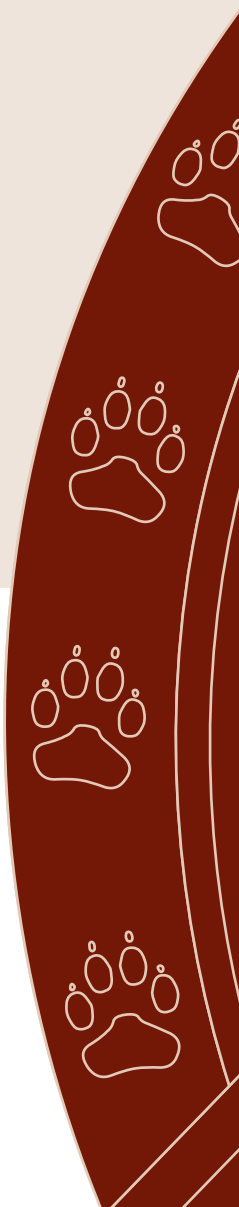




# NATIONAL ORDERS

AWARDS CEREMONY 2026





**PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL ORDERS  
SEFAKO MAKGATHO PRESIDENTIAL GUESTHOUSE  
PRETORIA**

**TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2026**

**10:00 – 14:00**

1. The President, the Chancellor and recipients of National Orders proceed to the credentials room for a photo opportunity
2. Recipients of the National Orders and guests take their seats
3. The President enters the venue
4. Singing of the National Anthem
5. Welcoming remarks by the Programme Director
6. Ceremonial oration by the Grand Patron of National Orders
7. Investiture of the National Orders
  - **THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA**
  - **THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB**
  - **THE ORDER OF LUTHULI**
  - **THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE**
  - **THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO**
8. Guests proceed to the marquee on the eastern side of the Presidential Guesthouse

**Grand Patron of National Orders**

President Cyril Ramaphosa

**Chancellor of National Orders**

Phindile Baleni (Ms)

**The Advisory Council on National Orders**

Dr Mandla Langa (Chairperson); Prof. Patience Mthunzi-Kufa (Deputy Chairperson); Prof. Glenda Gray; Dr Irvin Khoza; Dr Peki Emelia 'Nothembu' Mkhwebane; Ms Natalie du Toit; Ms Yvonne Chaka Chaka; Prof. Mamokgethi Phakeng; Ms Puseletso Madumise; Prof. Sarojini Nadar; Dr Stavros Nicolaou.

## 2026 RECIPIENTS OF THE NATIONAL ORDERS AWARDS CEREMONY

### THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

1. Mr Johan Rassie Erasmus
2. Mr Wouter Kellerman
3. Mr Todd Tozama Matshikiza (*Posthumous*)
4. Prof. Khabajane (Khabi) Vivian Mngoma (*Posthumous*)
5. Mr Jeremiah Kippie Morolong Moeketsi (*Posthumous*)
6. Ms Queeneth Maria Ndaba (*Posthumous*)
7. Mr Molefe Pheto (*Posthumous*)

### THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

8. Mr Jonathan Kenneth Butler
9. Mr Jonny Mbizo Dyani (*Posthumous*)
10. Ms Andiswa Gebashe
11. Mr Norman Hlabane
12. Dr Trevor Jones
13. Dr Oliver Kgadime Matsepe (*Posthumous*)
14. Mr Oscar Mdlongwa (Oskido)
15. Prof. Deuteronomy Bhekinkosi Zebon Ntuli
16. Mr Benjamin John Peter Tyamzashe (*Posthumous*)

### THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

17. Mr Gavin James Krastin
18. Ms Dalene Matthee (*Posthumous*)
19. Mr Samuel Mhangwani

### THE ORDER OF BAOBAB IN GOLD

20. Prof. Chabani Noel Manganyi (*Posthumous*)

### THE ORDER OF BAOBAB IN SILVER

21. Prof. Kubedi Patrick Mokhobo

### THE ORDER OF BAOBAB IN BRONZE

22. Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela

### THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN GOLD

23. Mr Jack Simons (*Posthumous*)
24. Ms Ray Simons (*Posthumous*)

### THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

25. Ms Mmagauta Molefe
26. Mr Caiphus Nyoka (*Posthumous*)

### THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN BRONZE

27. Ms Adele Kirsten

### THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN GOLD

28. Prof. Tulio De Oliveira
29. Prof. Salim Abdool Karim

### THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN SILVER

30. Prof. Keertan Dheda
31. Prof. Vukosi Ntsakisi Marivate

### THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

32. Prof. Priscilla Baker
33. Prof. Karen Sliwa-Hahnle

### THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

34. Mr Pierre De Heer (Real name: Pierre Magnée) – **The Netherlands**
35. Ms Teresa Hillary Clarke – **USA**
36. Mr Antonio da Silva Gomes Cordeiro (*Posthumous*) – **Mozambique**
37. Prof. Chérif Keïta – **Mali**
38. Ms Naomi Kleinfeld (Real name: Geetruida Johana Koning) – **The Netherlands**

It is cause for immense pleasure on this stately occasion to present to you the latest recipients of our National Orders. They will be receiving the following National Orders: the **Order of Mendi for Bravery**, the **Order of Ikhamanga**, the **Order of the Baobab**, the **Order of Luthuli**, the **Order of Mapungubwe** and the **Order of the Companions of OR Tambo**.

This ceremony celebrates the inspiring determination of humanity to attain a caring and humane society, and celebrates the commitment to a South Africa that truly belongs to its entire people as the fulfilment of the ideals of freedom.

These recipients have put themselves at the disposal of all that is best in South Africa, and they have also put the perspicacity of their great minds and the sweat of their labour at the service of us all. They have uncovered the secrets of science, enriched our cultures, reimagined the frontiers of law and reasserted the immutable principles of human solidarity and empathy.

These women and men have given concrete meaning to the eternal values of selflessness, love for freedom, racial harmony, equality and self-application, so as to reach seemingly impossible heights of achievement that we proudly acknowledge today, and from which our nation benefits.

They have, without exception, proffered worthy contributions to the development of our society so that we may not only aspire to, but actually become who we want to become. Indeed, they have contributed to

our state of liberty. We commend to you these noble men and women of our country, our continent and our common world, as recipients of the prestigious National Orders. We salute them, one and all.

**PHINDILE BALENI (MS)**  
CHANCELLOR OF NATIONAL ORDERS

## HISTORY

The birth of a new non-racial and non-sexist democracy in South Africa necessitated a critical review of the system of National Orders. The previous system consisted of one Decoration and four Orders whose symbolic aesthetic was representative of the past.

Seeking to move away from the past, in May 1998, the newly instituted President's Advisory Council on National Orders was given the task and responsibility to review the system of National Orders and Awards. To implement the task, a technical committee was constituted, which embarked on an extensive and inclusive research process that involved public consultations, interviews with stakeholders on a national scale, group discussions focusing on alternative systems, the commissioning of historical research and the gathering of jewellery and medal designers to design new medals through a design brief.

As part of this process, the technical committee, led by the Chairperson of the Advisory Council investigated further symbols and symbolism in an attempt to capture the essence of a new aesthetic that will reflect the spirit of a new country. A panel of academics and specialists versed in indigenous symbols and symbolism was asked to identify key factors and elements that denote the collective and inclusive history and experience of Africa with South Africa as the main point of reference. The work was done in collaboration with the then Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (now Department of Sport, Arts and Culture) in cooperation with Government Communications (GCIS). The collective end result of this process resulted in the commissioning and ultimate design of the new National Orders.

## NATIONAL ORDERS

National Orders are the highest awards that a country, through its President, bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals. The President as the fount (holder, cradle, main source) of honour in the country bestows these Orders and Decorations and is assisted by the Director-General in The Presidency, who is the Chancellor of National Orders, and the Advisory Council on National Orders, in the execution of this responsibility.

## CONTEXT

South Africa has taken many strides away from its past of exclusion and discrimination on the basis of sex, colour and creed. The country has been steadily moving forward in a direction that reasserts our humanity. In this march towards humanity, a new culture of human rights and a respect for the dignity of the human spirit have become characteristics of South Africa.

One of the symbolic moments of the exodus from the past was the raising of the new Flag in 1994. This moment aptly affirmed the pride and dignity of an unfolding country and a celebration of humanity. Another was the unveiling of the new Coat of Arms on 27 April 2000 that embraced the collective historical essence of the people of the country. In so doing, a new aesthetic that takes consideration of Africa and her symbols became part of the new culture that informs a South African rebirth.

The National Orders are awarded in the spirit of that rebirth.







## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MR JOHAN RASSIE ERASMUS

*For his inspirational leadership in national and international rugby that has propelled the Springboks to win two consecutive Rugby World Cup (RWC) Championships. Victory on the field of play has advanced social cohesion among South Africans and raised the nation's standing in the international community.*

**Mr Johan Rassie Erasmus** was born on 5 November 1972. He is a South African Rugby Union (SARU) coach and former player; former Director of Rugby for Irish provincial side Munster; and General Manager of High Performance Teams for the SARU.

In 2017, Mr Erasmus was appointed as the first ever SARU Director of Rugby; and in 2018, head coach of the South African national rugby team, known as the Springboks. After South Africa's victory at the 2019 RWC in Japan, Mr Erasmus received the World Rugby Coach of the Year Award. The Springboks progressed to win the 2023 RWC held in France.

Throughout both World Cups, Coach Rassie was exemplary, strategic and had a vision. He achieved what was seemingly impossible and distinguished himself as a coach who led by example; guiding his team to victory. An integral part of his winning strategy was to remind the team daily that they were privileged to be playing for the nation.

In his first match in charge of the Springboks, he gave 13 players their first test caps in a once-off match in Washington D.C. against Wales, which they won 22 – 20. A week later, his team triumphed by securing a 42 – 39 win over England during the three-test series; securing a 23 – 12 victory in the second test.

South Africa was however, unable to gain a clean-sweep after losing the third test, 25 – 10.

During the 2018 Rugby Championship, Coach Rassie led the Springboks to second place – the highest position they last held since 2014 – after winning three games, including a thrilling 36 – 34 victory over New Zealand in Wellington. That was South Africa's first win in that country since 2009.

Mr Erasmus coached the players to appreciate their diverse cultural, economic, racial backgrounds and sporting attributes; but most importantly, he united the team in the belief that they had a responsibility to win for their beloved country.

His desire, as he expressed during a media briefing held at OR Tambo International Airport on 5 November 2019, was to ensure an enduring and sustainable legacy beyond World Cup success.

Coach Erasmus spoke of using sport to unite the nation; and use the victory as a springboard to ensure that everyone in the country who wished to play rugby, got an opportunity to do so, especially at competitive level.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MR WOUTER KELLERMAN

*For his outstanding personal achievements as a flautist, composer and arranger; and his contribution to community development by leveraging music as a means to motivate young people to flourish through musical expression. He has demonstrated the power of music as a universal language that is able to unify South Africans and bring people across geographical and cultural borders together in appreciation of a heartfelt art.*

**Mr Wouter Kellerman** is a South African artist whose flute has become a passport for the South African story. A three-time Grammy laureate, he has carried the name and spirit of South Africa to global stages, while cultivating new talent at home. Classically trained, Mr Kellerman performs primarily World, Roots and New Age music. His work connects exceptional artistry with the ethic of inclusion by composing opportunities as expertly as he composes music. His music is rooted in his profound love for South Africa, added to a lifelong commitment to youth development and a deep devotion to former President Nelson Mandela's legacy. Mr Kellerman personifies "taking South Africa to the world and bringing the world to South Africa."

With three individual Grammy Awards, he stands as the most decorated South African instrumentalist on the global stage, with the most number of individual Grammy Awards; contributing to the advancement of South Africa's global profile. He has carried South Africa's flag, its cultural identity and musical rhythm into the heart of world capitals and on global stages – from the FIFA World Cup closing ceremony to BRICS Summits; Carnegie Hall; the Kennedy Centre; the Dubai Expo; United Nations and many more nation-building and social cohesion events. He lifts as he rises, from tirelessly promoting young South African artists such as the Ndlovu and Mzansi Youth Choirs; and other many artists

he has taken along with him through all his albums, including honouring former President Nelson Mandela's legacy through music in *Symphonic Soweto: A Tribute to Nelson Mandela*.

Mr Kellerman has created models of social upliftment that have transformed communities – not just through his music but through his passion for youth development and philanthropy – while the general underlying theme of his music consistently advances unity, empathy and peace. His philanthropic work has created opportunities for disadvantaged youth and created a better life for those he has supported for more than 20 years.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MR TODD TOZAMA MATSHIKIZA (*Posthumous*)

*For his contribution to the liberation and cultural enrichment of South Africa through his multi-dimensional creativity as a journalist, composer, jazz pianist and music educator. His establishment of the Todd Matshikiza School of Music, his powerful journalism in Drum Magazine and his development of the score of the musical King Kong, reflect a full life and a full contribution to the betterment of our nation*

**Mr Todd Tozama Matshikiza** was born on 7 March 1921 in then Queenstown (now Komani) in the Eastern Cape. He was a journalist, jazz pianist and composer. As a journalist, he was a contributor to *Drum* magazine. He is also known for his book, *Chocolates for my Wife*, an autobiographical account of his experiences in South Africa and England. As a musician, Mr Matshikiza is celebrated for composing the score of the jazz musical “King Kong” and numerous choral works in South African traditional style, notably “Hamba Kahle”.

As the last of seven children, Mr Matshikiza was raised by a musical family. His father, Mr Samuel Bokwe Matshikiza, played the organ in the Anglican Church; while his mom, Mama Grace Ngqoyi Matshikiza, was a well-known soprano. He graduated from St Peter’s College in Rosettenville, Johannesburg and obtained a Diploma in Music from the Adams College in then Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) and between 1941 and 1942 he completed a Diploma in Teaching at the Lovedale Missionary Institute in Alice in the Eastern Cape.

He worked as an English and Mathematics teacher at Lovedale High School until 1947. During this period, he composed songs and choral works, blending African traditional and European-classical styles. “Hamba Kahle” became a standard work for

choral groups throughout South Africa and was performed for the arrival of then Princess Elizabeth of the United Kingdom (UK) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (then Southern Rhodesia) in 1946, as part of a royal tour with her parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth; and her sister, Princess Margaret. It was also played at the Johannesburg Music Festival in 1950.

Mr Matshikiza moved to Johannesburg in 1947 and married Ms Esme Sheila Mpama on 26 December 1950. He founded the Todd Matshikiza School of Music; a private music school, where he taught piano. Although jazz and composing music remained his primary interests to supplement the family’s income, he also worked briefly for Vanguard Booksellers in Johannesburg. From 1949 to 1954, Mr Matshikiza was a committee member of the Syndicate of African Artists, which aimed to promote the music of artists from black townships.

In 1952, he was invited to join *Drum* magazine, which aimed for a more critical readership. He became one of its early writers, together with investigative journalists Messrs Henry Nxumalo, Ezekiel Mphahlele, Nat Nakasa, Bloke Modisane and others. His jazz column covered the township scene, particularly Sophiatown, where he commented on the likes of Mr Kippie Moeketsi and Bra Hugh Masekela, who both played for The Jazz Epistles.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MR TODD TOZAMA MATSHIKIZA (*Posthumous*)

He covered township life in his column “*With the Lid Off*”, and regularly used biographies of African-American musicians to explore both racism and its effects.

His innovative writing style became known as “*Matshikese*”, and was characterised by a creative and playful use of syntax and musical style. *Drum* editor, Mr Anthony Sampson, with whom he developed a lifelong friendship, observed later that, “Todd transformed *Drum*. He wrote as he spoke, in a brisk tempo with a rhythm in every sentence. He attacked the typewriter like a piano.” Mr Matshiki also worked briefly for the *Golden City Post*, a sister publication of *Drum*.

His love of classical music inspired him to compose the choral piece, *Makhaliphile*, in 1953, which combined classical, jazz and traditional themes, and was dedicated to Father Trevor Huddleston, who had worked with disadvantaged communities in Johannesburg. In 1956, he composed *Uxolo!* (Peace), commissioned for Johannesburg’s 70th anniversary. The work’s premiere was commemorated with a Google Doodle on 25 September 2023.

In 1958, Mr Matshikiza composed the music and some of the lyrics of the jazz musical “King Kong”, which had an all-black

cast. Portraying the life and times of heavyweight boxer, Mr Ezekiel Dlamini, popularly known as “King Kong”, the musical was a hit in 1959. It attracted multi-racial audiences and was performed in Johannesburg, Cape Town and then Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha), before opening at the Prince’s Theatre in London’s West End on 23 February 1961. “King Kong” launched the international career of Ms Miriam Makeba, who played the shebeen queen of Back of the Moon, a shebeen of the time in Sophiatown.

Mr Matshikiza composed the music for Mr Alan Paton’s play, *Mkhumbane*, which opened to great success in Durban on 29 March 1960, but closed after a few months due to police harassment. Frustrated by the apartheid system and enabled by plans to stage the King Kong musical in London, Mr Matshikiza and his family relocated to England in August 1960. When most of the cast returned to South Africa, he remained in London, where he collaborated with other musicians to play piano at London jazz venues.

He gave lectures on African music and freelanced for publications, including a seminal article which highlighted the radical contribution of black South African music in the fight against apartheid. He continued to write a monthly column for *Drum* magazine titled:



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MR TODD TOZAMA MATSHIKIZA (*Posthumous*)

“Todd in London”, and worked for the BBC as a presenter and researcher.

In 1964, Mr Matshikiza and his wife were invited to work in newly independent Zambia, where he became a presenter at Radio Zambia. He took up a position in 1967 as the music archivist for the Zambian Information Service. He travelled extensively throughout Zambia, building up the archival collection and researching Zambian traditional music and instruments.

Some of his later compositions were inspired by Zambian traditional songs. He was one of five South African black artists to perform at the inaugural Zambia Arts Festival held at Luanshya in May 1965. He died in Lusaka on 4 March 1968 and his remains have since been returned to South Africa.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### PROF. KHABAJANE (KHABI) VIVIAN MNGOMA (*Posthumous*)

*For his contribution to music as a scholar, conductor and teacher who established the Music Department at UNIZULU in 1975 and originated music competitions and clinics that remain treasured by conductors, performers and audiences to this day.*

**Professor (Prof.) Khabi Mngoma** was born in Troyeville, north-east of Johannesburg on 18 November 1922. He spent some of his childhood in Annieville, a rural community outside Dannhauser in the Natal-Midlands, where he was sent to live with his grandfather in 1933. He returned to the then Transvaal (now Gauteng) in 1936, where the family had already relocated to George Goch; formerly known as Eastern Native Township, east of Johannesburg. He was a musically gifted and keen child who demonstrated leadership qualities. Prof. Mngoma came from a musically gifted family and adept parents. His mother, Ms Agnes Matutu Nyembe, was a teacher and his father, Mr David Zwelonke Mngoma, a virtuoso concertina-playing Maskandi artist. By the time he served in his last role as Head of Music at the University of Zululand, Prof. Mngoma had worked in the cultural sphere as an artist, teacher, publisher and organiser of cultural activities, choir conductor, singing coach, historian and administrator.

He was a humanist and was described by his late friend, Dr MV Gumede, as a nation-builder and self-made man. Through the various music programmes he founded and ran, music performances and concerts, he always endeavoured to expand his pupils' vocabulary and the audiences' experience by incorporating what he believed was an acknowledgement of the dual worlds

in which the 'present-day' African lived. He firmly believed that teaching music needed to reflect this reality for all music students. It was at the University of Zululand that he fine-tuned and got some recognition for this philosophy.

In 1948, Prof. Mngoma co-founded the Orlando Music Society with Messrs Es'kia Mphahlele and Isaac Matlare; and during the same year, they established the Syndicate of African Artists – a multiracial organisation dedicated to the promotion of Western classical music, drama and theatre among the people of Soweto. In the early 1950s, together with Mr Matlare – his friend and fellow teacher at Orlando High School – they started a choir comprising learners of the school which they named the *Vulgus* Choir. *Vulgus* is a Latin word which ostensibly means the proletariat, common people or masses. The Syndicate of African Artists under the auspices of the Orlando Music Society, launched a performance of *Handel's Messiah* in Johannesburg and Orlando, Soweto. It was the Sowetans' first experience of this great work. Thus, it was also the first South African performance of *Messiah* in its entirety, rendered by Black South African musicians. In 1949, Prof. Mngoma became involved with the Johannesburg Music Festival as a music adviser to participants of the festival. His role in the festivals extended well into the 1960s.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### PROF. KHABAJANE (KHABI) VIVIAN MNGOMA (*Posthumous*)

Prof. Mngoma founded the Moroka Township Music Appreciation Group, which also operated at the Chiawelo Community Centre along with other groups. It was through this group that he endeavoured to establish a strong choral tradition at the centre. With the cooperation and participation of the choral constituent of the Moroka Township Music Appreciation Group, known as the Chiawelo Community Centre Choir, he produced two major classical choral works: *The Messiah* by G.F. Handel and *The Creation* by F.J. Haydn, which attracted the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

In 1959, Prof. Mngoma was instrumental in the establishment of the Jubilee String Players or Jubilee Chamber Orchestra, which was the first black orchestral ensemble ever to receive reviews in the media. He went to establish the Ionian Male Choir in 1959, followed by the formation of the Ladies' Choir in 1960 and the Ionian Mixed Choir in 1961. The amalgamation of these three choirs with the Ionian Junior and Senior Orchestra, constituted the final genesis of the Ionian Music Society. The Jubilee String Players became the Soweto Symphony Orchestra under the direction of the late Mr Michael Masote in 1972.

In 1978, Prof. Mngoma helped launch the Ford choir competitions at the Bhekuzulu Hall, University of Zululand. He also established

the Khongisa Youth Centre for the Performing Arts in Kwa-Zulu Natal (KZN) from 1977 to 1999. On 24 May 1980, the Ionian Mixed Choir performed the *Judas Maccabaeus* oratorio with the University of Zululand Choir, comprising about 250 voices. Empangeni Standard Bank sponsored the recording of the University of Zululand Choir in 1978 and thereafter they recorded a second LP through the SABC in 1981.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MR JEREMIAH KIPPIE MOROLONG MOEKETSI (*Posthumous*)

*For his contribution to the development and popularity of jazz in South Africa and its integration into the genre internationally. As an alto saxophonist, he was one of a generation of luminaries who shaped South Africa's modern jazz style through innovative composition and uniquely South African improvisation.*

**Mr Jeremiah Kippie Morolong Moeketsi** was born in Johannesburg in 1924. His family settled in George Goch location, a rundown "African township" in the era before Soweto was established. He was the youngest in a musical family: his father, a Municipal Clerk, was also a church organist; his mother sang and his four older brothers played some instruments.

He discovered how much music from his brothers Jacob – who had played piano for the pioneering Jazz Maniacs – and Andrew (both of whom played classical music and jazz) he had intermittent tuition. Music fascinated him and there were plenty of music books in the Moeketsi home, through which Kippie mainly taught himself after finishing his day jobs. Sometimes he would practise through the night, provoking angry complaints from neighbours. He learnt to read music and switched from clarinet to saxophone.

Kippie's first musical instrument was the clarinet, which he played with his first band known as the Band in Blue. The Band in blue played for shebeens and slum audiences who enjoyed the music to some extent; although Kippie felt discouraged by the minimum interest they showed. This, and other personal problems, resulted in a lifelong habit of drinking and money squandering; however, these problems did not stand in his way of being a renowned saxophone player, an instrument he

played after he left the Band in Blue. Kippie has made a great name for himself in the jazz industry by playing with other great South African musicians such as Messrs Abdullah Ibrahim, Jonas Gwangwa, Bra Hugh Masekela and Ms Mirriam Makeba. He also toured with well-known bands such as the Shantytown Sestet, Harlem Swingsters, Jazz Epistles and the Jazz Dazzlers; leading various small groups of his own, playing support for the likes of Manhattan Brothers, Ms Dolly Rathebe, Ms Dorothy Masuka and in multiple formations (from trio to septet) bearing the band name Shanty Town. He featured on visiting United States of America (USA) pianist, Mr John Mehegan's two *Jazz in Africa* albums and as part of the legendary *Jazz Epistles Verse One*.

From 1971, when he got a new instrument, Kippie played triumphantly and beautifully again for another seven years, as a peer of the country's other jazz legends including Dollar Brand (later Mr Abdullah Ibrahim, whom he had mentored), Messrs Allen Kwela, Dennis Mpale, Matshikiza, Mike Makhalemele and visiting USA star, Mr Hal Singer. Mr Kippie Moeketsi's life as a musician is captured by author, Mr Peter Esterhuysen in a book titled: *Kippie Moeketsi: Sad Man of Jazz*, which captures his life as that of being a great musician.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MS QUEENETH MARIA NDABA (*Posthumous*)

*In recognition of her outstanding support for established performers and nurturing of emerging artists from Dorkay House, the creative community's refuge amid the onslaught of apartheid. Ms Ndaba offered her arts administration capabilities to artists at home and in exile, while she remained a committed and unmovable resident of Dorkay House and an icon of resistance and resilience.*

**Ms Queeneth Maria Ndaba** was born in Orlando East, Soweto on 5 December 1936. Her musically inclined parents motivated her to later form her own troupe, The Hometown Kids, while in secondary school. Despite throat cancer affecting her singing aspirations prematurely – Ms Ndaba did not lose heart – she continued to re-define herself and her career in the arts.

In 1967, she made her presence felt at the legendary Dorkay House in Eloff Street, Johannesburg, as a costumes designer and seamstress for many productions over the years, including King Kong, featuring musicians such Messrs Gideon Nxumalo, Alton Khumalo, Covey Tlhotlhemaje, Dan Poho, Ms Sophie Mgcina, Mr Zakes Mokae, Ms Abigail Kubheka, Mr Khabi Mngoma, Mr Jonas Gwangwa, Ms Miriam Makeba, Ms Thandie Klaasen, Mr Hugh Masekela, Mr Kippie Moeketsi, Ms Letta Mbulu, Ms Ntemi Piliso and her brother Mr Zacks Nkosi.

She prevailed in 1982, when with the help of the then leader of the Alex All Stars band, Mr Ntemi Edmund Piliso, they formed the trailblazing African Jazz Pioneers, which featured also her tenor saxophonist husband, Mr Tim Ndaba, to international acclaim with an eclectic mixture of Marabi, Jazz, Kwela and Mbaqanga. She was an impresario par excellence and an art administrator who commanded respect and admiration alike.

In 2000, her dear friend and band leader, Mr Piliso passed on, and a year later her soulmate, Mr Tim Ndaba, followed. Ms Ndaba convinced the 1950s and 1960s film star and singer, Ms Dolly Rathebe to get out of retirement and perform with the Elite Swingsters. She passed on in August 2018, leaving behind a legacy of her work.

Ndaba, as she was affectionately known by young and old alike, passed on at the OR Tambo Memorial Hospital in Boksburg after a long illness, prompting living legend, *Ntate* Caiphus Katse Semanya to comment, "I have known her since she was a teenager and she was incredible. She would captivate an audience and really engulf you in her music. The one thing I remember more than anything else was how dedicated she was to her craft." According to Bra Hugh Masekela in his autobiography *Still Grazing*, "Dorkay House was the only creative enclave at that time for African musicians, artists, poets, actors and singers."



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

### MR MOLEFE PHETO (*Posthumous*)

*For his contribution to multiple areas of performative art; from drama to music and literature. He co-founded MDALI – Music, Drama, Art and Literature Institute and Mhloti Black Theatre, which dominated the cultural milieu during the 1970s. During repression, he was to exile in Britain where he became a founder member of the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania and continued to engage in the struggle for the freedom of the people of South Africa.*

**Mr Molefe Pheto** was born in 1935. He was a musician and music teacher who, as an activist in the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM), became a political prisoner in 1975. He was a friend and spokesperson to former South African President, Mr Nelson Mandela.

Mr Pheto co-founded the Music, Drama, Art and Literature Institute (MDALI) and Mhloti Black Theatre, which dominated the cultural milieu during the 1970s. He was also a tutor at the African Music and Drama Association. He was the founding president of Medupe Writers' Association between 1976 and 1977 and became its first chairperson. The organisation was banned by the apartheid government on 19 October 1977. His anti-apartheid arts activism resulted in his nine-month detention in 1975.

Mr Pheto was forced to flee into exile in Britain, where he became a founding member of the BCM of Azania and continued to engage in the struggle for the liberation of the people of South Africa. Upon his return to the country, Mr Pheto became a farmer, member of the Azanian People's Organisation, National Secretary for Land and Agriculture and a thriving author.

He acquired a four-year scholarship to study music; through which he completed a Teachers' Diploma in Music in his main instrument, the trumpet. Additionally, he studied learning voice, the double bass and orchestra conducting. He acquired all this knowledge and skills to invest in his career as a music tutor. He was a source of great inspiration among young poets such as Messrs Duma Ndlovu, Goapele Madingwane, Matsemela Manaka, Maishe Mponya, Boitumelo Mofokeng and many others, who used to congregate at DOCC for weekly readings and discussions. His poem, '*Mother Mbila-Mutondo*' inspired Mr Duma to start writing in Tshivenda, leading him to ultimately penning the most popular TV soapie, '*Muvhango*.'

He was a founding member of an arts body called Pitso, which had been championed by South African artists exiled in London during 1982. He was also an active drummer, participating in poetry readings through his music-and-poetry ensemble, Pula Arts Kommune, that included his daughter, Phello; his sons, Gibo and Pule; Messrs Eugene Skeef, Moichopare Vincent Segwai, Glenn Ujebe Masokoane and Moso Bolofo. In addition to being an arts practitioner, Mr Pheto was a founding member of the BCM of Azania when it was established in Brixton, London in 1980.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### MR JONATHAN KENNETH BUTLER

*For his contribution to the arts and music, in particular as a jazz, R&B and gospel singer, songwriter and producer. From humble beginnings in Athlone, Cape Town, he gained a national profile as a teen performer and developed a career that made him a respected and sought-after studio artist and concert performer. He has used his music and faith as a creative tool to communicate with diverse international audiences.*

**Mr Jonathan Kenneth Butler**, a South African singer-songwriter and guitarist, was born on 10 October 1961. His music is often classified as R&B, jazz fusion or worship music. Raised in Athlone, Cape Town, he started singing and playing acoustic guitar as a child. Racial segregation and poverty during apartheid has been the subject of many of his records. His first single was the first by a black artist played by White radio stations in the racially segregated South Africa and it earned a Sarie Award, South Africa's equivalent to the Grammy Awards.

Mr Butler began touring at the age of seven, when he joined a travelling stage show and was later signed up to perform on a string of hit recordings, turning him into a local teen idol. In 1975, his cover of "Please Stay" by the Drifters reached number two in South Africa. "I'll Be Home" reached number 16 in 1976.

In 1978, he found the inspiration and encouragement to begin expressing himself as a composer and songwriter when he joined Cape Town's best-known jazz/rock outfit, the Pacific Express. Two albums were recorded and some Pacific Express songs were later released on the 1988 "7th Avenue" album. All three releases were issued by Mountain Records.

In the early 1980s, Mr Butler was signed to Jive Records and he moved to the UK, where he lived for 17 years. His international

breakthrough came in 1987 with his Grammy-nominated hit single, "Lies", which reached number 27 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart and his cover version of the Staple Singers song, "If You're Ready (Come Go with Me)", which he performed with Ruby Turner. His single "Lies" also reached the UK Official Singles Chart, peaking at number 18, spending 12 weeks in the top 100.

In 2001, he was featured in a compilation album that was a jazz tribute to Bob Marley, called "A Twist of Marley". His contribution to the album was a jazz cover of "No Woman, No Cry". He maintained a loyal following in the 1980s and 1990s in South Africa, the USA and Europe.

In 2006, he was a featured vocalist on the album, "Gospel Goes Classical", produced by the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the USA. This recording rose to number two on the Billboard Gospel chart and number three on the Classical Crossover chart.

He was also nominated for a Grammy Award for his single "Going Home". Also in 2008, Mr Butler guest-starred on George Duke's album, "Dukey Treats", alongside the late Ms Teena Marie on the track "Sudan", which talks about the disasters of Darfur. He is preparing for a South African tour with his new album called "Ubuntu".



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### MR JONNY MBIZO DYANI (*Posthumous*)

*For his outstanding contribution to musical arts as a jazz double bassist, vocalist and recording artist; notably with The Blue Notes Jazz Band which fled South Africa in 1964 to perform around the world as free artists. His versatile talent served to promote and highlight South Africa's gift to the world.*

**Mr Jonny Mbizo Dyani** was born on 30 November 1945. He was a renowned South African jazz double bassist, vocalist and pianist who, in addition to being a key member of The Blue Notes, played with international musicians such as Messrs Don Cherry, Steve Lacy, David Murray, Finnish guitar player Jukka Syrenius, Pierre Dørge, Peter Brötzmann, Mal Waldron, fellow South African, Dollar Brand (Mr Abdullah Ibrahim) and Mr Leo Smith, among many others.

He grew up in Duncan Village, East London (now kuGompo City), in the Eastern Cape. In the early 1960s, he was a member of South Africa's first integrated jazz band, The Blue Notes; with Mongezi Feza on trumpet, Dudu Pukwana on alto saxophone, Nikele Moyake on tenor saxophone, Chris McGregor on piano and Louis Moholo on drums. In 1964, the band fled South Africa to seek musical and political freedom. Mr Moholo explained: "We were rebels and we were trying to run away from this apartheid thing. We rebelled against the apartheid regime that Whites and Blacks could not play together. We stood up."

In 1966, Mr Dyani toured Argentina with Lacy's quartet. Lacy, Enrico Rava, Dyani and Moholo recorded "The Forest and the Zoo". In 1971, he formed his own group, Earthquake Power and in 1972 co-founded *Xaba* with fellow Blue Note member

Mongezi Feza and Turkish percussionist Okay Temiz. Performing widely throughout Europe, he moved to Copenhagen, Denmark in the early 1970s; and about 10 years later to Sweden, recording many albums under his own name.

He recorded with Abdullah Ibrahim, Don Cherry, Steve Lacy, David Murray, Joseph Jarman, Clifford Jarvis, Don Moye, Han Bennink, Brotherhood of Breath, Waldron, Dørge and many others. Mr Dyani died suddenly in 1986 after a performance in West Berlin, Germany.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### MS ANDISWA GEBASHE

*For her contribution to the often-marginalised deaf community. She has worked diligently to break barriers, make national events accessible and ensure that the deaf community is represented in arts, media and education. Ms Gebashe embodies the values of inclusivity, nation-building and human rights.*

**Ms Andiswa Gebashe** is one of South Africa's leading advocates for South African Sign Language (SASL) and inclusion of the deaf community. She has spent more than a decade breaking barriers, making national events accessible and ensuring that deaf people are represented in arts, media and education. Through her work on television, theatre, children's programming, live events and advocacy platforms, Gebashe has transformed the visibility and recognition of SASL, directly contributing to it becoming South Africa's 12th official language.

She has provided outstanding service to the deaf community and the nation by ensuring equal access to information, entertainment and culture. She embodies the values of inclusivity, nation-building and human rights. Her advocacy has shaped public perception, influenced policy and provided deaf South Africans with greater visibility and dignity. By pioneering the integration of SASL into mainstream South African arts and media, she has created lasting pathways for representation and accessibility.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms Gebashe did SASL interpreting during President Cyril Ramaphosa's national addresses. She is the Head Researcher for *Beyond* on SABC2, which was nominated for a South African Film and Television Award (SAFTA). She contributed to *Takalani Sesame*, the only

deaf-inclusive children's educational programme on SABC; coached SASL dialects for Netflix's *iNumber Number* and introduced SASL into mainstream comedy via Comedy Central's *Democracy*. Ms Gebashe also contributed to *Sullied*, the first SASL-integrated theatre production at the Market Theatre.

She has made major events accessible in SASL including Miss South Africa, the SAFTAs and the South African Music Awards. She is regularly featured as an SASL activist on national media shows including *Expresso*, *Newzroom Afrika*, *Isolezwe* and *ENCA*). In 2023, Ms Gebashe gave a talk at the TEDx Durban Annual Conference. She co-hosted the Feather Awards between 2022 and 2023, showcasing deaf inclusion on stage. She was also featured in Momentum's "She Owns Her Success" series, inspiring women across South Africa.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### MR NORMAN HLABANE

*For his contribution in boxing where he delighted many with his 21 fights as a professional. He mentored many and inspired young men to train and enter the ring. His commitment to youth development through sport is commendable.*

**Mr Norman Hlabane** was born in Pimville, Soweto in 1946. He was raised by his paternal grandmother in Evaton in the Vaal Triangle. He was inspired to be a boxer in 1958 by the then Transvaal Lightweight Champion, German 'Mauser' Mhlambi, who stayed near his grandmother's house. After deciding to start training as an amateur, he participated in all amateur championships of that time.

In 1966, he turned professional and fought 16 fights with eight wins, five losses and a draw. He fought the likes of the late Enoch 'School Boy' Nhlapo twice, Mckeed Mafokeng and the late Gordon Goba, who was the South African Black Middleweight Champion by then. He also fought a draw with Morgan Moledi in Alexander Township. A freak accident he had while preparing for a fight prematurely ended his boxing career.

He was, however, not lost to boxing as he started to train young boys at the John Middleton Gym in Bree Street, Johannesburg. His stable increased when a few boxers moved from his uncle, Nana Mathews's stable to his. He produced nine champions in then Transvaal (now Gauteng), starting with Bobby Chisale (Jnr Middleweight), Peter Mgojo (Welterweight), Dingaan Thobela (Jnr Lightweight), David Potsane (Jnr Welterweight) and Job Tleru (Flyweight). Patrick Twala, Peter Malinga, Jerry and Patrick Malinga were Gauteng and South African champions. He

trained the Malinga brothers to be world champions in different weight divisions.

He produced more than 10 South African and more than five world champions. He further trained Tanzanian brothers, Rashid and Mbawana Matumla, who became world champions in different divisions. Mbawana won the World Boxing Union (WBU) Jnr Middleweight title and Rashid became the World Boxing Association and Commonwealth Champion in the Jnr Bantamweight division. He also trained two Namibian boxers, Nestor Tobias and Harry Simon for three years in his gym, who became World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champions. He guided and assisted world-recognised heavyweights, Siza Makhathini and Francois Botha, to fight under Don King Promotions and assisted in training Nika Khumalo when he challenged the WBO lightweight title.

Mr Hlabane also trained Lehlohonolo Ledwaba to become the International Boxing Federation, WBU and International Boxing Organization Champion. At his age, he is still training the underestimated South African Lightweight Champion and some other upcoming boxers. His club is full of the sons and daughters of the township.

He is committed to his passion of uplifting the standard of sport in his township and is working hard to guide young people to stardom.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### DR TREVOR JONES

*For his contribution to musical arts and cinema through his composition of highly acclaimed scores for internationally successful film, and for opening his home in London as a place of refuge for many comrades of the liberation movement.*

**Dr Trevor Alfred Charles Jones** was born in Cape Town on 23 March 1949. He is an international renown composer of film and television scores, who has worked primarily in the United Kingdom (UK). His talent began at the age of ten, when he got accepted at the South African College of Music on a municipal bursary. In 1967, he attended the Royal Academy of Music in London with a scholarship and subsequently worked five years for the British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC) on reviews of radio and television music. In 1974, Dr Jones attended the University of York, from which he graduated with a Master's Degree in Film and Media Music. At the National Film and Television School, Dr Jones studied for three years in general filmmaking, film and sound techniques. During this time, he wrote music for 22 student projects. One of those films was 1981's *The Dollar Bottom*, which won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film.

Dr Jones is best known for his scoring work during the 1980s and 1990s, where he worked on many acclaimed films including *Excalibur*, *Runaway Train*, *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, *Mississippi Burning*, *The Last of the Mohicans* and *In the Name of the Father*. Jones has collaborated with filmmakers such as Messrs John Boorman, Andrei Konchalovsky, Jim Henson, Alan Parker, Jim Sheridan, Barbet Schroeder and Michael Mann.

In his lifetime, he has been nominated for three British Academy of Film and Television Art Awards for Best Film Music for *Mississippi Burning*, *The Last of the Mohicans* and *Brassed Off*. He has also been nominated for two Golden Globe Awards (Best Original Score and Best Original Song) and a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Music Composition for a Limited Series, Movie or Special for the mini-series, *Merlin*. He has been a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in Britain since 2006. In 1999, he became the first chairperson of the music department at the National Film and Television School.

In 1992, his musical score for *The Last of the Mohicans* put him at the height of his career. His soaring, passionate music belies the difficulties which afflicted its creation. Director Michael Mann initially asked Dr Jones to provide an electronic score for the film, but later on, it was decided an orchestral score would be more appropriate for this historic epic. Dr Jones re-fashioned the score for orchestra in the limited time left, while the constant re-cutting of the film meant music cues sometimes had to be rewritten several times to keep up with the new timings.

Dr Jones became active in television during the 1990s, with orchestral scores for several Hallmark productions including *Gulliver's Travels*, *Merlin* and *Cleopatra*. He also provided a fun,



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### DR TREVOR JONES

jazzy, 1930s-style score for *Richard III* (1995), which features a swing-band setting of Christopher Marlowe's *The Passionate Shepherd to His Love*. In 1997, he worked for the first time with Ridley Scott, providing an electronic/orchestral/rock-flavoured soundtrack for *G.I. Jane* (1997).

Like many of his conscientious counterparts at the time, Dr Jones also made a mark in the liberation movement. During the 1980s and 1990s, his home in London served as a meeting place for exiled African National Congress (ANC) activists. At the time, his brother, Mr Colin Jones (Dean of the Cathedral in Cape Town and envoy to the late Archbishop Tutu) convened London meetings exiled ANC members. His anti-apartheid activities included creating the soundtrack for anti-apartheid advertisements such as "Snookered", which was a campaign against apartheid.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### DR OLIVER KGADIME MATSEPE (*Posthumous*)

*For his contribution to the storytelling of South Africa. His prose is characterised by an impulse towards symbolic formulation, expression and understanding of the desire for symbolic experience. It is also reflective of ongoing events in human relations and dynamics, simultaneously promoting and preserving cultural heritage.*

**Dr Oliver Kgadime Matsepe** was born on 22 March 1932 in Tafelkop, Groblersdal district. He was the son of Mr Malua Matsepe, a senior police sergeant and the grandson of Chief Bloeu of the Kopa tribe. Although Matsepe came from a non-Christian family, he received his education at mission schools. From 1942 to 1949, he attended primary school education at Phokoane United Christian School in Nebo.

In 1945, his schooling was interrupted to enable him to attend circumcision school. From 1950 he furthered his education at another mission school, Botshabelo High School in Middelburg, in the then Eastern Transvaal (now Mpumalanga). Here he was baptised and received full membership of the Lutheran Church. He also attended confirmation classes at Botshabelo. In 1955, Matsepe matriculated at the Kilnerton Training Institution, a Methodist Church College in Pretoria.

The significance of his literary contribution is that it also embodies an artistic, cultural, historical and scientific essence that continues to provide answers to some of the burning issues confronting contemporary life.

His books are a rich historic reservoir on Kgoši Boleu and Bakgaga Bakopa who settled in Thabantšho (Maleoskop). Matsepe's

writings are reflective, historic and prophetic. Unlike other writers who enjoyed missionary privileges and security, Matsepe wrote from a point of vulnerability. He concludes *Sebatakgomo* with a scene reflecting the Bakopa genocide visuals.

In the novel, this atrocity is not attributed to the Boers and Amaswati, but rather to a mysterious regiment with no particular identity or origin. The genocidal reflection resurfaces in his novel, *Kgorong ya Mošate*, published in 1962. The book was published in the same year as Bakopa ba Rammupudu's forceful removal from Thabantšho, to the current day Tafelkop by the apartheid regime. A police academy, Maleoskop, was built at the ruins of Thabantšho where the police deployed to fight in the South African Border War were trained. Even to this day, this genocidal site bears archaeological evidence of unburied bodies.

Archaeological evidence as reported by Willem Boshoff and Maryna Steyn in their study, "A war uncovered: Human Remains from Thabantšho (Maleoskop), South Africa," attests that buildings were burnt down with bones totally disarticulated, fragmented and severely burnt. The small bones suspected to have belonged to a baby suggest that the killing was indiscriminate. They concluded that their findings corroborated the archival information that the survivors were prohibited from burying the dead.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### DR OLIVER KGADIME MATSEPE (*Posthumous*)

Matsepe's prose is sometimes more historically factual than scientific accounts. It is a literary museology and dark tourism associated with historical deaths, tragedy and suffering of the Bakopa and Africans in general. Equally, it is reflective of ongoing events of human relations and dynamics, simultaneously promoting and preserving cultural heritage and outlook of an African society, if not mankind.

On the whole, his work questioned the law of cause and effect, illustrating that the Boers and amaSwati faced no ramifications whatsoever for the Bakopa genocide. If anything, the massacre resulted in economic growth for these two nations, inversely exposing remnants of the Bakopa to destitution. Matsepe was a pathfinder of a chaotic plot, which is compressed, condensed and imbued in poetic essence.

The plot of *Megokgo ya Bjoko*, for instance, is chaotically and exquisitely organised, revealing a structure that best displays his ability to purposefully divert without losing the thought trail and return to the track in the most imaginative and unpredictable technique. Unparalleled is his undisrupted focus and power to deliberately scatter his plot all over and subsequently pull it together in just one paragraph, if not sentence. He employed poetic prose, an exquisite and ornately florid style of

prose writing often alliterative, antithetical and embellished with elaborate figurative language. The organic poetic musicality that carries his story is commendable, making the reading of this novel a great pleasure.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### MR OSCAR SIBONGINKOSI MDLONGWA (OSKIDO)

*For creating opportunities for young musicians, as an extension of his own success as a DJ, record producer, entrepreneur and kwaito pioneer. His work with up-and coming musicians has become an integral part of his musical journey.*

**Mr Oscar Sibonginkosi Mdlongwa (famously known as Oskido)** was born on 29 November 1967. He is a recording artist, DJ, record producer and businessman. He has been in the South African music industry for over 26 years and has reached prominent status, more so in popular youth culture.

He is undoubtedly one of the pioneering artists that popularised the Kwaito genre of music outside of the townships of South Africa, and he has been central to the rise of Afro-house and opened doors for a new genre known as Amapiano.

Oskido is the co-founder of Kalawa Jazmee Records (formerly Kalawa Records), a record label that is home to musical acts such as Mafikizolo, Bongo Maffin and many other groups. His career kicked off after he volunteered to perform at Razzmatazz when the scheduled DJ failed to show up. The late Ian Sigola, played a major role in guiding him in the club scene by lending him his vinyls.

After reworking songs and formulating his own sound in the studio, he went on to release the cassette compilations, "Mixmaster" and "Big Jam", thus boosting his popularity outside of Johannesburg. He was later introduced to Bruce "Dope" Sebitlo, a South African music artist who went on to partner with Oskido in the Brothers of Peace group.

Under the Brothers of Peace banner, Oskido and Sebitlo released eight albums between 1994 and 2004, including the Kwaito classic "Makwerekwere", which discouraged attacks on foreigners; as well as "Traffic Cop" and the ground-breaking "Project A" and "Zabalaza: Project B" albums, which are Afro-house pioneers. The "Zabalaza" title track made it to dancefloors across the globe when Louie Vega licensed and remixed it for his MAW record label. He was also influential in setting up groups such as Mafikizolo and Trompies.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### PROF. DEUTERONOMY BHEKINKOSI ZEBLON NTULI

*For his enormous contribution in preservation of language through his incomparable translations from English to isiZulu. His notable translation works include Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom, which he retitled: "Uhambo Olunde Oluya eNkululekweni", and Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet, which he retitled "Mphulopethi".*

**Prof. Deuteronomy Bhekinkosi Zebulon Ntuli** was born on 8 May 1940 in Eshowe. He completed his primary education at Gcotsheni BC School (then known as Bantu Community School). He also attended Ndulinde Primary School, a nearby school in Gcotsheni. He completed his secondary education at St Francis College, a Catholic school in Marianhill, where he completed his Matric. In 1960, he completed his undergraduate studies at the University of KZN where he was among the first cohort of students to be enrolled.

After graduating, he took a temporary job as a Clerk at the Sappi factory in his hometown of Mandeni. He then moved to the SABC's Radio Bantu station, where he worked as a producer and presenter of isiZulu programmes. He held this position for three years. After this job, he took a position at the University of South Africa (UNISA), where he was a lecturer in the Department of African Languages. In 1978, he graduated with a Doctor of Literature (DLitt) Degree, also from UNISA, where he became the Head of the Zulu sub-department – a position he held for 32 years before retiring in 1999.

Prof. Ntuli wrote a wide variety of books, essays and short stories. He has written and published 16 stories and essays; his other works include 10 books and eight poetry collections. He also co-

authored and edited some of the works. His first book, *UBheka*, was published at the age of 21 in 1962. His second book, *Nginyoze Ngimthole*, was published in 1970. The professor's greatest contribution was in short stories and essays; however, he also translated many works into isiZulu. His notable translation works include Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*, which he re-titled *Uhambo Olunde Oluya eNkululekweni*; and Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*, which he re-titled *Mphulopethi*.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### MR BENJAMIN JOHN PETER TYAMZASHE (*Posthumous*)

*For his significant contribution to South Africa's cultural heritage and the inspiration he provided to generations of musicians and music lovers alike. His impact extends beyond the music sphere; as he played a vital role in nation-building, social cohesion and community development through his art.*

**Mr Benjamin John Peter Tyamashe** was born in Kimberley in the then Cape Colony (now Northern Cape) on 5 September 1890. He was the fourth of seven children of Reverend Gwayi Tyamashe, who was an early missionary of the congregational church and Ms Rachel MacKriel, who was of Scottish-French descent. When his father passed away in 1896, his mother returned to her family in then Mafikeng (now Mahikeng) and sent him and his siblings to the then Eastern Province (now Eastern Cape) to be raised by their paternal uncles.

As a multi-faceted musician, Mr Tyamashe was a first-sight music reader, pianist/organist, composer, arranger, music adjudicator and choirmaster. His formal music studies in London culminated in certification, a testament to his dedication and expertise. Throughout his illustrious career, he demonstrated exceptional talent, passion and commitment to the arts.

Mr Tyamashe's teaching career started while he was still a student at the Lovedale College. He also briefly taught at Dordrecht near Cape Town and also at Mahikeng. From 1913 to 1924, he taught at the Tiger Kloof Educational Institute in Vryburg. At Tiger Kloof, he worked as a teacher, trained the choir and also played the harmonium for the school assembly.

During his spare time while working at the Tiger Kloof Educational Institute, he obtained an Associate Diploma, with distinction through correspondence from the Tonic Solfa College in London, England. This degree included instruction in solfa notation, elementary harmony, counterpoint, form and style. His colleagues encouraged him in his music career and he started composing music during his time at Tiger Kloof. He moved to Cala in the former Transkei in 1925, where he started working as the Principal of the Higher Mission School. He continued to compose music, mainly for primary schools. His five SSC (two sopranos and contralto) part songs, "*Abantwana besikolo*" (schoolchildren), "*Amagqabi emithi*" (the leaves), "*Inkonjane*" (the swallow), "*Ukuba bendinamaphiko*" (If I had wings) and "*U-Nonhayi*" became and still remain, firm favourites for Xhosa primary school choir teachers.

In 1925, his song "Ivoti" was the set piece for the then Transkei-Cape Choir Competition, making it the first vernacular composition to be a set piece. The majority of Mr Tyamashe's compositions are choral works. It is almost impossible to establish a chronology of his works as he seldom dated a manuscript and the date of publication is not an indication of the date of composition.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

### MR BENJAMIN JOHN PETER TYAMZASHE (*Posthumous*)

Nevertheless, it is generally accepted that the first song he composed was “*Isithandwa sam*” (My beloved) in 1917. His works are also divided into three periods, which corresponded to the three places where he lived and worked.

Many scholars such as Hansen say that Mr Tyamzashe’s music was almost entirely Western-influenced, even though he was exposed to traditional Xhosa music from an early age. It was only from 1947 that Xhosa traditional folk music started becoming recognisable in his compositions through the incorporation of Xhosa idioms, rhythms and melodies. He died on 4 June 1978, aged 87 years.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

### MR GAVIN JAMES KRASTIN

*In recognition of his outstanding contributions to performance art, curation and arts education in South Africa. Mr Krastin is a pioneering live art practitioner whose work profoundly challenges, enriches and expands the cultural, intellectual and political landscapes of the country.*

**Mr Gavin James Krastin** is a critically acclaimed artist, award winning curator and dedicated mentor to emerging talent. His influence stretches across provinces, generations and disciplines. His work is informed by a deep commitment to social justice, intellectual rigour and experimental risk-taking. Mr Krastin has spent over 15 years redefining the terrain of South African performing arts. He is internationally recognised for his sophisticated and radical approaches to site-responsive, durational and body-based work; often exploring themes of marginalisation, ecology, queerness, embodiment and national identity. His art is not only aesthetically provocative but functionally impactful as it fosters public dialogue, questions power structures and animates alternative imaginaries.

Mr Krastin's legacy is not only in his own exceptional performances, but in the platforms he has built for others. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Live Art Arcade, an independent nomadic exhibition platform that has, since 2018, supported and showcased the work of over 60 early-career and marginalised artists, many of whom have gone on to become leaders. The Arcade decentralises access to the arts by staging performances in rural, informal and urban fringe environments. It affirms the critical role of live art in national discourse and artistic innovation, operating beyond the confines of conventional

institutions. Mr Krastin has achieved this while mentoring dozens of artists, offering curatorial guidance, administrative training and skills development, particularly to LGBTQIA+ and black artists from under-resourced contexts.

He received the prestigious Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Performance Art (2021), Best Curator Award from the Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Awards (2023) and a Forty Under 40 Leadership Award from The Presidency's Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (2023). He has represented South Africa internationally at major forums in Brazil, Canada, UK, USA, Switzerland, Germany and the Czech Republic.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

### MS DALENE MATTHEE (*Posthumous*)

*For her excellent contribution to South African literature and cultural heritage more broadly, that has taken South African stories to global audiences. Her craft of telling stories preserves our cultural heritage. While she recognised the importance of using accessible language, she also encouraged the use of mother-tongue for full expression and nuance in her storytelling. Her work has stood the test of time and remains popular and relevant.*

**Ms Dalene Matthee** was born in Riversdale in the Southern Cape in 1938. She began her writing career with children's and short stories before writing her first novel after a hiking trip through the Outeniqua hiking trail around Knysna. Her curiosity led to a journey through the stories and studies of these indigenous forests, which would alter the course of her writing career and lead to exceptional contributions to South African literature.

She is the author of 13 books but is best known for her four "forest books", inspired by the Knysna indigenous forest and its communities and history. These novels are *Circles in a Forest*, *Fiel's Child*, *The Mulberry Forest* and *Dreamforest*. Though she wrote in Afrikaans, which she regarded as the language of her soul and she emphasised the importance of being able to write in your own language, she was responsible for the English translations of her work to ensure that cultural nuance and accuracy were preserved.

Her books have been translated into 15 languages including English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Hebrew, Icelandic and Arabic; with over a million copies having been sold worldwide. As a prose writer, she is known for the masterful interweaving of in-depth research and captivating storytelling, through which she explores many issues that are still pertinent today. Prominent

examples include the importance of conservation, considering man's relentless destruction of nature; the exploitation and oppression of poor, illiterate and otherwise marginalised communities; and the complex way in which factors such as race, land ownership and societal expectations impact on identity. Evident in her writing is a fierce voice against injustice and a sensitive portrayal of human relationships and the mystical power of the natural world.



## THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

### MR SAMUEL MHANGWANI

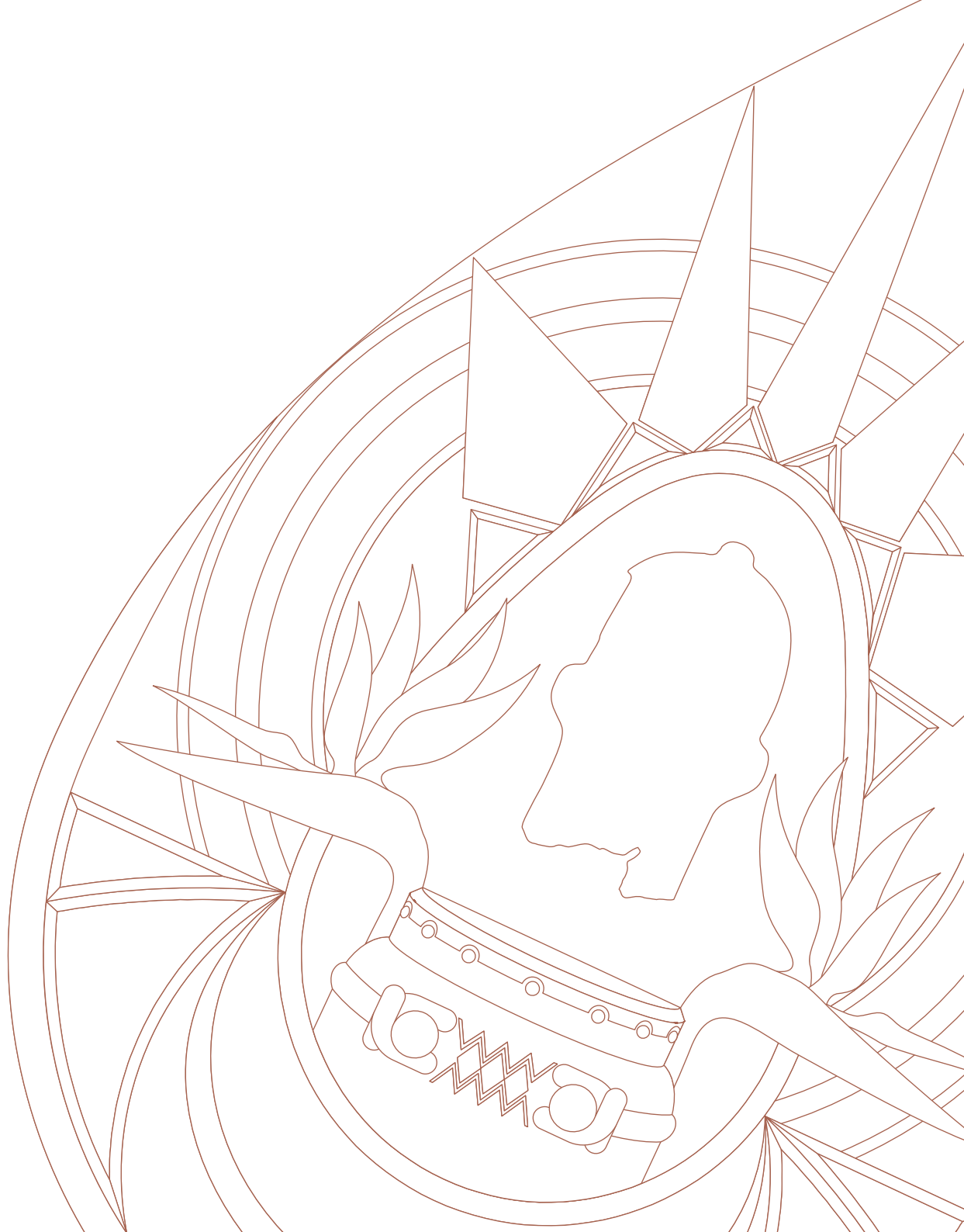
*For his excellent contribution in the arts and culture. His dedication to promoting jazz music has made South Africa a destination for jazz enthusiasts globally. The annual concerts he organises have become imbedded in the cultural milieu of our country. He not only concentrated on art but also played a significant role in the anti-apartheid movement using music as a powerful tool to speak truth to power.*

**Mr Samauel Mhangwani** was born in 1942. He worked tirelessly in the development of the arts since 1965, whereby he created jobs for artists in the townships. He organised events for the African National Congress (ANC)'s underground movements, fighting apartheid through musicals and concerts. He became a South African theatre ambassador by touring the world, exposing the oppression caused by the South African policy of apartheid through a powerful storytelling musical called “*lphi Ntombi*”.

Mr Mhangwani created a platform for South African musicians to collaborate with Jamaican musicians such as Mr Peter Tosh and American artists including Michael Jackson, The Manhattens, Harry Belafonte, Nina Simone, The Jazz Crusaders and many others. He worked with big names such as Bra Hugh Masekela, Ms Mirriam Makeba, *Ntate* Caiphus Semenya, Ms Letta Mbuli and Mr Jonas Gwangwa. Age has not slowed him down – at 82 he still organises an annual tribute concert in Moretele Park. This year will mark 30 years of the concert, which has become a special event in the national and continental calendars.

Mr Mhangwani is currently the executive producer and owner of the South African Tribute to Music Heroes Concert which features 100% South African artists, under the company he co-founded called Drakensburg Promotions. The concert also caters for up and coming musical talent.

The project which started at Orlando Stadium, Soweto on 1 August 1998 and moved to Mamelodi township in the City of Tshwane, attracts over 25 000 music patrons and creates a host of employment and business opportunities for locals and communities from surrounding areas across age and gender.









## THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN GOLD

### PROF. CHABANI NOEL MANGANYI (*Posthumous*)

*For his contribution as a thought leader and intellectual activist in terms of Black Consciousness and Black identity. This is a role he pursued from his early adulthood through various professional endeavours.*

**Prof. Chabani Noel Manganyi** was born in Louis Trichardt, Limpopo on 13 March 1940, at a time when the black narrative was riddled with despondency. He was the first black person in South Africa to register as a psychologist and by doing so, forged his existence as a force to be reckoned with. With this achievement, he changed the course of the profession and validated the dreams of many who would come after him.

In 2016, Prof. Manganyi published a memoir of his life journey titled: *Apartheid and the making of a Black Psychologist*. The memoir provided a window to the journey he had travelled to becoming an exceptional psychologist and a name that belonged in the history books for his perseverance, determination and undeniable fighting spirit.

Part of what made Prof. Manganyi so well versed were his diverse academic and multi-disciplinary accolades. He was also acknowledged for the contributions he made to education and educational leadership. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962, Honours in Psychology in 1964, Masters of Arts A in 1968, and DLitt et Phil in Psychology in 1970.

His achievements in education included the establishment of a psychology department at the then University of Transkei (now

Walter Sisulu University) in 1976, acting as Senior Research Fellow and Visiting Professor at Wits's African Studies Institute from 1980 to 1990s; and being appointed Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the North (now University of Limpopo) in 1990.

Prof. Manganyi served as a University of Pretoria (UP) Vice-Principal from 2003 to 2006 and was a UP *Laureate*, the university's highest honour. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Research Foundation (NRF) when he was a Research Fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the UP.

He served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Joint Education Trust, which aimed to transform South Africa's education system and as Chairperson of the Council on Higher Education. He was a thought leader and intellectual activist in terms of Black consciousness and black identity. This is a role that he pursued from his early adulthood through various professional endeavours.

He described the extraordinariness of Black South Africans such as activist Es'kia Mphahlele and artist Gerard Sekoto. In this respect, Fouché (2015) acknowledges Manganyi's contribution to the 'coming of age' of psychobiography as a research methodology used in South Africa. Prof. Manganyi died on 31 October 2023.



## THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN SILVER

### PROF. KUBEDI PATRICK MOKHOBO

*For leaving an indelible mark in the academic and medical communities. His trailblazing work in cardiology is a testament to his resilience and passion for Medicine. His unwavering dedication has not only shaped the medical field but has also uplifted communities.*

**Prof. Kubedi Patrick Mokhobo** was born on a farm in Hammanskraal. His journey from humble beginnings to becoming a trailblazer in cardiology is a testament to his resilience and passion for Medicine. His contributions to Health Sciences, particularly in the Nursing department of the then University of Bophuthatswana (now North West University), have left an indelible mark on academic and medical communities.

Recognised with numerous accolades, including an Honorary Doctorate from North West University (NWU) and lifetime membership in the Medical Association of Colleges of Medicine, Prof. Mokhobo's legacy extends to the development of a Drug Policy and the Essential Drug List Philosophy. His unwavering dedication not only shaped the Medical field but also uplifted communities, making him a beacon of hope and inspiration both locally and internationally.

His illustrious career spans over six decades, distinguished by his relentless pursuit of medical excellence and his profound impact on healthcare in Southern Africa. As the first African cardiologist in South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho, Prof. Mokhobo broke barriers and set new standards in the medical field.

His pioneering work was instrumental in transforming mission hospitals into state-owned facilities, ensuring broader access to healthcare. He also initiated the Nursing Practitioner Programme that became the foundation for training offered by the South African Nursing Council – a significant contribution to healthcare education.

Prof. Mokhobo was the first black Registrar at Baragwanath Hospital in 1962, specialising in paediatrics and internal medicine, at a time when the medical field was heavily segregated. He pioneered Cardiology Studies in 1966, writing his Medical Fellowship examinations, becoming the first black doctor to do so, thus setting a precedent for future generations.

He established the Lesotho Medical Association and Medical Congress in 1972; and was instrumental in founding the first Lesotho Medical Association and organising the first-ever Lesotho Medical Congress, which brought together medical professionals from across the region. These are some of many contributions he made before his final retirement at the ripe old age of 86.



## THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN BRONZE

### PROF. PUMLA GOBODO-MADIKIZELA

*For her contribution to the field of social cohesion through her powerful work on conflict resolution and the concept of unsolicited forgiveness. Her corpus of work on the psychology of forgiveness has been recognised internationally, bridging public ideology and deeply personal introspection.*

**Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela** is the Research Chair in Studies in Historical Trauma and Transformation at Stellenbosch University. She graduated from Fort Hare University with a Bachelor's and an Honours degree in Psychology. She then obtained her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology at Rhodes University and her PhD in Psychology from the University of Cape Town.

Her doctoral thesis, entitled *"Legacies of violence: An in-depth analysis of two case studies based on interviews with perpetrators of a 'necklace' murder and with Eugene de Kock"*, offers a perspective that integrates psycho-analytic and social psychological concepts to understand extreme forms of violence committed during the apartheid era. Her main interests are traumatic memories in the aftermath of political conflict, post-conflict reconciliation, empathy, forgiveness, psycho-analysis and intersubjectivity. She also served on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Dr Gobodo-Madikizela currently works at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein as a Senior Research Professor.

She has worked with South African rights advocate, Martin Luitingh. She was invited to join Adv Luitingh's team as a defence expert witness in a "necklace murder" trial. Field research deepened her interest in the psychological aftermath of mass

trauma and violence. In 1991, Ms Gobodo-Madikizela started a PhD at the University of Cape Town on "necklace murders" committed in the context of crowd violence. Between 1994 and 1995, she was at Harvard University when she was invited to join the TRC. She served on the Human Rights Violations Committee until May 1998, before returning to Harvard University to take up a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She completed her doctoral dissertation in November 1999 and graduated at the University of Cape Town in June 2000.

She remained in Cambridge for two more years, with affiliations at Harvard's Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School and the Centre for Ethics at Harvard Divinity School respectively. In this period, she lectured and started writing on what she referred to as the "new phenomenon" she witnessed while serving on the TRC's Human Rights Violations Committee – forgiveness of the unforgivable.

In her award-winning book: *A Human Being Died That Night: A South African Story of Forgiveness*, Gobodo-Madikizela argues that the TRC overturned Ms Hannah Arendt's notion of acts that were unforgivable and unpunishable, and for which no apology could be made. She claimed that, at South Africa's TRC, precisely the opposite occurred – apology and forgiveness for what Ms



## THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN SILVER

### PROF. PUMLA GOBODO-MADIKIZELA

Arendt referred to as “radical evil.” In both academic and popular settings, she has examined the concepts that underlie the process of forgiving in the aftermath of historical trauma and the potential for dialogue, remorse and forgiveness to break intergenerational cycles of repetition.







## THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN GOLD

### MR JACK SIMONS (*Posthumous*)

*For the brave and relentless fight for the liberation of all South Africans. Mr Simons and his wife, Ray, were advocates for the liberation movement who made a mark on South African historiography with their work among marginalised communities during apartheid. They contributed immensely to our peaceful transition to democracy.*

Mr and Ms Jack and Ray Simons were advocates for the liberation movement in South Africa.

They made a mark on South African historiography with their work among marginalised communities during apartheid and contributed immensely to South Africa's peaceful transition to democracy. Their work within the country and in exile, is a testament of their selfless contribution to our freedom. As champions for human rights, non-racialism and equality; they spent their entire adult lives fighting for the freedom of all.

Their involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle led to continuous harassment, banning and imprisonment, thus forcing them to go into exile. The Simons were among the first White people to become members of the ANC, continuing their activism while in exile. It is there that they participated in the exiled section of the South African Congress of Trade Unions between 1981 and 1983; and contributed to the SACP's journal, the 'African Communist' under various pseudonyms in 1986.

Ms Simons was elected Honorary President of the Food and Allied Workers' Union. While exiled in Zambia, they co-authored many books, pamphlets and other publications. The role they played throughout their lives is acknowledged by various organisations

in and outside of South Africa, including but not limited to the SACP, trade unions, South West African People's Organisation and the ANC.

## MS RAY SIMONS *(Posthumous)*

*For her brave and relentless fight for the liberation of all South Africans. Simons and her husband, Jack Simons, were advocates for the liberation movement who built communities and contributed immensely to our peaceful transition to democracy.*

In 1941, Ms Ray Alexander, a South African Communist Party (SACP) member and trade unionist, married Mr Jack Simons, a fellow communist and lecturer in African Studies at the University of Cape Town. They were advocates for the liberation movement in South Africa.

They made a mark on South African historiography with their work among marginalised communities during apartheid and contributed immensely to South Africa's peaceful transition to democracy. Their work within the country and in exile, is a testament of their selfless contribution to our freedom. As champions for human rights, non-racialism and equality; they spent their entire adult lives fighting for the freedom of all.

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## THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

### MS MMAGAUTA MOLEFE

*For her contribution to the struggle against repression during apartheid. She is renowned for her roles as an activist, philanthropist and community leader. She is a former detainee of the notorious John Vorster Square and producer of a documentary about the women detained there titled: "Surviving John Vorster Square."*

**Ms Mmagauta Molefe** was born in Alexandra and moved to Tladi in the early 1950s, where her family settled for most of her childhood. Around 1968, she started getting involved in the struggle through the South African Student Movement (SASM) as a pupil at the Morris Isaacson High in Central Western Jabavu, Soweto. Long before the 1976 Soweto uprising happened, her political involvement intensified as she was a Social Work student at the University of the North (now Limpopo University) before being expelled for her political activism.

She decided to enrol at UNISA and got a job as an Admin Assistant at the Black People's Convention's (BPC) office, an organisation that coordinated work for liberation movements. It was while she was at the BPC that the apartheid government announced that Afrikaans would be the medium of instruction in schools starting in 1976. The announcement received a lot of resistance from all sectors of society. At the BPC office in Johannesburg, she worked with other comrades to coordinate resistance against the policy.

Ms Molefe is one of 1976 political activists who was detained at Fort Prison Number Four and at various other places including John Vorster Square. She was arrested and spent six months at the John Vorster Police Station (now Johannesburg Central) and also at Number Four (Hillbrow). Police forced her to stand for 18 hours during six successive days for not cooperating with them.

After that, she stood for 24 hours in 18 days. This is where Ms Molefe learnt to sleep with her eyes open. She was also involved in the Viva-Frelimo rally. She is an activist who advocates for human rights issues while trying to influence governments and communities. She was a founding member of SASM, member of the South African Student Organisation (SASO) and the BPC. She has also led in various capacities including as National Coordinator of Black Women Unite; Board member of Entokozweni Early Learning Centre; Deputy Chairperson of the South African Association for Adult Literacy and Education; Treasurer of the African Women Development and Communication Network and many others. Her motto is: "Walk the talk".

Ms Molefe still remembers how the security police used to raid her home in the middle of the night just to see that everyone in the home had a permit to live in Johannesburg. Those visits in the late 1950s began to open her eyes as a child that something was not right in South Africa. She recalls that in one of the raids, police came to her home at night demanding to see if everyone had a permit. Someone had given them information that her grandmother had visited and she did not have a permit. Her father, Mr Daniel Molefe stood his ground that no one was going to take his mother away. Her father was arrested that night and spent time in jail before being placed under house arrest for a year. Molefe learnt how to stand for the truth from him.



## THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

### MR CAIPHUS NYOKA (*Posthumous*)

*For his contribution to the struggle against apartheid. He selflessly paid the ultimate price for standing up against inhumane and unjust laws and sacrificed his life for all South African to be free and live with dignity. Beyond the grave, he inspired the quest for justice, which resulted in his murderers being convicted four decades later.*

**Mr Caiphus Nyoka** was born on 9 February 1964. He was a student activist who publicly opposed the apartheid government and its discriminatory policies. His involvement in education and local politics resulted in him being identified as a threat to the oppressive system. Mr Nyoka was targeted by the East Rand Security Police, faced harassment and multiple arrests under the oppressive apartheid legislation.

On the evening of 23 August 1987, a briefing took place at the Daveyton Police Station, where a joint operation with the Benoni Security Branch (SB), Daveyton Municipal Police and Reaction Unit, took a decision to execute Mr Nyoka. The following appeared on a police station blackboard: “999 Lemba Street – Caiphus Nyoka Executed – Hands of Death.”

In the early hours of the following morning, members of the joint police operation arrived at the Nyoka homestead. They found Mr Nyoka with three of his friends sleeping. After identifying him, they removed the friends from the room and proceeded to kill him execution style while half naked. He died on the scene as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. His three friends, Messrs Excellent Mthemba, Exodus Nyakane and Elson Mnyakeni, were taken to the Benoni headquarters of the SB where they were tortured.

An inquest was held in 1988 and 1989 before the Benoni Magistrate’s Court. It found that the police had acted in self-defence, despite the family leading evidence that Mr Nyoka posed no threat to the police officers before he was shot twelve times. The TRC found that his killing constituted a gross human rights violation and held the Minister of Law and Order, the Commissioner of Police and the Head of the former State responsible. On 10 July 2025, the Pretoria High Court sentenced former section leader of Reaction Unit 6, Mr Johan Marais (66) to 15 years direct imprisonment. This is after Mr Marais pleaded guilty and was convicted of the premeditated murder of Mr Nyoka.



## THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

### MS ADELE KIRSTEN

*For her contribution to the advancement of peace and community safety. She was a founding member of the End Conscription Campaign, supporting young white men who refused to serve in the apartheid army. She was also a founding member and longtime director of Gun Free South Africa (GFSA) – an organisation committed to creating a safer, more peaceful country by reducing gun violence. Under her leadership, Gun Free South Africa is recognised as a leader in evidence-based violence prevention advocacy that advances peace through policy reforms.*

**Ms Adele Kirsten** was born in 1957. She is a dedicated non-violence and social justice activist who has devoted over three decades to advancing democracy, human rights, justice and peace. She was a founding member of the End Conscription Campaign, supporting young White men who refused to serve in the apartheid army; and a founding member and longtime Director of Gun Free South Africa (GFSA) – an organisation committed to creating a safer, more peaceful country by reducing gun violence. Under her leadership, GFSA is recognised as a leader in evidence-based violence prevention advocacy that advances peace through policy reforms.

One of her key contributions was successfully advocating for the Firearms Control Act of 2000, which has been credited with saving thousands of lives from gun violence. She has served as a small arms and light weapons control expert on a range of international and national advisory bodies, including the UK Department for International Development Armed Violence and Poverty Initiative, the OECD Advisory Panel on Armed Violence Reduction and South Africa's Marikana Panel of Experts to review the use of less-lethal weapons in public order policing.

In addition to publishing a book: *A Nation without Guns? The Story of Gun Free South Africa*, Ms Kirsten has published several

papers on strategies to reduce gun violence. Having retired from GFSA in March 2025, she is currently affiliated with the Medical Research Council of South Africa and contributes to the Lancet Commission on Global Gun Violence and Health.



## THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

### PROF. TULIO DE OLIVEIRA

*For his contribution in the field of scientific research with a groundbreaking discovery of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. His discovery put South Africa on the international stage with cutting edge research and a swift response to prevent infection and possible deaths in our country and globally.*

Prof. Tulio de Oliveira completed his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). His career has seen him study and discover lifesaving medical breakthroughs. He studied outbreaks of chikungunya (a virus that is spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito); dengue (a mosquito-borne viral infection prevalent in tropical and subtropical areas), Hepatitis B and C, HIV, SARS-CoV-2, yellow fever and Zika (a mosquito-borne virus that can cause serious birth defects).

From 2004 to 2006, he was a Marie Curie Research Fellow at Oxford University; in 2015, he was a Newton advanced fellow at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute at the University of Edinburgh; and in the same year was appointed Professor of Bioinformatics at UKZN.

In 2017, Prof. de Oliveira founded the KZN Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform, which has sequenced and traced dengue, Zika, HIV and tuberculosis (TB), in addition to SARS-CoV-2. In 2018, the year prior to completing his fellowship at Edinburgh, he was appointed Associate Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington. In July 2021, he became a Professor of Bioinformatics at Stellenbosch University's School for Data Science and Computational Thinking.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Prof. de Oliveira led a team that confirmed the discovery of the Beta variant of the COVID-19 virus during late 2020. He has hypothesised that large groups of previously infected people with declining immunity directly drove the emergence of variants of concern.

If simultaneously there is a high level of transmission, then declining individual immunity may fail to prevent re-infection; and if the virus is not cleared in enough people, new dangerous mutations may become more likely, as the virus survives and goes on to infect more people.

Subsequently, as principal investigator and leader of the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa, he led the team that confirmed and alerted authorities of the Omicron variant, first sequenced in Johannesburg's Lancet Laboratory, as a new variant in 2021.

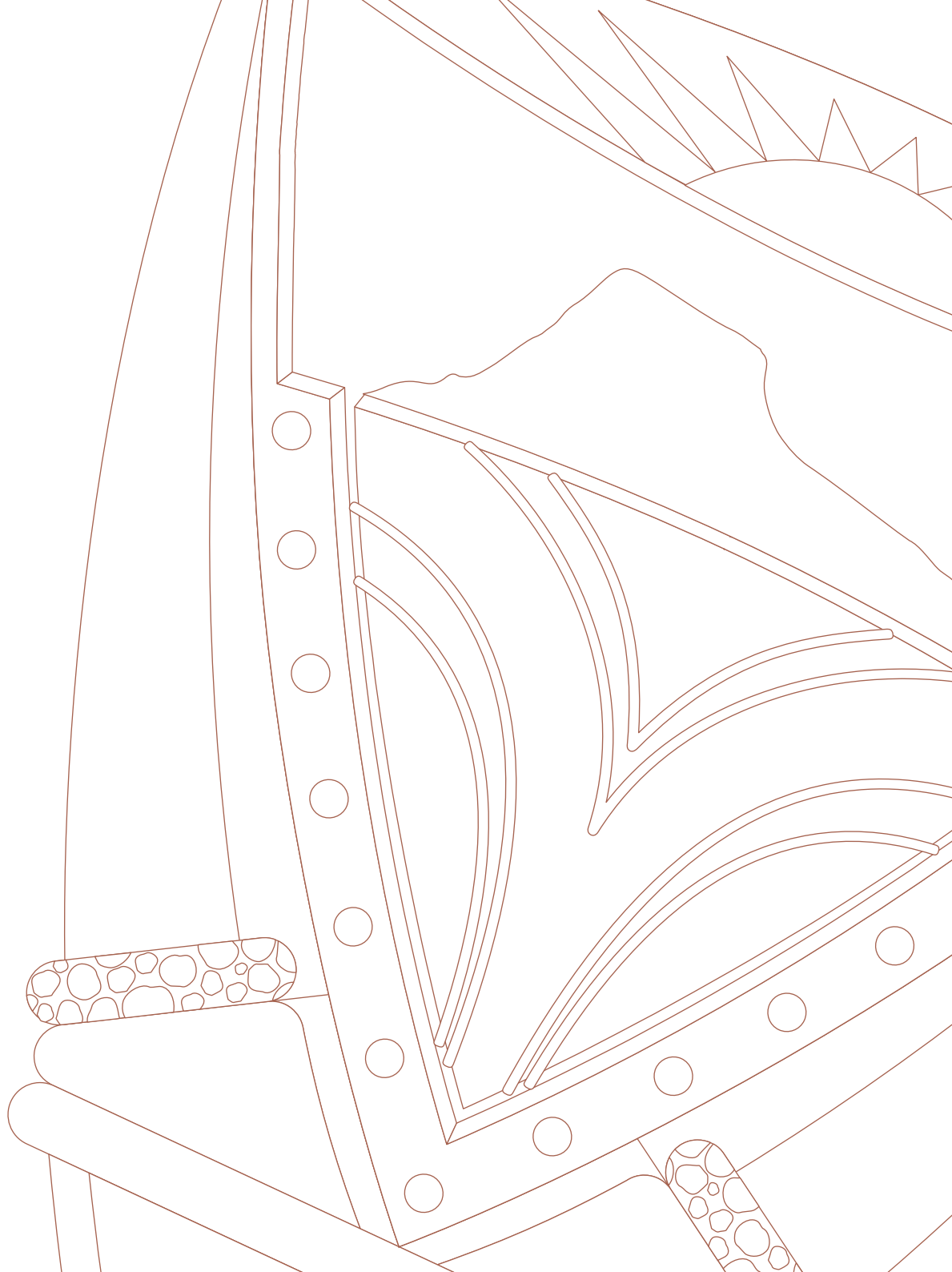
After first alerting authorities to the Omicron variant in South Africa, he contended that the origin was unknown, and insisted that, "just because it was first detected in South Africa does not mean that it is where it originated". He reported that it was possible that Omicron came from elsewhere as O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, was the largest airport in Africa.



## PROF. TULIO DE OLIVEIRA

In 2021, Prof. De Oliveira was included in a list of 10 scientists with important roles in scientific developments compiled by the scientific journal, *Nature*. He was included in a list of leaders for genomics surveillance, as one of the 10 breakthrough technologies in 2022 compiled by the scientific journal, *MIT Technology Review*.

He received the Gold Medal Award from the South African Medical Research Council in 2022. In the same year, for his contributions to society, he received the Batho Pele Award from the Government of South Africa. His name was included in the 2024 *Time's* 100 influential people in health.









## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN GOLD

### PROF. SALIM ABDOOL KARIM

*For his contribution to Medical Science and Public Health, particularly in respect of HIV/Aids and tuberculosis research; and health policy development, which is placing South Africa on the international stage. His tireless leadership and swift response during the COVID-19 pandemic was outstanding and commendable.*

**Prof. Salim Abdool Karim** was born in 1960 in Durban and attended primary school in the Durban city centre before his family was forcibly relocated under apartheid's racial Group Areas Act of 1950 to Chatsworth, a racially segregated township in the south of the city. After completing high school in Durban in 1977, he attended the then University of Natal's (now UKZN) Medical School.

Unable to afford university fees, he had to abandon his original plan to study Engineering when he could secure scholarship funding only to study Medicine. Despite this setback, he obtained a student loan while at Medical School to concurrently study Computer Science and Statistics through correspondence at the UNISA. Under the mentorship of paediatrician, Professor Jerry Coovadia, he conducted his first research project as a third-year medical student, leading to his first publication of a paper in the *International Journal of Health Services*.

Mr Karim is a Professor at UKZN in South Africa and Columbia University in the USA. He was appointed to lead a 45-person Ministerial Advisory Committee during the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee, which included several other medical experts, was instituted to guide the South African government's response to the pandemic. On 14 October 2021, he was elected Vice

President for Outreach and Engagement of the International Science Council from 2021 to 2024 at the International Science Council General Assembly.

Prof. Karim is widely recognised for his visionary and bold leadership in conceptualising and creating research institutions in South Africa. During his tenure at the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the UKZN, he created five new successful research centres – building research infrastructure and capacity in South Africa.

He was the Principal Investigator of the Africa Centre for Population Studies and Reproductive Health funded by the Wellcome Trust in 1997; and the MRC's HIV Prevention and Vaccine Research unit. He secured the National Institute of Health Grant to create the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa; and led teams that established LifeLab, a biotechnology research centre in 2003 and the KZN Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV.

Prof. Karim is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society and an elected Member of the US National Academy of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the International Science Council. In addition, he is a Member/Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, Association

## PROF. SALIM ABDOOL KARIM

of American Physicians, the World Academy of Sciences, African Academy of Sciences, Academy of Science in South Africa and the Royal Society of South Africa.

He is a member of the editorial board of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. He serves on the International Advisory Boards of *Lancet HIV* and *The Lancet Global Health*. He also previously served as a member of the Board of Reviewing Editors of *eLife*, Associate Editor for *AIDS Clinical Care* and Corresponding Editor for the *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*. He has served as a reviewer for more than 40 scientific journals.

Prof. Karim has chaired and organised several AIDS conferences, most prominently as Chairperson of the Scientific Programme Committee for the 2000 Durban XIIIth International AIDS Conference that redefined the global AIDS response and led to antiretrovirals becoming affordable. He is frequently invited to deliver plenary addresses at major international conferences, including talks at the International AIDS Conference (including the Opening Plenary in the 2014 International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia), International AIDS Vaccine Conference, International Microbicides Conference and the International Society for Infectious Diseases Conference.



## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN SILVER

### PROF. KEERTAN DHEDA

*For his contribution in scientific research, specifically pulmonology, that has enabled improved management globally of tuberculosis and other respiratory infections. He is an acclaimed international expert whose combination of cutting-edge research and clinical prowess has produced numerous scientific breakthroughs and shaped Public Health Policy in many countries, enhancing community health.*

**Prof. Keertan Dheda** is the Head of the Pulmonology division of the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the Respiratory Service at Groote Schuur Hospital, and the Director of the Centre for Lung Infection and Immunity, a fully accredited research unit at the UCT and the UCT Lung Institute.

He also co-holds a full Professor of Mycobacteriology and Global Health position at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. After graduating at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1992 (Certificate of Merit) and sitting for his Internal Medicine examinations in South Africa in 1998 (Suzman Medal for passing with distinction), he then completed UK and European Union (EU)-accredited training in Respiratory Medicine in London.

He graduated with a PhD from the University College London in 2005 through a British Lung Foundation Fellowship Award. In 2008, he was appointed Associate Professor and Consultant Pulmonologist at the UCT. Prof. Dheda is currently a South African National Research Foundation (SANRF) 'A1' rated scientist (recognised global research leader).

His main research interest is the study of lower respiratory tract infections, including COVID-19 and TB. There are two focus areas: (i) The utility and impact of point-of-care

diagnostics; and (ii) Determinants driving the amplification of the antimicrobial resistance.

He has published over 385 peer-reviewed papers in prestigious journals and his work has been cited over 47 000 times, demonstrating his ability to disseminate extensive knowledge in a passive capacity, inspiring and educating the next generation of researchers in text form. Prof. Dheda also holds seven patents related to new TB diagnostic, therapeutic or infection control technologies – one of which is currently being developed as a user-friendly test for extrapulmonary TB.

Again, this depicts exceptionally innovative strategic thinking and the skill to harness scientific research into usable tools that will ultimately improve the lives of patients.

While Prof. Dheda's work is deeply rooted in academic excellence and scientific impact, his research focus remains on being socially responsive. He consistently directs his influence towards reducing TB burden in vulnerable communities, saving lives, alleviating suffering and improving social wellness.

This can be seen not only in his projects and outreach activities, but also in his determination to drive capacity development by



## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGBWE IN SILVER

### PROF. KEERTAN DHEDA

teaching and inspiring students; while mentoring and training the next generation of African Clinician-Scientists.

In recognition of his research leadership, Prof. Dheda has been invited to lead reviews and research commissions in the Lancet and Lancet Respiratory Medicine; and has contributed to several invited editorials, forums and commentaries to high impact journals.

He received an academic service commendation from the American Thoracic Society and has delivered keynote lectures at several international conferences, including those of the American Thoracic Society, British Thoracic Society and the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, among others.

He has been the recipient of several prestigious international awards, including the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Scientific Award and the EU Scientific Leadership Award.

Selected national awards include the South African MRC Lifetime Award (Platinum Medal), SANRF Chair Award and the Oppenheimer Foundation Award (one of the most prestigious scientific awards in South Africa), among others.

In recognition of Prof. Dheda's research excellence and leadership role, an MRC Extramural Unit in Anti-microbial Resistance was funded and established at the UCT.



## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN SILVER

### PROF. VUKOSI NTSAKISI MARIVATE

*For his excellent contributions to data science, artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing (NLP) that have significantly advanced both national and continental technological capabilities.*

**Prof. Vukosi Ntsakisi Marivate** is a South African academic (Chair of Data Science and Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Pretoria) whose contributions to data science, AI and NLP have significantly advanced both national and continental technological capabilities.

Prof. Marivate holds a PhD degree in Computer Science from Rutgers University, USA and serves as an Associate Professor and Chair of Data Science at UP. His research, with an H-index of 20 and over 1 600 citations, focuses on advancing AI and NLP methodologies, particularly for African languages. He has published extensively in prestigious journals and conferences, making significant contributions to the field of text augmentation and language model development.

In addition to his academic credentials, Prof. Marivate was a Harvard South Africa Fellow, a recognition that underscored his leadership and academic excellence. Over the course of his career, he has secured multiple millions of rands in scientific grants and awards, which have been instrumental in supporting his research and that of his research group.

These funds have enabled the development of cutting-edge AI technologies and have furthered South Africa's standing in the global AI community. He has received scientific grants and gifts

from the NRF, International Development Research Centre (Canada), Google, Microsoft Research, OpenAI, Meta/Facebook and NVIDIA.

He is a co-founder of the Masakhane NLP Community and the Deep Learning Indaba, two initiatives that have become central to AI research and capacity-building across Africa. The Masakhane project has been internationally recognised for its work in machine translation for African languages (winning the inaugural Wikimedia research award), highlighting Prof. Marivate's role in promoting research that directly benefits African communities.

The Deep Learning Indaba started in South Africa in 2017 with the aim of strengthening African Machine Learning/AI and has grown into the continent's largest AI research gathering with thousands of participants each year.

He co-founded Lelapa AI, a socially grounded AI startup focused on AI innovation in Africa. He serves as a Board member of the Council on Higher Education and is a member of the Global Partnership on AI, where he helps shape AI policies that are inclusive and ethical. His leadership in these roles is crucial in ensuring that AI development is aligned with the needs and values of African societies.



## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGBWE IN SILVER

### PROF. VUKOSI NTSAKISI MARIVATE

Prof. Marivate's work has had a substantial societal impact. He led the "covid19za" project with numerous volunteers to collect, clean and share COVID-19 spread data, so that others could use it to inform the public, do research and enhance their modelling. To date, this is the only open repository of COVID-19 data for South Africa. Between 2020 and 2021, he was seconded to the Gauteng Office of the Premier as an advisor on the use of data for decision-making in the battle against COVID-19.

Through the Deep Learning Indaba, the Professor has expanded access to AI education, research, development and resources across Africa, helping to develop a skilled AI workforce that is essential for the continent's future technological development. The Deep Learning Indaba has become the premier annual gathering of AI across the continent.



## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

### PROF. PRISCILLA BAKER

*For her contribution to scientific research. She is well recognised internationally as a scientific leader and knowledge advocate for science and technology. She is active in the advancement of public understanding and implementation of electro-analytical chemistry through community engagements and media interaction on both radio and television.*

**Prof. Priscilla Baker** is the winner of the 2025 L’Oreal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Awards for Africa and the Arab states. She is also the Laureate of the 2014 South African Women in Science Awards (SAWISA) in the Distinguished Woman Researcher Category for Physical and Engineering Sciences. Prof. Baker is a Fellow of the African Academy of Science (elected 2018) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (elected 2019).

She is a Senior Professor of Chemistry at the University of the Western Cape (UWC); a National Research Foundation (NRF) B-rated scientist and South African Research Chair Initiative Chairperson for Analytical Systems and Processes for Priority and Emerging Contaminants. She is the Director of the Electrochemical Sensors Node at UWC of the Nano-Micro Manufacturing Facility (NMMF), which is funded by the DSTI. Prof. Baker is Co-Director of the first International Associated Laboratory between France and South Africa and Co-Director of the SensorLab (UWC Sensor Laboratories) Research Centre since 2004. She was elected as Regional Representative for South Africa and Africa of the International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE, 2017 – 2021). She served as a Councillor of the South African Chemical Institute (SACI, 2006 – 2018) and Chairperson of the Electrochemical Division of SACI. In 2020, Prof. Baker

was awarded a Fellow-in-Residence Senior Fellowship under the Paris Seine Initiative for Excellence Programme, hosted at the CY Cergy Paris University, France.

Prof. Baker served as the Director of the South African Systems Analysis Centre and member of the SASAC Executive from 2017 to 2019. SASAC is a DSTI-NRF multi-year initiative coordinated by UWC in partnership with the University of Limpopo, University of Witwatersrand and Stellenbosch University. The programme aims to provide multi-level systems analysis capacity training for up to 60 PhD candidates. Prof. Baker was instrumental in advancing cross disciplinary research understanding and promoting engagement in systems analysis in South Africa and Africa, in collaboration with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria) – the global seat of systems analysis.

The primary focus of Prof. Baker’s research is the integrated application of analytical tools and technology in the development of highly sensitive early warning systems (i.e. trace-level detection and measurement) for critical contaminants. The systems are primarily electrochemically driven but draw on a wide range of supporting analytical techniques and energy sources for feasible outcomes. She has 158 peer-reviewed publications; Scopus H-index (33) and total citation (3437); Google Scholar H-index



## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

### PROF. PRISCILLA BAKER

(39), i10 (102) and total citation (4981). She has trained over 33 PhD and 26 MSc graduates, all of whom occupy prominent positions in the public and private sectors.

She serves as a chemistry subject editor for the South African Journal of Science, as well as a review editor in the Editorial Boards of *Frontiers in Chemistry – Analytical Chemistry Section* and *Critical Reviews in Biomedical Engineering*. She has served as guest editor for *Electrochimica Acta* (2010), *Analytical Letters* (2011) and the *Journal of Nano Research* (2016). She is well-recognised internationally as a scientific leader and knowledge advocate for science and technology. Prof. Baker is active in the advancement of public understanding and implementation of electro-analytical chemistry through community engagements and media interaction on both radio and television.



## THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

### PROF. KAREN SLIWA-HAHNLE

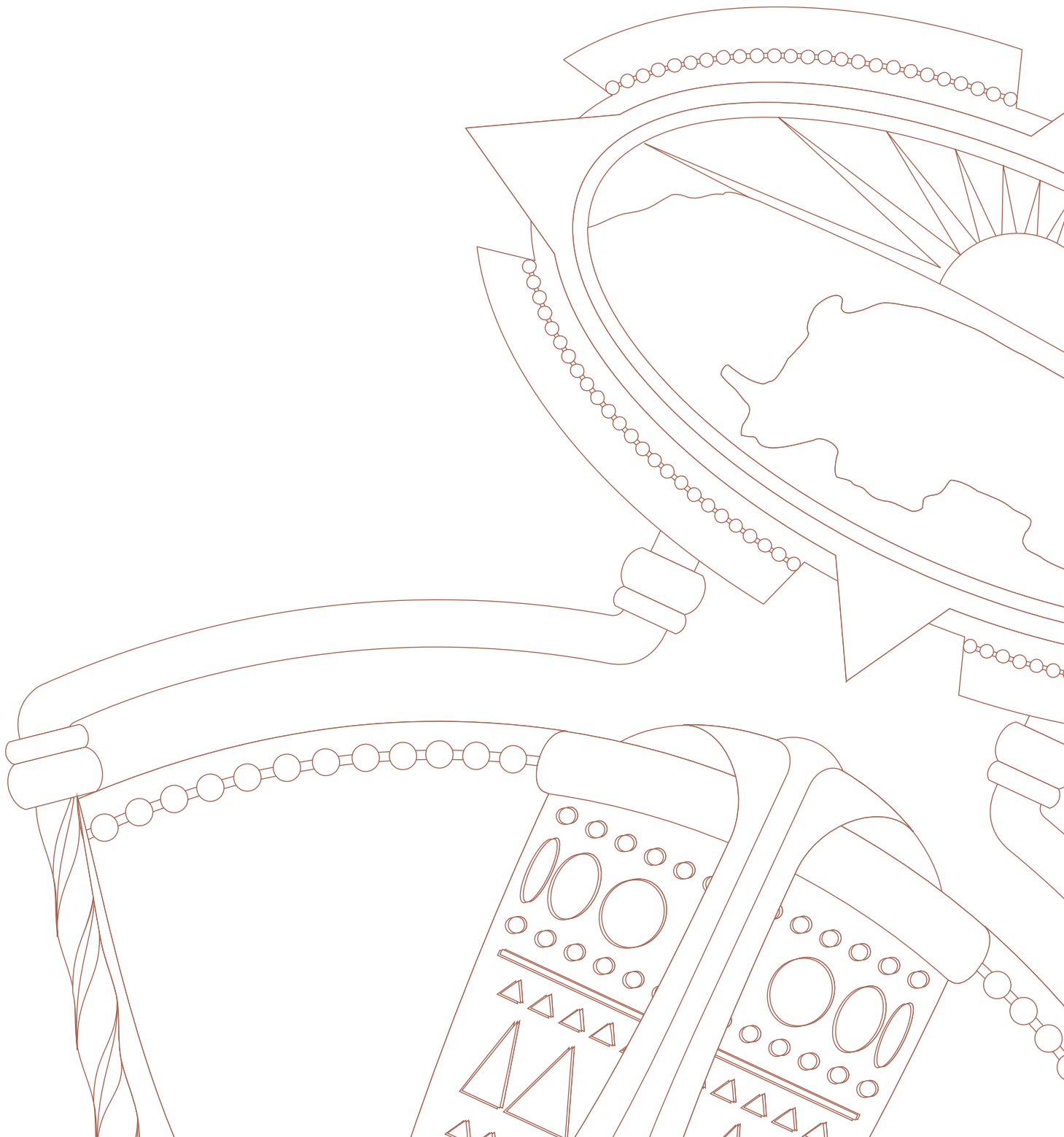
*For her contribution to global understanding of cardiovascular diseases, including cardiac disease in pregnancy. As a cardiologist, her pioneering research has deepened international understanding of cardiovascular conditions that are common in Africa and induced policy changes in a broad range of countries. Her work has shaped guidelines that significantly reduced maternal mortality in Africa and beyond.*

Prof. Karen Sliwa-Hahnle excels in translating fundamental science into public health impact. She has built simple, cost-effective cardiovascular registries and data platforms, enabling research across multiple African countries (South Africa, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon and Sudan) and training physicians regionally to apply these insights. She has supervised and mentored over 35 PhD and Master's students – many of whom are now national and continental leaders – especially women and historically disadvantaged academics.

She has directly contributed to national and international policy, including World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines on Rheumatic Heart Disease and Long COVID Cardiovascular Sequelae, as well as clinical guidelines developed by global cardiovascular societies. Prof. Sliwa-Hahnle plays a key role in policy leadership at national and international levels and has made significant contributions to shaping WHO Guidelines and Global Strategy. She has held distinguished leadership roles in professional societies globally and across Africa, including as President of the South African Heart Association (2024 – 2026), World Heart Federation (2019 – 2020) and currently treasurer and Board member of the Pan African Society of Cardiology (2021 – 2025). Of all the positions she occupied, she was the first female to hold the latter position.

She has authored more than 480 publications, has an H index exceeding 110 and has over 150 000 citations; making her the most prolific cardiovascular researcher from Africa. She also publishes frequently in one of the world's highest impact factor (IF) journals such as The Lancet (IF 98). Her work reaches across many disciplines and settings – from molecular research to primary care – always prioritising vulnerable populations and aligning with UN and WHO maternal health goals.

She has garnered world class scientific achievement in cardiovascular medicine and maternal health and conducts innovative, translational research with measurable impact on mortality and morbidity in Africa. By amplifying South Africa's scientific presence on the world stage, she has made an enormous contribution to national pride and global reputation.









## THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

### MS TERESA HILLARY CLARKE – USA

*For her contribution as a friend of South Africa. Clarke has provided leadership in education, human rights, media, investment promotion and the arts. She has dedicated her life's work to helping South Africans, most importantly through founding and leading the Student Sponsorship Programme of South Africa.*

**Ms Teresa Hillary Clarke** has been a key connector between the USA and South Africa for over 30 years; providing leadership in education, human rights, media, investment promotion and the arts. She has dedicated her life's work to helping South Africans, most importantly through founding and leading the SSP of South Africa, which has transformed the lives of over 1 500 South African students and their families since its inception 25 years ago.

Her work in human rights as Chair of the Friends of the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) has helped thousands of South Africans access their human and civil rights. She was the first black woman to serve on the faculty of Wits Business School, inspiring young Black MBAs in South Africa for generations; and Chairperson of the Board for the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art and Board of Advisors for Rhodes Scholarship Trust – West Africa.

As an American, Ms Clarke has been an extraordinary friend to the people of South Africa for 31 years, since her first visit to the country in 1993. Her leadership across multiple disciplines ranging from education, human rights to media and investment promotion, have collectively had a profound impact on the lives of countless regular South African citizens.

As the founder of the SSP of South Africa in 2000, over the last 25 years, Ms Clarke's work has provided full scholarships and mentoring to over 1 500 South African brilliant, but economically disadvantaged students to gain access to South Africa's top independent secondary schools. SSP alumni now include the youngest Chief Executive Officer on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange; a Medical Doctor who helped shape South Africa's response to COVID-19; the founder of a tech company that employs over 100 people; a leading SABC journalist; the first black woman partner at law firm Bowmans; numerous leaders in non-governmental organisations, the public and private sectors.

Her work as Chairperson of the Friends of the LRC, has provided the necessary support to allow the 75 attorneys and staff of the LRC to fight for human rights, including the largest-ever class action settlement in the history of South Africa on behalf of thousands of mineworkers who developed fatal lung diseases directly from their poor working conditions.

The settlement the LRC negotiated with six South African mining companies provides R5 billion to South African families who lost their loved ones due to TB and silicosis contracted deep in the gold mining shafts.



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### MS TERESA HILLARY CLARKE – USA

Ms Clarke's work as founder of *Africa.com* has played an important role in telling Africa's stories to the world; including the film she wrote, produced and directed called *Africa Straight Up*, in which she featured South African songstress Lira to educate investors about the tremendous opportunities in South Africa.

The film was distributed widely and contracted by South African Airlines for in-flight entertainment. She served on former USA President Barack Obama's Advisory Board on doing business in Africa and her film, *Africa Straight Up*, was also screened at the White House Conference on Doing Business in Africa to encourage US institutions to make direct investments into South Africa.



## THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

### MR PIERRE DE HEER (REAL NAME: PIERRE MAGNÉE) – The Netherlands

*For being a loyal and active ally to the liberation movement, who risked their life and limb while working for the liberation struggle inside South Africa.*

**Mr Pierre Magnée**, together with Ms Naomi Kleinfeld, were members of the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement, who had never set foot in South Africa. Their hatred of racism and their strong feelings for solidarity with the oppressed in South Africa moved them to commit their lives to the struggle for liberation in the country, at great risk to their lives.

They never spared themselves but worked tirelessly for the cause of freedom in the country. They chose to leave the comfort of the safety and comfort of their homes and secure future prospects in life, to selflessly serve in the most dangerous section of all – the armed underground inside South Africa.

They risked life and limb, almost every day, working for the liberation struggle inside South Africa, which was a death-defying endeavour. They were recruited into uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) underground in 1987 by a trusted prominent Dutch anti-apartheid activist. After learning of the nature of the task he was to undertake in South Africa, Mr Magnée decided to recruit his girlfriend, Ms Kleinfeld, a fellow anti-apartheid activist.

So high was the hatred of racism among them that Ms Kleinfeld immediately agreed to accompany him. They both knew that

the decision would forever change their lives; as this was a trip from which they would likely not return. If caught, they could be tortured and killed.

After weeks of preparation, they flew to Harare via Lusaka where they met with 'Comrade Rashid' (Mr Aboobaker Ismael), who gave them a briefing and sent them on to Botswana. The task was to transport arms and ammunition clandestinely into the country through their designated operational area in the eastern part of the vast Cape.

Mr Magnée bought a car, which was then prepared and fitted with hidden compartments to smuggle arms and ammunition cross-border into the country, then bury these in a previously reconnoitred "Dead Letter Box" (DLB) (or hiding place) in their operational area. They would then draw coded maps with coded instructions of the hidden caches. The arms caches would then be retrieved by local underground MK units.

Their first operational trip went according to plan. They crossed the border from Botswana into then Bophuthatswana (now North West), then drove through South Africa to Elliot in the Eastern Cape, where their first DLB was located. On the second



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### MR PIERRE DE HEER (REAL NAME: PIERRE MAGNÉE) – The Netherlands

trip, they were stopped and searched by heavily armed and extremely aggressive army members in a huge roadblock not far from the Botswana border.

Despite a thorough search, the army contingent could not find the hidden compartment and they were allowed to proceed. Having seen how close they came to being caught and through another experience where their house in Botswana was thoroughly searched by a Botswana security detail, using the advantage of being White, they thought of an alternative method and decided it would be better for them to work from inside the country.

That enabled them to carry out their work effectively, with even lesser chances of being detected, while they would have vast amounts of time at their disposal to tour the country and better learn about its geographical outlay. They proposed this to their MK commander in Gaborone, who agreed and their operational procedures changed.

## THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

### MR ANTÓNIO DA SILVA GOMES CORDEIRO (*Posthumous*) – Mozambique

*For his contribution as a loyal friend to the liberation movement, who supported anti-apartheid activists while he faced significant risks.*

**Mr António da Silva Gomes Cordeiro** was a Mozambican citizen. When the MK established itself in Maputo in 1978, he was one of the first families to open his house to its members. Through the late Mr Paul Dikeledi (real name Sello Motau), members of the different command structures (Messrs Joe Slovo, Thami Zulu, Guebuza, Bricks, Ntokozo Pepani) frequented the home, where they were accepted, given meals and were able to hold meetings without hindrance.

When the Mozambican government was compelled by the apartheid regime to expel the ANC in 1984, two of Cordeiro's daughters had already married MK combatants. The commanders of the Transvaal and Natal machineries advanced to then Swaziland (now Eswatini) to continue the struggle from there. One of them, Mr Keith Mokoape (MK name Antonio Sousa), became one of the 10 people allowed to remain in Mozambique, with former President Jacob Zuma as the Chief Representative.

The Mozambican authorities seized all MK weapons and Mr Mokoape had to find new routes to smuggle weapons from Zambia. Substantial quantities of weapons were hidden in a garage at the home of Cordeiro, at great risk to his family. Some were hidden at his farm outside Maputo. Had the Mozambican security forces found out, he would have been arrested.

Mr Cordeiro's Ford Ranchero bakkie was packed with weapons in every possible space and driven by him across the Namaacha-Lomahasha border post, taken to commanders Guebuza, Paul Dikeledi and Thami Zulu, to arm South Africa-destined MK guerillas. Despite knowing that the Maputo-Namaacha route was an operational corridor for the rebel group Renamo, Mr Cordeiro took the risk.

In December 1986, then South African President PW Botha, informed then Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano that 92% of armed attacks in South Africa were carried out with weapons from Mozambique and therefore six identified ANC members including Mr Mokoape, had to be expelled.

In July 1987, South African agents in Eswatini led by assassin Eugene de Kock, ambushed and killed Messrs Paul Dikeledi and Cassius Maake (real name Job Tabane). The spate of assassinations in Eswatini disrupted MK activities, after Mr Cordeiro had emptied the armouries in his possession. He died on 23 December 2006.



## THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

### PROF. CHÉRIF KEÏTA – Mali

*For his preservation of the life story and legacy of South Africa's historical figure Ms Nokuthela Dube. Ms Dube was an outstanding woman who in the 1890s, played a pioneering role in the formation of the ANC and in education and journalism, including through raising funds in the USA. Malian-born Prof. Keïta's documentary film on Ms Dube and his broader interest in the people of South Africa has brought to life our country's courage under siege.*

**Prof. Chérif Keïta** is an African humanist and humanitarian who touches lives in profound ways. He exudes an ebullient kindness and his presence creates a sense of goodwill. He has a sparkle in his eyes, a spring in his step, a broad smile and an infectious laugh and always exudes a genuine interest in how a person and their family are doing. He embodies grace, generosity and care – the hospitality of an unconditional friend.

Prof. Keïta's exceptional contributions to South Africa have been to recover the story of a remarkable woman, Ms Nokutela Mdimba-Dube, first wife of Mr John Langalibalele Dube, founding president of the ANC and telling her story in the film, *Remembering Nokutela*, whose unmarked grave and story he rescues from erasure.

He has explained that Black South Africans have been demoralised in a way that other Africans cannot quite grasp as a result of the centuries of conquest and forced involvement in an industrial economy they had to endure. Ms Dube was a pioneering Black woman the world forgot until Prof. Keïta graciously returned her story to South Africans.

He has a capacity to bring history to life as a historical conjurer through his boundless energy and commitment that forges lifelong

connections, creating flows of stories of enlightenment, humanity and liberation between West Africa, the USA and South Africa.

Prof. Keïta began documenting the religious roots of the ANC in a series called *Missionaries, Freedom and South Africa*; a story that links Carleton College in Minnesota with Inanda Seminary, founded by American Zulu Mission and its successive missionaries, Ray and Dora Phillips and William and Ida Wilcox. Prof. Keïta produced photographs and text for an exhibition to present Ms Dube (1873 – 1917) as an early inspiration of the South African women's fight for equality at the height of British colonial domination.

His film, *Cemetery Stories: A Rebel Missionary in South Africa*, tells the story of Reverend William C. Wilcox, Ms Dube's adoptive American father and ally for 38 years, in the fight against land dispossession in then Natal (now KZN).



## THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

### MS NAOMI KLEINFELD (REAL NAME: GEETRUIDA JOHANA KONING) – The Netherlands

*For being a loyal active ally to the liberation movement who risked life and limb by working inside South Africa for the liberation of the oppressed majority of citizens. Her contribution will never be forgotten.*

Mr Pierre Magnée, together with Ms Naomi Kleinfeld, were members of the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement, who had never set foot in South Africa. Their hatred of racism and their strong feelings for solidarity with the oppressed in South Africa moved them to commit their lives to the struggle for liberation in the country, at great risk to their lives.

They never spared themselves but worked tirelessly for the cause of freedom in the country. They chose to leave the comfort of the safety and comfort of their homes and secure future prospects in life, to selflessly serve in the most dangerous section of all – the armed underground inside South Africa.

They risked life and limb, almost every day, working for the liberation struggle inside South Africa, which was a death-defying endeavour. They were recruited into uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) underground in 1987 by a trusted prominent Dutch anti-apartheid activist. After learning of the nature of the task he was to undertake in South Africa, Mr Magnée decided to recruit his girlfriend, Ms Kleinfeld, a fellow anti-apartheid activist. So high was the hatred of racism among them that Ms Kleinfeld immediately agreed to accompany him. They both knew that the decision would forever change their lives; as this was a trip from which they would likely not return. If caught, they could be tortured and killed.

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