



# LUTHULI MUSEUM

3233 Nokukhanya Luthuli Street, Groutville, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa  
P.O. Box, 1869, Stanger, 4450  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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LUTHULISTAMP/sapo

### **Commemorative Stamp Marks 50 years since Chief Albert Luthuli Received Nobel Peace Prize**

On the 10 December 1961, the longest serving African National Congress president-general Chief Albert Luthuli became the first African to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway.

Exactly 50 years later the Luthuli Museum, in partnership with the South African Post Office (The Post Office), will launch a commemorative stamp to mark this occasion at a high profile event at the Museum in Groutville, the site of the original 1927 home of Chief Albert Luthuli.

“The Luthuli Museum is especially honoured to be playing a part in this memorable occasion,” says Luthuli Museum director, Brian Xaba. “Throughout his life and political career, Chief Albert Luthuli fought for social justice, equality and human rights, a stance that earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960 (awarded retrospectively to him in 1961).”

To make the day even more special, residents living in the immediate area of the Luthuli Museum will be receiving home postal addresses for the first time. A total of six areas and 1531 houses will start to receive mail to their homes as from 10 December 2011.

“In addition,” says chairperson of the Post Office Board, Vuyo Mhlali, “the first mail box for the area, will be erected by the SA Post Office at the Luthuli Museum. A fitting tribute we believe, as the Luthuli family tells the story that when Luthuli was alive, people used to bring their letters to the home, treating it as a de facto post office. From today, the Luthuli Museum will once again be able to offer this service in a modern-day context to the residents living around the Museum,” she adds.

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Regarded as South Africa's 'smallest ambassadors', commemorative stamps such as this one, are special stamps designed to recognise a particular South African event or milestone.

The Luthuli stamp issue includes a total of 10 stamps, contained in a commemorative folder (210 x 210 mm), which are available for purchase at R2.50 each or R25 for the sheet as from 9 December 2011. A total of 20 000 sheets have been printed for distribution.

The images depicted on the stamps include a portrait of Chief Albert Luthuli by Dumile Feni (1968), an image of a bronze sculpture, used courtesy of Iziko Museums, Cape Town and photographs of Albert Luthuli by Ranjith Kally, courtesy of the Luthuli Museum in Groutville, KwaZulu-Natal.

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**Prepared for:** The SA Post Office & the Luthuli Museum

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### NOTES TO EDITORS:

Chief Albert Luthuli joined the African National Congress in 1944 and quickly became active in the leadership. Throughout his adulthood, Luthuli, a teacher by training, was involved and actively participated in church activities and various organizational structures.

In his lifetime, he held the position of chairperson of the South African Board of the Congregationalist Church of America, president of the Natal Mission Conference and an executive member of the Christian council of South Africa. In 1938, Luthuli travelled as a delegate to the International Missionary Conference in Madras, India and in 1948 he travelled to the United States of America.

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He was Secretary of the African Teachers Association; a founding member of the Zulu Cultural Society; Secretary of the South African Football Association and member of various other bodies like the Institute of Race Relations. He became an elected Chief of Groutville in 1936, a position he held until 1952 when he was deposed by the apartheid government when he became the President General of the ANC.

## LUTHULI MUSEUM

The Luthuli Museum was opened in 2004 by former president Thabo Mbeki. Established by the national department of arts and culture as a legacy project, an independent council oversees the administration and running of the Luthuli Museum. The Museum is different from others in South Africa, dismissing the notion of museums being boring places to view dusty old pieces of paper and old objects in glass cases but rather supports the thinking that this is a living museum that actively reflects the values of non-racialism, democracy and human rights of a man clearly ahead of his time.

## Who was Chief Albert Luthuli?

- The longest serving ANC president from 1952-1967
- Africa's first Nobel Peace Laureate for the year 1960
- A passionate soccer administrator
- A democratically elected chief
- A teacher and a Christian
- Killed while walking near his home on 21 July, 1967

## ABOUT THE SA POST OFFICE

The SA Post Office is the most important mover of physical mail in South Africa, delivering around 5.3 million items each work day to roughly 10 million addresses. With more than 200, SA Post Office has more branches in South Africa than any other company and uses this footprint – which extends into deep rural areas – to provide services on behalf of government and other organisation, such as paying out old-age pensions and medicine to clinics on behalf of government. This footprint is also Postbank's unique advantage, as it provides a banking service in rural areas where no other banks have branches.