

Curitiba City Hall

Municipal Secretariat of Social Communication

Curitiba to be part of the Nelson Mandela's centenary celebrations

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Curitiba will be part of the celebrations of the birth centenary of the South African leader Nelson Mandela (1918-2013). The invitation for the city to join the homage to the former President, Nobel Prize winner for the efforts against the Apartheid policy, has been made to the Mayor Rafael Greca, this Tuesday (26/6), by the Ambassador of South Africa, Joseph Mashimbye, and his wife, Nolukhanyo Masimbye. The events will be in July.

"Mandela was not only South African, but a son of the world", stated the Ambassador in the meeting at the Curitiba Institute of Research and Urban Planning (Ippuc). According to Mashimbye, the objective of the homages is to make the examples left by Mandela in defense of fellow beings be expanded worldwide so that episodes from the Apartheid times are not repeated. "Less than three decades ago my own country defined me as subrace. Nelson Mandela changed that", said the Ambassador.

"We're gonna celebrate Nelson Mandela, great leader in the defense of human rights, with an exhibition", said Greca. In the meeting with the Ambassador, the Mayor recalled that he and the first-lady, Margarita Sansone, had met Mandela in an event in Rio de Janeiro organized by the then Governor of that State, Leonel Brizola. "We had the honor of meeting him and attending Mandela's conference on human rights. He was an impressive persona", he commented.

Most important leader of Africa, Nelson Mandela was born on 18th July 1918 in the town of Mvezo and died on 5th December 2013 in Johannesburg.

Sister-cities

The celebration of the Nelson Mandela's centenary must mark the start of the actions to strengthen the ties between Curitiba and South Africa. Sister-city of Durban for eight years (since June 2010), the capital of the State of Paraná must increase the exchange of experiences in the social, economic, scientific-cultural and planning areas with its South African partner.

The intention of turning the twinning protocol into an effective practice for the sharing of common interests has been manifested by the Ambassador Mashimbye in the meeting with Greca.

“We have a lot of esteem for South Africa and for Durban, our sister-city that also counts on the BRT-transportation system, which was born in Curitiba”, said the Mayor.

The South African Ambassador said Curitiba’s transportation model is in expansion in the largest cities of that country and that the exchange among the cities can be expanded also to other areas. “We wanna go beyond formality, for exchange activities in the most different areas, especially in technology and renewable energies”.

Greca said that Curitiba is a partner in this process and highlighted activities developed in the Pinhão Valley and also by several cutting-edge companies located in Curitiba. “We have the culture of innovation and successful experiences that may be shared with our sister-city”.

Accompanying the Ambassador of South Africa were the Social Secretary Mauricéia de Oliveira and the Political Advisor Rine-Louise Pretorius. The Ippuc President, Luiz Fernando Jamur, the International Relations Advisor, Rodolpho Zannin Feijó and the Ippuc Information Supervisor, Liana Vallicelli, also participated in the meeting.