

Three-part doccie to tell story of MK

CNBC AFRICA, with the Liliesleaf Trust, is set to produce a three-part documentary on the role Liliesleaf played as the headquarters of the newly formed armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto weSizwe, during apartheid.

Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Harold Wolpe, Raymond Mhlaba, Ahmed Kathrada and Walter Sisulu were among the struggle icons who met at Liliesleaf, Rivonia.

A key event was the raid on Liliesleaf, which led to the Rivonia Trial where Mandela and several other co-accused were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Viewers will experience a first-hand account of the events and circumstances leading up to the raid of Liliesleaf, as well as insights into some of the revolutionary personalities who helped shape South Africa's democracy.

Rakesh Wahi, vice-chairman of CNBC Africa, conceived the project with the Liliesleaf Trust.

Wahi says he's pleased that the channel can be the platform to tell the story of this historical landmark.

"The importance of Liliesleaf should never be forgotten. We are able to document this in film and broadcast it throughout Africa - making sure that the story is remembered long after the heroes are gone," says Wahi.

Gary Alfonso, chief operating officer of CNBC Africa, believes the documentaries are in line with the channel's philosophy to tell unique stories from an African perspective.

Alfonso says: "By providing a platform for a part of history that shaped the South African democracy to what it is today, we are not only growing awareness of the people who made a difference in the battle against apartheid, but also how individual contributions can ultimately make a lasting historic difference."

Nicholas Wolpe, chief executive officer of the Liliesleaf Trust and the son of Harold Wolpe, is excited about revealing a piece of untold history.

"I'm pleased. Finally a dedicated documentary will tell the story of this unique historical site and it's being captured before it's lost forever. CNBC Africa will be the first to tell the story of Liliesleaf," says Wolpe.

Pre-production on the documentary is already under way and is set to be completed within months.

The Department of Arts and Culture has given the project its official support and has expressed interest in being involved in the launch of the documentaries, scheduled for early next year.

