

## **Mandela sends warm wishes to Obama**

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Jan 20 (GIN) – President Barack Obama received a personal letter of congratulations from former South African president Nelson Mandela shortly before his inauguration on Tuesday.

"You will always be in our affection as a young man who dared to dream and to pursue that dream," wrote the aging leader... "the knowledge that you have such strong personal ties with Africa, we share in that excitement and pride."

He said the inauguration was truly historic, not only for the USA, but for the world, and the election to "this high office" had inspired people as few other events in recent times had done.

"You, Mister President, have brought a new voice of hope that these problems can be addressed and that we can in fact change the world and make of it a better place," Mandela said.

"We are aware that expectations are high and that the demands on you will be great. We therefore once more wish you and your family strength and fortitude in the challenging days and years that lie ahead."