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## The Khatisa Chavalala Cultural Heritage Foundation applauds the courage of gallant daughter and iconic father who upset Die Groot Krokodil's applecart.

In 1985 apartheid state President PW Botha dangled a carrot before the late state president Nelson Mandela.

"Nelson Mandela is his own jailer," said Pieter Willem Botha nicknamed Piet Wapen in antiapartheid circles to Mandela who was then languishing in Polsmoor Prison after being transferred from Roben Island. He said Mandela should renounce violence and walk.

He was a verkramppte (rigid) leader and many opponents of apartheid died during his reign. This includes people in neighbouring countries who died when the notorious South African Defence Force bombed ANC bases.

PW's message should be understood against that background.

His state had become a polecat of the world with sanctions biting too much for his comfort.

Madiba penned a response to the carrot of freedom dangled before his eyes and with him in prison and his then wife Winnie Nomzamo banished to Brandfort, it was up to his 25 year old daughter to read the latter to the multitudes at a United democratic Front rally at Jabulami amphitheatre.

All eyes were on that venue. Pretoria's eyes and the eyes of the world community.

What with the international media having descended on South Africa solely for the message.

It would have shaken many to stand up and read the message the "hawk" Botha did not like.

She said she was reading the message from her father who said he was in jail as a representative of the people and he would never sell their birthrights for his freedom.

Saying he was not a violent and that his party the ANC was also forced to take up arms against the government because of the recalcitrance of the apartheid state...

"Let Botha himself renounce violence. Let him show he is different to Malan, Strijdom and Verwoerd," said the letter.

The statement read on Sunday February 10 1985 was significant because it prevented a piecemeal freedom for South Africa. If Mandela had not stood his ground, we should not be where we are | South Africa now.

Let us also commend Zindzi for her bravery.

It was not easy. Many did not lift a finger against apartheid. But she and her iconic father upset Botha's applecart.

In honour of the role played by the Mandela family, let us fight to change the lives of other people for the better. Let us also stop gender based violence. Let us fight the Covid -19 virus. It is fitting that Zindzi Mandela passed on and buried in Mandela month. She was buried on Friday a day before Nelson Mandela International Day.

