

8 October 2007

## **MEDIA RELEASE: THE MANDELA RHODES FOUNDATION AND UNILEVER**

Unilever is proud to announce the completion of the pioneering Nelson Mandela Scholarships programme, and Unilever's future involvement with The Mandela Rhodes Foundation and its Mandela Rhodes Scholarships programme.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Nelson Mandela Scholarships, inaugurated in 1998, which have seen 106 young South Africans being given the opportunity to further their studies in the United Kingdom, supported by Unilever and Deloitte. Unilever, Deloitte and The Mandela Rhodes Foundation have co-operated closely since the establishment of the MRF in 2003, and it has now been decided that Unilever will shift its support to the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships, which offer exceptional educational and leadership training opportunities in South Africa at Honours and Masters level in all disciplines.

Unilever will endow a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship in perpetuity, and the alumni of the Nelson Mandela Scholarships will interact with the MRF's alumni organisation, the Community of Mandela Rhodes Scholars.

'With the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships now firmly established as a premier programme in Africa for young Africans with leadership potential, it was thought that the tenth anniversary of the NMS scheme was the right moment for us to shift our support behind this exceptional, home-grown programme,' said Gail Klintworth, Chairman of Unilever. 'We believe the NMS initiative helped pave the way for the establishment of an African-based programme in Mr Mandela's name, and we are delighted that we will be involved with The Mandela Rhodes Foundation on a number of levels.'

Mandela Rhodes Scholarships are awarded annually for study at accredited South African tertiary institutions. They are open to citizens of African countries. The Scholarship covers students' costs and also provides intensive and customised leadership training. Forty three Mandela Rhodes Scholars have been elected since the programme's inception in 2005, and it is expected that a further 25 Scholarships will be awarded for 2008. More detail on the work of the Foundation can be found at [www.mandelarhodes.org.za](http://www.mandelarhodes.org.za).

The CEO of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation, Shaun Johnson, said Unilever had been one of the MRF's first partners, and he was delighted that the association would be continuing well into the future.

The final group of Nelson Mandela Scholars was elected in 2007, and Scholars will complete their studies in September, 2008.

**Issued by Unilever Corporate Brand & Communications**

031 570 3328

[louise.duys@unilever.com](mailto:louise.duys@unilever.com)

