



10/12/2002

The Order of Mapungubwe

Statement on F W de Klerk's acceptance of the Order of Mapungubwe

It is important that South Africa's national symbols and ceremonies should represent and include all its communities.

Mr F W de Klerk is accordingly honoured to accept the award of the Order of Mapungubwe (Gold) in the spirit of reconciliation and nation-building in which he believes that it has been conferred. He does not accept the award as recognition for any role that he as an individual may have played. Historians will in the fullness of time pass their verdict on this question. He accepts it rather on behalf of the millions of South Africans from all our communities who steadfastly supported his efforts to help create the New South Africa. He hopes that the State will continue to use national symbols and ceremonies to promote a sense of inclusion and belonging for South Africans from all our communities and that this will inspire them to help make South Africa a winning country in all spheres.

Mr De Klerk will – through the F W de Klerk Foundation – continue to promote communication, understanding and reconciliation between all our communities. He will also continue to do everything that he can to uphold the Constitution as the cornerstone of the New South Africa, as the guarantor of the rights of all its people; and as the embodiment of the values for which it stands.

**Issued by the F W de Klerk Foundation.
Cape Town, 10 December 2002.**