

Madiba birthday gift for princess

By VICKY SOMNISO

PRINCESS Caroline of Monaco has received a great belated birthday gift, meeting Nelson Mandela.

She turned 50 on January 23. Two weeks after her birthday, she met Madiba at his Houghton offices in Johannesburg.

Princess Caroline, who received a Unicef Children's Champion Award last year, had been touring Africa for two weeks in an effort to help children.

In 2003 she was chosen to be a UN goodwill ambassador "in recognition of her personal commitment to the protection of children and the family".

Madiba embraced her at a Press briefing at his Houghton offices yesterday.

Displaying his usual charm, he said the princess's beauty had not faded, and she was as beautiful as ever.

"I know her from long ago. She is an extraordinary person, and even today is still pretty and as attractive as she was when I last saw her," said Madiba.

The princess said Madiba was a living example of humanity.

"He is a special man of such high standards," she said.

Princess Caroline is the daughter of Prince Rainier III of Monaco and Princess Grace.

Her mother was former American film actress Grace Kelly, who died in a car accident in 1982.

NEIL McCARTNEY



RIGHT: Princess Caroline of Monaco visits former President Nelson Mandela at his offices in Houghton yesterday, in what was a belated 50th birthday present. She is still beautiful, quipped the charmer.