

# Press Release



South African Institute of Race Relations

*The power of ideas*

**For immediate release**

**6 December 2013**

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## **Race relations stable in post-Mandela South Africa**

The IRR wishes to express its sadness at the death of the former president, Nelson Mandela, and its condolences to Mrs Graca Machel and other family members.

Mr Mandela has often been singled out as being responsible for ensuring peaceful race relations as South Africa moved into a democratic era. While he, along with many others, played an important role in fostering reconciliation and harmonious race relations, Mr Mandela's death will not destabilise race relations in the country, contrary to fears sometimes expressed.

'For many years now, South Africans have got along with one another largely peacefully without Mr Mandela having been active in the political sphere,' said Lerato Moloi, head of research at the IRR.

'In fact, Mr Mandela's passing may be cause for many to reflect on the remarkably peaceful and swift racial integration of many parts of society, including schools, suburbs, universities, and workplaces. Although some of this had started to occur before 1994, as a symbol of racial reconciliation and forgiveness Mr Mandela will be viewed by many as having played a pivotal role in creating such a society,' Ms Moloi said.

The 2013 edition of our flagship publication, the *South Africa Survey*, has been named the Mandela Commemorative Edition in honour of Nelson Mandela who, in his celebrated 'I am prepared to die speech', quoted from the 1963 edition of the *Survey*.

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