MEDIA RELEASE: ROBBEN ISLAND HOSTS 12 HOUR NIGHT VIGIL IN HONOUR OF NELSON MANDELA, ALBERTINA SISULU AND OTHER ACTIVISTS

On Wednesday, 05 December 2018 Robben Island Museum hosted a 12-hour night vigil to mark the conclusion of a year dedicated to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. The evening on Robben Island was an opportunity for reflection and contemplation for the sacrifices of these two stalwarts and the many heroes of our liberation. RIM welcomed about 135 visitors who comprised of Ex-Political Prisoners, faith based organizations and members of the public.
The 05th of December is especially significant as it marks the anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s death and Robert Sobukwe’s birth. Various faith-based organisations participated in a pilgrimage of silent reflection to the maximum security prison where Nelson Mandela spent 18 years of his imprisonment and at the Sobukwe House where the Pan Africanist was held in isolation, managing to earn a degree in Economics from the University of London.

“For many of us the opportunity to reflect on our liberation heroes in this way is a once in a lifetime opportunity. All in attendance payed homage to different icons with a heart-warming candle lighting ceremony which also celebrated lives of other late South African heroes.” says Morongoa Ramaboa, spokesperson for Robben Island Museum.

“Our President asked us not only to remember the past, but to build a future as we celebrate the centennial year.” continued Ramaboa. “As Robben Island Museum, it is our duty to share a true reflection of the Island’s history, including that of those incarcerated and banished for their ideologies.”
The programme included talks by special guests, music, hymns, dance and poetry. Attendees spent time touring different sections of the prison while EPP’s shared their interesting stories; in interfaith prayers and sharing food in the same dining hall that prisoners ate from. This was indeed an authentic experience to conclude the centennial year whilst also celebrating Sobukwe’s birthday. For more information or to book your ticket with Robben Island Museum, visit their website: [http://www.robben-island.org.za](http://www.robben-island.org.za) /

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