

THE AMERICAN WHO BOUGHT MANDELA

(In Memory of Al Alletzhauser)

Al Alletzhauser was instrumental in my being one of 50 millionaires he created while doing business around the world (*roland buresund pages*). Al had just bought into PENROSE HOLDING PUBLISHING CO. in Johannesburg, South Africa when I went to see him about bidding on 1.6m South African (RSA) ballot papers from the historic 1994 election of Nelson Mandela. These ballots had been hijacked headed to polling stations and were only recovered after the election. The government decided to auction the ballots after an article ran in THE STAR newspaper and requests for souvenirs came from all over the world. Al's company had printed some of the plain paper replacements for the lost originals and he knew the numbered, watermarked originals on parchment paper with Mandela's picture would be valuable one day. They had been printed in the U.K. at a cost of \$US 60m and paid for by supportive, democratic nations around the world. The ballots were then air-freighted to RSA.

Al told me to bid on the entire lot and he would back me. He left it to me to decide what amount to bid. \$250,000 later, I was awarded 90% of the ballots (1.5m). Unfortunately, PENROSE stockholders initiated some kind of legal action against Al and his finances were temporarily frozen. Subsequently, I was lucky enough to raise the money in the USA through friends of my son who was attending the University of Arizona. Al often invited me to his home where his wife, Anne Cabot, was pregnant with their second child. I also met Al's brother, Eric, an attorney who traveled from the U.S. to help out his brother. Both brothers were true gentlemen and having known them helped hone my own character and business skills. It was a shock to hear Al died suddenly of a heart attack in Thailand at age 51 (2011).

Although it would appear my purchasing of the ballots was a clean, straight-forward transaction – and I could do with the ballots as I wish – this seems not to have been the case. The RSA government (IEC) decided to take things into their own hands (now a corrupt, single-party, authoritarian State) and banned my selling of ballots during the 2010 World Cup held in RSA. This “cease and desist” order was later rescinded but too late for my humanitarian efforts to raise money for V-Day, a Foundation for rape victims in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (www.afridom.com). Although the ballots are safely stored in the U.S., a troika consisting of the greater Mandela Foundations, the RSA government and the ANC political party has created a quasi-monopoly to control “anything Mandela” anywhere in the world.

Taking advantage of a frail and aging Mandela for personal riches started early on. As far back as 1994, the white regime still on duty during the Transitional period tried to line their pockets before the black government took over. Insiders from the IEC, Home Affairs and the IEC's advertising agency colluded in a scheme to defraud the government out of three-quarters of a million \$US dollars. They arranged a private sale of the very ballots I bid on and paid for to an America company (where I intended to do most of my business). Two Afrikaans newspapers reported on and uncovered this plot after I contacted them about restrictions imposed by HOME AFFAIRS saying I could not sell ballots in the USA. (www.afridom.com).

Many others, also, tried to feed at the trough of easy Mandela money – exploiting the name and image of the most magnanimous National leader of the 20th century. During the late ‘90’s, even Mandela’s personal attorney, Ismail Ayob, sold phony autographed Mandela art called “Touch of Mandela” in London. In 2010, Mandela’s very own CE and Trustee of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund, Jeremy Ratcliffe, resigned in disgrace after the “blood diamond” affair, involving Naomi Campbell and the “butcher of Liberia” Charles Taylor. This embarrassing scandal had started in 1997 during an official State function in Cape Town feted by President Mandela and ended with a revealing court case in Liberia in 2010. Again, a trusting and unwary Mandela was used by those who were closest to him to enrich and feather their own nest.

The worst harm was not to Mandela, himself, but to the entire country. Top ANC members use surrogate “shills” called “tenderpreneurs” to control and manipulate the tender system to win lucrative state tenders. This costs government \$US millions in commissions and bribes and often results in basic services for citizens grinding to a halt. In most purchases, there are no receipts to be found. The biggest boondoggle that ever happened in RSA was the “arms deal”. This scam cost \$US billions in kickbacks, when armaments and related purchases escalated to R50 billion from an original R9 billion in 1999. This resulted in unneeded hardware, shortage of spares, obsolescence, idle equipment and untrained pilots to fly jets, etc. This corruption and deceit leads all the way to former President Thabo Mbeki and current President Jacob Zuma. President Zuma’s son is proudly recognized as the most recent nouveau billionaire in RSA (*After the Party*, Andrew Feinstein, former ANC MP).

RSA has been described recently as an “archipelago of fortified islands in a sea of poverty”. This period in time is also known as “the age of looting”. It remains to be seen what will happen to the remaining 400k ballot papers which have been classified as “historical documents” by the IRS in the United States. Although increasingly valuable and highly sought after by aficionados around the world, it seems likely the triumvirate will, again, pull some legal stunt (at taxpayer’s expense) to stymie Afridom.com’s attempts to market ballots during the upcoming 2012 Olympics in London. An indication of things to come was evident during the 2009 MANDELA DAY CONCERT in NYC when the 46664 Foundation, headed by Tim Massey in London, refused to acknowledge a \$140k donation of ballots intended for the benefit of the concert and silent auction. Emails went unanswered and I was turned away when I hand-carried the ballots to NYC a week before the concert in an attempt to donate them. Likewise, my email efforts to get in touch with Mandela executive and confidant, Zelda la Grange, to “give” 100% of my ballots to the NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION did not even deserve the courtesy of a reply.

If the means are found to break free of the illegal restrictions imposed by the Mandela cartel, I will become an international broker of Mandela memorabilia and collectables – much like that for the late Princess Diana (\$1.5b). As a dual-citizen with RSA, there are many looking for an honest, reliable person or company to represent them with their Mandela treasures. This approach will require a skilled team of IT and legal experts with global aspirations to assist me.