

20 May 1999

*People of 2023, I salute you! You are the recipients of our hopes and dreams for the future of our beloved country, South Africa. As we write this message before the turn of the century, we look forward with anticipation to the Africa of the future.*

*Our beloved continent, our home land, Africa, is the most ancient of continents, the cradle of mankind. During its long history it has seen periods of hardship, travail and suffering. It has seen wars, famine, pestilence and tragedy. On its fertile earth have trodden feet shod for war, men bent on forcing others into slavery. Man's inhumanity to man has certainly found ample expression in the land of your forefathers!*

*But the spirit of Africa is not cowed. The strength and resilience of the African is thrusting itself to the fore, shaking off the injustices of the past. We are gearing ourselves up for a new millennium, for the century of Africa. In our mind's eye we see ourselves standing on the threshold of an age of progress, of success and achievement, when Africa takes its rightful place in the panoply of nations.*

*We see before us an age of advancement in many fields of human endeavour – the arts, the sciences, business, economics, the humanities. We believe that the 21st century – your century – must reflect the blossoming of the African Renaissance, the African dream, the unfolding of the continent's vision.*

*This should be a time when all the exemplary qualities embodied in our philosophy of Ubuntu reach their fulfillment. Qualities such as honesty, caring, compassion, integrity, hard work, respect for human dignity and the worth of the human personality, hospitality and generosity.*

*The challenges facing us must surely have been met and overcome by the time you read this – challenges such as crime, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and disease. It is our fond hope that the time needed to eradicate the fundamental causes of these painful conditions has worked its healing, and you have put them behind you. May it be so!*

*Our industry, the electricity supply industry, has a long tradition of service to society. Our product has advanced standards of living, education, health care and recreation. We have enabled commerce and industry to progress and enhance efficiencies. I trust that you have taken up this noble calling and carried on the glorious task of illuminating and energising this continent. And that you are proud to be Africans.*

*Kind regards*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJK/MLFLucas', written in a cursive style.

RJK/MLFLucas