder of stature, he taught us how to forgive and reconcile; how to live with integrity and strength; how to be courageous and confident; and how to be humble and lead. More importantly, he taught us the importance of living in unity and harmony.

Mandela has left us many lessons on how to be the best that we can be. It is now up to us to live out his legacy.

For me, I believe as he said, "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

To his family, the people of the Republic of South Africa and to the world, we give our condolences and pay our deepest respects. We have lost a remarkable and extraordinary figure.

Nelson Mandela has indeed left us with wonderful memories for a lifetime of reflection.

May he rest in peace.