

World Leader

When Nelson was released from prison, he continued to fight for the end of apartheid.

The ANC agreed to stop the violence and work with the government. But the people were angry. There were still violent clashes between protestors and the police.

This made Nelson and President de Klerk angry. They stopped talking to each other. However, both men realised that they could only bring peace to their country by working together, so they began to meet again.

In 1994, South Africa held its first multi-racial election. The ANC won the election and Nelson Mandela became president of South Africa.

President Mandela helped to unite South Africa's people. He promoted a more positive image of South Africa across the world.

In 1999, Nelson stepped down as president. He retired to Qunu, the village where he grew up.

A Birthday and a Wedding

Nelson divorced his second wife, Winnie, in 1996.

In 1998, on his 80th birthday, he married his third wife, Graca Machel.



During South Africa's first multi-racial election, millions of black people queued for hours to vote for the first time.