



PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL ORDERS SEFAKO MAKGATHO PRESIDENTIAL GUESTHOUSE PRETORIA

FRIDAY, 28 APRIL 2023

11:00 – 14:00

1. Recipients of the National Orders and guests take their seats
2. Arrival of the President
3. Singing of the National Anthem
4. Word of welcome by the Programme Director
5. Ceremonial oration by the Grand Patron of National Orders
6. Investiture of the 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**
 - **THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO**
7. Guests proceed to the marquee on the eastern side of the Presidential Guesthouse

Grand Patron of National Orders

His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

Chancellor of National Orders

Ms Phindile Baleni

The Advisory Council on National Orders

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

THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY IN SILVER

1. Mr Denver Kock (Posthumous)
2. Sister Mary Anne Thôle (Posthumous)
3. Mr Kgomotso Thomas (Posthumous)

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

4. Mr Mono Arthur Sipho Badela (Posthumous)
5. Ms Desiree Ellis
6. Mr Siyamthanda 'Siya' Kolisi
7. Mr Solomon Popoli Linda (Posthumous)
8. Mr Bokwe S'makuhle Mafuna

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

9. Ms Bongive 'Bongi' Dhlomo-Mautloa
10. Prof Keith Adrian Gottschalk
11. Mr Mthuthuzeli Ben Nomoyi (Posthumous)
12. Dr Mfundu Vundla

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

13. Mr John Arthur Black
14. Mr Warren Neil Eva
15. Dr Matodzi Irene Mawela

THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN GOLD

16. Dr Jiyana Mbere
17. Prof Ephraim Thibedi Mokgokong
18. Mr Simon Deliweyo Ngcobo (Posthumous)

THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN SILVER

19. Dr Solomon Boyce Isaac Lefakane
20. Ms Phuti Ragophala
21. Mr Cornelius Ruald Strydom

THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN GOLD

22. Ms Ethel de Keyser (Posthumous)
23. Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim (Posthumous)

THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

24. Ms Molly Bellhouse Blackburn (Posthumous)
25. Mr Moki Jacob Bonisile Cekisani

THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

26. Dr Abubaker Ebrahim Dangor
27. Dr Vhahangwele Masindi

THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

28. Ms Tracy Chapman (United States of America)
29. Ms Christabel Gurney (United Kingdom)
30. Mr Thomas Oliver Newnham (Posthumous) (New Zealand)
31. Mr Peter Tosh (Posthumous) (Jamaica)
32. Ms Ruth Weiss (Germany)

PREFACE

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 men and women 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 the Government Communication and Information System. 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 MENDI FOR BRAVERY IN SILVER

MR DENVER KOCK (Posthumous)

For his selfless and heroic act in saving the lives of commuters in immediate danger. Through his courageous deed, he paid the ultimate price to ensure the survival of other people.

Mr Denver Kock worked as a minibus taxi sliding door operator and on 5 March 2021, the driver of the taxi in which he was travelling with six other passengers in Bethelsdorp in the Eastern Cape lost control and hit a wall, and the vehicle immediately caught fire.

Instead of fleeing from the inferno to save his own life, Kock (39) chose to rescue all the passengers trapped in the blazing taxi. Despite the intense heat from the burning taxi, he managed to pull out all passengers to safety.

However, he was trapped in the blazing taxi after being overpowered by the raging flames and fumes around him. Kock sadly died in that fire after saving the lives of all the commuters who were with him in the taxi on that fateful day.



THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY IN SILVER

SISTER MARY ANNE THÔLE (Posthumous)

For her selfless act to save others that led to her losing her life in the process. The courageous act remains her legacy to all who knew her young life.

Sister Mary Anne Thôle was born Rosanne Thôle. She began her education at St. Catherine's School in Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal from Grade 1 and completed her Matric in 1989.

She later enrolled at Edgewood Teachers Training College in Pinetown for a diploma in Senior Primary Education. Thôle joined the Nardini Sisters of the Franciscan Order in December 1993 and took her final vows in July 2001.

After teaching in Nkandla and Vryheid, also in KwaZulu-Natal, she moved to the St. Maria Ratschitz Catholic Mission in Dundee in 2005 as a Novice Mistress, where she was a diligent and caring teacher who took interest in each of the little lives for which she was responsible.

Her kindness, generosity of spirit and loving nature endeared her to everyone. It was her selfless heart that made her to keep returning to a burning St. Maria Ratschitz Mission Station hospice in Dundee in April 2007, to save patients from the inferno. After the nursing staff rescued five out of eight bedridden patients, she tragically died on her sixth attempt to rescue the remaining

three patients after being overcome by the flames. At a young age of 35, Thôle selflessly believed she could save more lives as she ran back to the flames that unfortunately killed her.



THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY IN SILVER

MR KGOMOTSO THOMAS (Posthumous)

For his heroic rescue of two young people from drowning and in the process, he paid the ultimate price.

Mr Kgomotso Thomas was only 35 years old when his life was cut short by drowning at the Victoria Bay in George, Western Cape, on 25 September 2019.

The library assistant and Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture official was in George as part of the National Library of South Africa's Funda Mzantsi Championship.

After realising that two young men were struggling to swim in the violent sea waters, he jumped in to rescue them. He managed to save the first young man.

However, after returning to the sea to save the second young man, who swam back to shore, Thomas was unfortunately swept away by the powerful current and he drowned.

Thomas put his own life at risk to save the two young men but sadly he paid the ultimate price.







THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

MR MONO ARTHUR SIPHO BADELA (Posthumous)

For his excellent contribution in the field of journalism and mobilising the masses against injustices. His storytelling through journalism became an integral part of the struggle against injustice.

Mr Mono Arthur Sipho Badela was a Struggle stalwart and seasoned journalist. He covered some of the most brutal violence of the apartheid era as a frontline journalist in the Eastern Cape during the 1970s and 1980s.

He was a prominent and exceptional rugby player who earned provincial colours playing centre for the Border region. It was Badela's journalism that helped to put major trade unions, along with the then Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation and the Congress of South African Students, on the national political map.

Badela was a courageous and fearless journalist of note, a media activist and an active member of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa, Union of Black Journalists and the United Democratic Front.

He was one of the leading figures in the formation of the KwaZakhele Rugby Union, which was affiliated to the non-racial South African Rugby Union.

One of his achievements was that he was a uniquely superb generous, friendly and warm human being. He was a senior journalist for the East London-based *Daily Dispatch* newspaper.

Badela's articles on the anti-apartheid movement appeared in publications such as *The Independent* in the United Kingdom. He was a regular contributor and thought leader of the *Green Left*, an online mainstream publication based in New Zealand, which pledged commitment to the fight for justice for Aboriginal people and recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty. He also contributed to the *New Internationalist* magazine, which was dedicated to socially conscious journalism and publishing.

His fearless reportage and investigative journalism made him and his family targets of the apartheid regime. He was detained and put under house arrest and there were attempts on his life. Badela's closest escape was in June 1985 when a state-sponsored Third Force unit burned his house down late at night, almost killing him, his wife Vivian and two sons.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

MS DESIREE ELLIS

For her excellent contribution to football, a male-dominated sport. Her sustained excellence provides encouragement to women to excel in their respective fields of endeavour.

Ms Desiree Ellis was born in Salt River, Cape Town, where she also grew up, in the 1970s. She stayed at her grandmother's place after school as both her parents, Ernest and Natalie Ellis, worked during the day.

There were no women's clubs back then and she played soccer with boys and her cousins. After school she would drop her school bag, change her clothes and run outside to her waiting teammates. Her father often threatened to send her to school barefoot because she used to ruin her shoes while playing soccer.

She occupied a number of administration positions during her playing career. She was the vice-president of Western Province Women's Football Association from 1994 to 1995 and later the Public Relations Officer of the association from 1996 to 1997.

During her club's career, she played as a midfielder for Spurs Ladies, among other teams. She worked as a Chief Librarian at a photo agency, Touchline, in 2001.

Ellis currently coaches the South African women's national soccer team, Banyana Banyana. She played in the first *Banyana Banyana* team and was chosen as the second captain of the national team.

She was appointed interim manager of Banyana Banyana in 2016 after then coach Vera Pauw resigned following the team's group-stage exit at the 2016 Olympics.

She was appointed head coach in February 2018 and coached the team, then ranked 50th in the world, to a second-place finish in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations, losing to 11-time champions Nigeria on penalty kicks in the final. Nonetheless, by finishing second, South Africa qualified to its first-ever FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019.

Ellis was awarded the Confederation of African Football Women's Coach of the Year awards in 2018, 2019 and 2022 respectively. She coached Banyana Banyana to their maiden Africa Cup of Nations victory in Morocco in 2022.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

MR SIYAMTHANDA 'SIYA' KOLISI

For his inspirational leadership and contribution to rugby, He is a trailblazer in democratic South Africa by being the first black person to lead the Springboks to World Cup glory.

Mr Siyamthanda 'Siya' Kolisi was born in Zwide, Gqeberha, on 16 June 1991. He is a child of a new democracy and a symbol of democratic South Africa's identity, with its commitment to diversity and a vision to ensure that equality and fair opportunities are within the reach of every child.

His leadership and sporting prowess as Captain of the Springboks contributed to the team winning the 2019 Rugby World Cup tournament hosted in Japan. During the team's sojourn of 135 days in Japan, 'Siya' became a household name in that country.

He is also popular in South Africa for his admirable leadership, his pursuit of sporting excellence and dedication to his country. Kolisi was not chosen as the captain simply because he is 'black', but for his unique leadership qualities, vision and his ability to listen and accept strategic advice from his coach, complemented by his own exceptional talents as a rugby player.

For all these wonderful qualities, Kolisi deserves to hold the Webb Ellis trophy aloft and with pride knowing that he has achieved an iconic status in his country and the world.

Addressing a media conference at OR Tambo International Airport on 5 November 2019 after the Springboks' triumphant return from Japan, Kolisi firmly proclaimed that "anything is possible".

His crisp yet simple message to all children: "Keep on dreaming. Keep on believing. Keep on pushing."



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

MR SOLOMON POPOLI LINDA (Posthumous)

For his contribution in the field of arts as a musician and composer. His creativity saw him produce a song that is both epochal and evocative to a nation.

Mr Solomon Popoli Linda was a South African musician, singer and composer best known as the composer of the song, *Mbube*, which later became the pop music success, *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, and gave its name to the Mbube style of isicathamiya (a cappella) later popularised by Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

He was born near Pomeroy in KwaZulu-Natal, where he was familiar with the traditions of *amahubo* (praise songs) and *izingoma zomshado* (wedding songs).

In 1931, Linda, like many at that time, left his homestead to find menial work in Johannesburg, by then a sprawling gold-mining town with a great demand for cheap labour. He worked in the Mayi Mayi Furniture Shop on Small Street and sang in a choir known as the Evening Birds, managed by his uncles, Solomon and Amon Madondo, and which disbanded in 1933.

Linda found employment at Johannesburg's Carlton Hotel and started a new group that retained the Evening Birds name. The members of the group were Solomon Linda (soprano), Gilbert

Madondo (alto), Boy Sibiya (tenor), with Gideon Mkhize, Samuel Mlangeni and Owen Sikhakhane as basses. They were all Linda's friends from Pomeroy.

The group evolved from performances at weddings to choir competitions. Linda's musical popularity grew with the Evening Birds, who presented "a very cool urban act that wears pinstriped suits, bowler hats and dandy two-tone shoes".

During a performance in 1959, Linda collapsed and was later diagnosed with kidney failure. He died in 1962 of kidney failure. The legendary song, *Mbube*, is still popular today.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

MR BOKWE S'MAKUHLE MAFUNA

For his excellent contribution to journalism and political activism. His work is a perfect example of the intersection between journalism and scholarship on the liberation struggle.

Mr Bokwe S'makuhle Mafuna was born in Mafikeng, North West. He dropped out of school at 15 and spent four years studying for the Catholic priesthood before changing course again.

He became a union organiser for metalworkers. He was also a founder member in Media Workers' Association of South Africa, which was inspired by the black consciousness philosophy.

In 1969 the then *Rand Daily Mail* newspaper hired Mafuna to write for its township edition. As a journalist, he met students from the South African Students' Organisation (SASO), who were beginning to articulate the philosophy of black consciousness, and he soon identified with their cause.

During a meeting of the South African Journalists Association in 1971, he agitated for a separate and explicitly political organisation for black journalists that became the Union of Black Journalists.

In July 1972, Mafuna himself made headlines when the *Rand Daily Mail* rejected SASO's demand that the media substitute 'black' for the traditional term 'non-white'. He received a thunderous ovation from delegates when, after learning of the *Rand Daily Mail's* refusal of SASO's demand, he announced his immediate resignation from the newspaper.

Mafuna, who was also the central Johannesburg Chairperson of the Black People's Convention, was banned in March 1973. After being incarcerated for three months for breaking his banning order, he fled to Botswana in mid-1973.

Over the next five years he became involved in a controversial and unsuccessful attempt to set up an armed wing of the black consciousness movement.

In 1975-76 Mafuna's wife, a teacher, was detained without trial for 14 months. The Mafuna family eventually settled in Paris and returned to South Africa in the early 1990s.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

MS BONGIWE 'BONGI' DHLOMO-MAUTLOA

For her contribution to the field of arts by curating creative projects that preserve significant periods in South African history.

Ms Bongiwe 'Bongi' Dhlo-mo-Mautloa has played a pivotal role in the development of art in South Africa. As an artist and cultural activist, she has contributed immensely in the arts sector by establishing and participating in a number of international art projects and initiatives.

As a curator and art writer she has been involved in many local, national and international art exhibitions, publications and conferences. Dhlo-mo-Mautloa has served on many panels in different disciplines in the arts, awards in the visual arts, advisory boards and task teams.

On numerous occasions, she was invited to serve as an examiner at the University of Cape Town for Master of Fine Arts degree students and Master of Arts in Theatre and Performance students.

Her work and track record dates back to 1986 as Project Coordinator at the Alexandra Arts Centre, which started as a six-month project to channel youth energy after 'The 1986

Alexandra Massacre' that had stopped schooling in the area. The centre played a pivotal role in political consciousness of the youth and became a proverbial thorn on the side of the apartheid Special Branch of the Security Police.

She went on to become the Founding Director of Africus Institute for Contemporary Art (AICA) from 1996 to 1998. AICA organised the Second Johannesburg Biennale. One of AICA's outreach programmes, the Soweto Garden Project, gave rise to the Hector Peterson Memorial Site's Youth Uprising-Point of No Return photographic exhibition whose success led to the establishment of the present-day Hector Peterson Museum in Orlando West.

Her curatorship includes the Steve Biko Centre and the Nelson Mandela Hospital Art. She co-curated the commemoration of the 100 years of the 1913 Land Act that displayed at the Iziko South African National Gallery and Wits Art Museum.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

PROF KEITH ADRIAN GOTTSCHALK

For using his creativity to call critical attention to oppressive and unjust laws through performative political poetry. His work provided strength and motivated many people to fight for liberation.

Prof Keith Adrian Gottschalk is a South African poet known for his anti-apartheid poetry. He was born in Cape Town and studied at the University of Cape Town.

In his professional capacity as a political scientist, he encouraged generations of students, overwhelmingly from privileged backgrounds, to study liberation movement perspectives in addition to those dominant in the white-controlled media of those decades. He continues to inspire scholars in his quest to advance dialogue and scholarship on African integration.

In his political capacity he performed scores of recitals of his Struggle poems at United Democratic Front meetings and rallies during the 1980s throughout the Cape Flats, typically near the start of meetings. He was also a founder member of the Congress of South African Writers from 1987 to 1991, and served in its Western Cape executive.

Notwithstanding the confiscation of his passport and detention without trial during the 1985 State of Emergency, Gottschalk

continued to unflinchingly lead the Civil Rights League into supporting these mass struggles for a non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

After the unbanning of the liberation movements in 1990, Gottschalk contributed to policy work. He led the African National Congress's Western Cape Science and Technology Policy Committee from 1992 to 1994, and later participated in energy policy debates.

His other policy work included lobbying for what became the Register of Members' Interests in Parliament, a cornerstone of anti-corruption measures. He was elected to serve as the Chairperson of the Cape Centre of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa from 2005 to 2006.

He was a founder member of the South African Space Association in 2009. After retirement, he founded in 2013 a University of the Western Cape-Cape Peninsula University of Technology Space Association to stimulate black students'

interest in astronomy and astronautics on the campuses of both universities. Gottschalk's poetry is political, and its appearance at cultural festival and mass rallies of the mass democratic movement attests to its massive success as political poetry.

He has published and performed numerous poems in magazines such as *New Coin*, *New Contrast*, *Phoebe*, *Staffrider* and *Agenda*. His first collection was *Emergency Poems*.

In his introduction to *Emergency Poems*, Peter Horn described Gottschalk's contribution as follows: "wit and conceit also seem to me to describe most adequately the poetic and aesthetic vehicles which Gottschalk chooses to address the political in poetry. Often, when critics address poetry like Gottschalk's, they use the term satire, this most misplaced and displaced genre in English poetry. What is central to satire and to wit is not, as popular misconception may have it, its comic quality, the funniness, but the sudden flashlike insight into the incongruous, as Freud has clearly shown in his study on the Witz."

He was praised for his poems' "tight control and their strategy of irony". His modernisation of the traditional African praise poem "shows their continued existence and meaning for large portions of the population."

In 2021, Gottschalk published *Cosmonauts do it in Heaven*, a collection of poems on spaceflight and astronomy.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

MR MTHUTHUZELI BEN NOMOYI (Posthumous)

For his sterling work in the television (TV) and film industry in South Africa. He was one of the groundbreakers in the production of TV and film local stories.

Mr Mthuthuzeli Ben Nomoyi was a pioneering TV and film producer, writer and playwright. His major achievements came when he was enlisted by the South African Broadcasting Corporation as a writer and director of Xhosa shows, including *Nolitye* and *USdudla umphandi*.

For his achievements he won the inaugural Astera Award in the 1970s. The awards were meant to recognise radio and TV personalities in South Africa.

Nomoyi ended up writing 65 episodes; no mean feat for a newcomer. He worked with early pioneers like Bingo Mbonjeni and Washington Sixolo. *Nolitye*; *Inkedama*; *USdudla umphandi*; *My Son*; *The Golden Boot*; *Both sides of a coin*, and *Far From its Tree* are his productions both in isiXhosa and English. However, he will be remembered in history for creating isiXhosa productions.

The contribution of Nomoyi to vernacular productions has been a lodestar that has seen many black producers in post-apartheid South Africa doing shows that are exclusively focused

on vernacular. In film and TV schools, his work continues to be relevant and is constantly reviewed by up-and-coming filmmakers.

After leaving Johannesburg to settle in East London in the Eastern Cape, Nomoyi trained young people in the film and TV industry.

Through his learning-by-doing approach, a number of his trainees are now either running their own businesses or employed in various broadcasting companies.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

DR MFUNDI VUNDLA

For his sterling work in the television (TV) and film industry in South Africa. His body of work in the field of arts is an indisputable proof of the value of consistency.

Dr Mfundu Vundla is a South African actor, founder and chairperson of Morula Pictures, a TV and film production company. He is best known as the creator and executive producer of the multi-award winning soapie, *Generations*, one of the most successful shows in South Africa. He also created *Generations: The Legacy*. He has written two stage plays: *A Visitor to the Veldt* and *Widows*. He is known for opening doors for dozens of actors and actresses.

Vundla's commitment to the development of the arts and culture began while he was still in exile in the United States of America (USA) in the 1970s, where he was the first point of contact for most liberation struggle exiles when they arrived. He assisted South African artists in finding work and accommodation. In 1975 he organised the arts fraternity in the USA to demonstrate and demand the release of freedom fighters detained by the apartheid government.

On his return to South Africa, he produced the first TV series, *Backstage*, with an all-black cast of young artists and created over 200 jobs for black artists at the SABC. He later produced

the legendary soapie, *Generations*, which is still running. He has produced a number of films like *Soweto Green* and *How to Steal Two Million*, both of which starred the legendary actor, Dr John Kani.

He was also the first Chairperson of the Film and TV Foundation. Vundla is a legend in the TV industry whose production credits include TV shows, motion pictures and theatrical plays. He is the past Chairperson of the Independent Producer's Organisation, National Film and Video Foundation, and is a board member of several industry-related organisations.

He has demonstrated his commitment to furthering youth education by establishing five bursaries at different universities and institutions for higher learning across South Africa.

In May 2021, the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Humanities conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Literature on Vundla. It was in recognition of his contributions to the visual and performing arts landscape of South Africa, from film to TV and theatre.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

MR JOHN ARTHUR BLACK

For his contribution to action and endurance sport. His achievements inspired many people by their sheer demonstration of human fortitude.

Mr John Arthur Black, together with his counterpart Mr Warren Neil Eva, were the first South Africans ever to stand on the summit of K2 in Pakistan at 8 611 metres (28,251 feet) above sea level on 22 July 2022.

They made history and placed the South African flag on top of the world's second highest (after Mount Everest (at 8,849 metres and 29,032 feet) and most dangerous mountain.

This was the culmination for both men of a lifetime spent climbing mountains all over the globe and a dream that had begun 25 years earlier. It was about time that the South African flag was on top of what is nicknamed 'The Savage Mountain'.

Black had met Eva in the Boy Scout movement at the age of 15 and both have remained active in the outdoors ever since.

Both of them are long-standing members of the Mountain Club of South Africa (a supporter of the K2 Expedition). Both have remained involved in the Boy Scout movement. With a

death-to-success rate of one in four, K2 is undoubtedly the most dangerous and hardest major mountain to climb in the world.

His skills, experience, determination and perseverance were critical in enabling them to get to the top and get back down safely.

In 2009, Black climbed Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world and together with Eva, they had been climbing together since their first expedition in 2000.

Black co-founded Isicongo, a project which aimed to get one or more black South African, HIV-positive women to the summit of the highest mountains on each continent to prove that black women, even those with HIV, could achieve anything if they put their mind to it. Eva assisted in the project as a guide.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

MR WARREN NEIL EVA

For his contribution to action and endurance sport. His achievements inspired many people by their sheer demonstration of human fortitude.

Mr Warren Neil Eva and his friend, Mr John Arthur Black, summited the K2 mountain in Pakistan, becoming the first all-South African team to do so. The duo realised a 20-year dream, arriving at the peak 8 611 metres (28,251 feet) above sea level at 01:50 on 22 July 2022 – after navigating their way up the mountain that is considered the toughest and deadliest in the world.

When he was still in school he gave a friend a book on K2 for his birthday and said, one day we will climb this together. Eva and Black were part of a four-person South African team that set out to scale the savage mountain.

They began their climb from base camp at 01:45 on 18 July, arriving at the summit after four days of a gruelling climb. As an accomplished climber, he has summited several mountains, including Mount Kilimanjaro (twice), Mount Kenya, Denali in Alaska and various peaks in the Himalayas.

He undertook this expedition to raise money for the Food4Hope charity. At 8 611 metres above sea level, the K2 is

the second highest peak in the world after Mount Everest, lower than Mount Everest by a mere 240 metres, it is more technical and dangerous to climb, with approximately one death on the mountain for every four climbers that reach the summit.



THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

DR MATODZI IRENE MAWELA

For her outstanding contribution to the performing arts. Her natural voice induces evocative emotions that have moved many local and international people.

Dr Matodzi Irene Mawela was born in Moroka, Soweto. She grew up honing her craft by singing at school, church and later at wedding ceremonies.

It was at one of these wedding ceremonies, while performing with a group of her teenage friends, The Sweet Voices, that she was spotted by Rupert Bopape, one of South Africa's most influential producers and talent scouts of the era.

Bopape immediately invited Mawela to an EMI audition and soon she began adding her sweet soprano vocals to the many recordings of the Dark City Sisters, as well as beginning her songwriting career in style. The same group also recorded under different names, including Killingstone Stars and Black Sea Giants.

The reason given by talent scouts for the use of different names for the group was that the industry could not accept more than one album a year per group name. At EMI, Mawela rubbed shoulders with the likes of the King's Messengers Quartet, Joyce Mogatusi of *Vukani Sekusile Madoda* fame, Susan Gabashane

and Alice Dasa, as well as a young Simon Nkabinde, not yet famous as Mahlathini. Mawela's voice can be heard on many of the greatest Dark City Sisters' hits, including *Rosie My Girl*, *Tap Tap Ntshebe*, *July Handicap*, *Langa More* and *Insizwa*.

In 1962, Mawela moved to Troubadour Records under talent scout Cuthbert Matumba, producer of the top-girl group The Sweet Sixteens. It was with this group that Mawela recorded her first Tshivenda recordings, in turn becoming the very first artist to record Mbaqanga songs in that language.

These recordings included *Rosinah*, *Maria*, *Funguvhu* and *Ndiala*. After Troubadour was bought by Trutone (and then later by Teal), Mawela continued to record for The Sweet Sixteens under the supervision of producers that included Albert Ralulimi and David Thekwane.

In 1983, she took a break from the music business to raise her family. However, she was soon back in full form, recording new Tshivenda songs for Phalaphala FM as well as musical radio jingles.

In 2004, she made her long awaited return to the commercial recording studio with her religious release, *O Mohau*.

This was followed by *Tlhokomela Sera*, a wonderful CD of fine isiZulu, Sesotho and Tshivenda gospel material. In 2012, she released *Africa 5*, which featured Bopape's final musical contributions before his death.

Then, in 2016, she brought out a hit single, *Sendelani*, combining Mbaqanga with elements of Afrosoul and house music.

Mawela remains a busy, active, in-demand artist, with several new concert appearances in the works and a brand new studio album on Umsakazo Records titled *Ari Pembele: Let's Rejoice*.





THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN GOLD

DR JIYANA MBERE

For his work in the medical field and ensuring the equal distribution of medical attention to all people, especially the previously disfranchised.

Dr Jiyana Mbere was a founder member of the Association of Education and Cultural advancement of Africa and in 1975, became a founder member of the Medical Discussion Group of Black Health Professionals.

In 1984 he became a founder member of the Medical Association of South African Blacks to train health professionals, including sending young aspirant black medical students abroad for training. This organisation was started by United States (US) diplomats, Joy and Herb Kaiser, who mobilised funds to train South African black health professionals.

In 1980 Mbere was among a group of doctors that established the first black specialist private clinic, the Lesedi Clinic, in Soweto. He started the first black private specialist Obstetrics and Gynaecology clinic in Johannesburg.

Over the years, Mbere has made many astounding achievements. In 1978 he was awarded a US-South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme scholarship from the US Embassy. The purpose was to lecture to nine medical schools in the US about

disease prevalence in South Africa. In 1995 he was appointed as a member of the council of the then Medical University of South Africa (now Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University). In 1998 he was awarded fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In 2005 he was honoured by Soweto residents for the meritorious service to the community of Soweto represented by the 'Soweto 100 Club'. He was invited to be the main speaker in the Annual General Meeting of the Zimbabwe Medical Association in 2012.

In 2013 he was appointed President of the Medical Association of South Africa. In 2018 the South African Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists awarded him the Meritorious Award in recognition of his leadership qualities to the discipline of obstetrics and gynaecology.



THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN GOLD

PROF EPHRAIM THIBEDI MOKGOKONG

For his excellent contribution to medical sciences in South Africa. He has distinguished himself with his dedication in providing gynaecological services to poor women in rural areas.

Prof Ephraim Thibedi Mokgokong was born in a village about 30 kilometres outside the then Pietersburg (now Polokwane). His father was a reverend and he expected his son to follow in his footsteps.

However, Mokgokong was determined to be a medical doctor, hence he pursued studies within the medical field. It was his training as a medical doctor that enabled him to contribute meaningfully towards the provision of quality medical services to black women.

After qualifying with an Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree at the then University of Natal (now University of KwaZulu-Natal), Mokgokong dedicated himself to providing health services to black communities.

He became a lecturer as early as 1965 at the then University of Natal's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. His pedagogic position did not hinder him from providing practical medical services to poor women.

He contributed immensely towards the training of black professional medical doctors. He also provided medical services to rural communities in Venda, encouraging many young doctors to come with him to serve poor communities in Limpopo. As a leading gynaecologist,

Mokgokong saved the lives of many poor women at the King Edward, George Mukhari and Mankweng (in Limpopo) hospitals. He was the first black gynaecologist to offer services at Legae Private Clinic and Lesedi Private Clinic in Soweto.

Among his many notable achievements is the fact that Mokgokong was instrumental in the establishment of the then Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA), now called Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

Although the apartheid government envisioned MEDUNSA as an inferior medical school that would offer inferior medical training to black people, Mokgokong pioneered exceptional research within the medical school, thus deepening MEDUNSA's capacity to provide quality training.

He obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the then University of Natal. Because of his community work, he has also been bestowed with honorary PhDs from the University of Venda, then University of Potchefstroom (now North-West University) and MEDUNSA.

He was the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of MEDUNSA from 1992 to 1999. Mokgokong's contribution towards the effort to build a South Africa that is healthy is immeasurable.



THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN GOLD

MR SIMON DELIWEYO NGCOBO (Posthumous)

For his contribution to education by resuscitating a historical school, and turning it into an institution that served and groomed many young people who became leaders in South Africa.

Mr Simon Deliweyo Ngcobo became an inspector of schools in Kokstad in the Eastern Cape in 1960.

When he heard of the imminent closure of Ohlange High School in Inanda, north of Durban – which was founded by Dr John L Dube (uMafukuzela), the first President of the African National Congress – he asked to be given a chance to revive the legendary school.

When he became the principal of Ohlange High School from 1960 to 1976, he undertook to revive the historical school after the apartheid government had decided to close it.

To redevelop the school, he built new hostels for students, organised electricity connections and tarred roads that served not just the school, but also the wider community.

During his tenure, Ngcobo developed very strong arts and culture activities to honour Dr Dube. The famous Mafukuzela Week became a national event that attracted prominent guests.

Admission to Ohlange was on a first come, first served basis. Students were not screened because he believed that everybody deserved a chance to receive education.

Ngcobo believed that character, spirit of service, in family and community, even in manual labour, rate as high as academic credits. Education is not just to turn out doctors, lawyers and ministers (of religion).

Besides producing leading South Africans like Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the late Dr Jabu Mabuza, former Judge Thabani Jali, Ms Thoko Didiza, and Ms Lindiwe Hendricks, Ohlange High School students also excelled in music, producing well-known jazz artists like Mr Victor Ntoni, Mr Brian Thusi and Mr GTX Xaba.



THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN SILVER

DR SOLOMON BOYCE ISAAC LEFAKANE

For his pioneering contribution in the field of civil engineering. He inspired many people behind the scenes to take up engineering.

Dr Solomon Boyce Isaac Lefakane was one of the first black South Africans to qualify as an engineer in the country.

He graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1961, after achieving a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He inspired those around him, making a contribution to the profession during the height of the then Bantu Education system and the racist compartmentalisation of education.

Lefakane obtained his Master's degree in Civil Engineering in 1969, effectively becoming the first black South African at the time to obtain such an esteemed qualification from the United States of America (USA).

As the first black engineer and first black civil engineer, he worked at the City of Benoni Municipality, and his influence on the industry and the country generally is tremendous.

As an engineer, he was viewed as an inspiration to black individuals throughout the country. He also demonstrated the qualities that enabled learners to persist in their studies despite the challenges

and difficulties they faced. These include persistence, personal optimism, academic engagement and positive relationships.

As a so-called "Bantu Engineer", his salary was less than that paid to white engineers, which resulted in him leaving South Africa for Swaziland, where higher salary rates were paid to African professionals.

Becoming the first black engineer and first black civil engineer in South Africa was just one of the highlights of Lefakane's career. In 1966 he left Swaziland for the USA after obtaining a scholarship from the African-American Institute to study for a Master's degree in Civil Engineering at the Stanford University.

In 1974, he also obtained a Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Arizona. He returned to South Africa in 1978 and first practised as a doctor at the then Baragwanath Hospital (now Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital), followed by a four-year stint in Lesotho. In 1980, he returned to South Africa and specialised in paediatrics, after graduating from the then Medical University of South Africa (now Sefako Makgatho Health

Sciences University). He then practised at various hospitals before ultimately entering private practice at the Dr SK Matseke Memorial Hospital in Soweto until his retirement in 2020 at the age of 83.

One of Lefakane's life experiences is that education is a very important aspect of one's development and without it, there is not much chance for one to be able to create a sustainable and rewarding career with a good job and entrepreneurial opportunities that can further one's growth.

In this regard, he believes it is important that South Africa's democratic dispensation must ensure that learners of all races are provided with equal access to quality education without discrimination, so that they can meaningfully contribute towards improving the quality of life, and build a prosperous and democratic South Africa for all.



THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN SILVER

MS PHUTI RAGOPHALA

For her contribution in the field of education and demonstrating the need to move with the times by promoting technological awareness and advancement to both teachers and students.

Ms Phuti Ragophala, also known as 'Techno Granny', is a teacher. She grew up in difficult circumstances but her parents encouraged her to become a teacher.

She is currently a Microsoft Innovator Educator Expert and the retired principal of Pula Madibogo Primary School in Mankweng, Limpopo. She is the recipient of the first-ever Zibuza.net Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award recognised her as a teacher whose vision, dedication and commitment to teaching have made an extraordinary difference to the community. Her colleagues gave the moniker 'Techno Granny' to Ragophala to acknowledge her passion and skills for using digital resources in teaching and learning, despite being part of the 'Born Before Technology' generation. Her passion was sparked by her recognition of the learning potential of using technology in the classroom.

Ragophala believes that skills like communication, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration and critical thinking are easily realised when using technology as a tool. Although her

education was very traditional (essentially using just blackboard and chalk), she has undertaken several initiatives to widen the education available to her students; initiatives that go beyond just the harnessing of technological tools. She has developed a permaculture garden to grow vegetables and herbs for the benefit of the poor in the community.

In her time as a principal working in a semi-rural area, most of her learners were orphans or from families where parents are poor or ill. Instead of turning children away if their parents were unable to pay for classes, she managed to empower parents by employing them in the running of the school, giving their children opportunities they would not otherwise have had.

As a result of parental involvement in the school, pupil attendance was and continues to be high. Her simple advice for teachers just starting out in the field is to embrace technology in the classroom.



THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB IN SILVER

MR CORNELIUS RUALD STRYDOM

For his outstanding role as a global philanthropist. His work has gained him recognition from leaders around the world.

Mr Cornelius Ruald Strydom has been involved with humanitarian and philanthropic work in Southern Africa for more than 10 years.

In acknowledgement of the impact his contributions made to poor communities, United States (US) President Joe Biden honoured Strydom with the highest level of the President's Volunteer Service Award in the US in 2021. With this prestigious award, he received congratulatory messages from, among others, Mr Sean Spicer, the 30th White House Press Secretary. In 2021/22, he was awarded honorary doctorates in Humanitarianism and Humane Letters (DHumLitt) from two US universities.

Strydom started volunteering at the South African Women's Federation's (SAVF) Belfast Children's Home (SAVF Belfast Child and Youth Care Centre) in 2010. He advanced his education in humanitarianism from the United Nations (UN) International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Leadership

Academy, the US Institute of Peace, the World Bank, University of Houston and Stanford University. During the worst period of the global spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic, Strydom went into the poorest communities affected by abject poverty.

He managed to restore a whole community's dignity by buying and delivering food and other necessary and much-needed supplies to feed residents of Ward 1 in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality daily for eight months.

He made a phenomenal impact in the lives of South African communities and also helped with food and supplies to SA Cares in Pretoria. He also got involved during the Russia-Ukraine conflict by making financial contributions to families and refugees for food and medical supplies. This aid was given regardless of nationality, race or ethnicity.

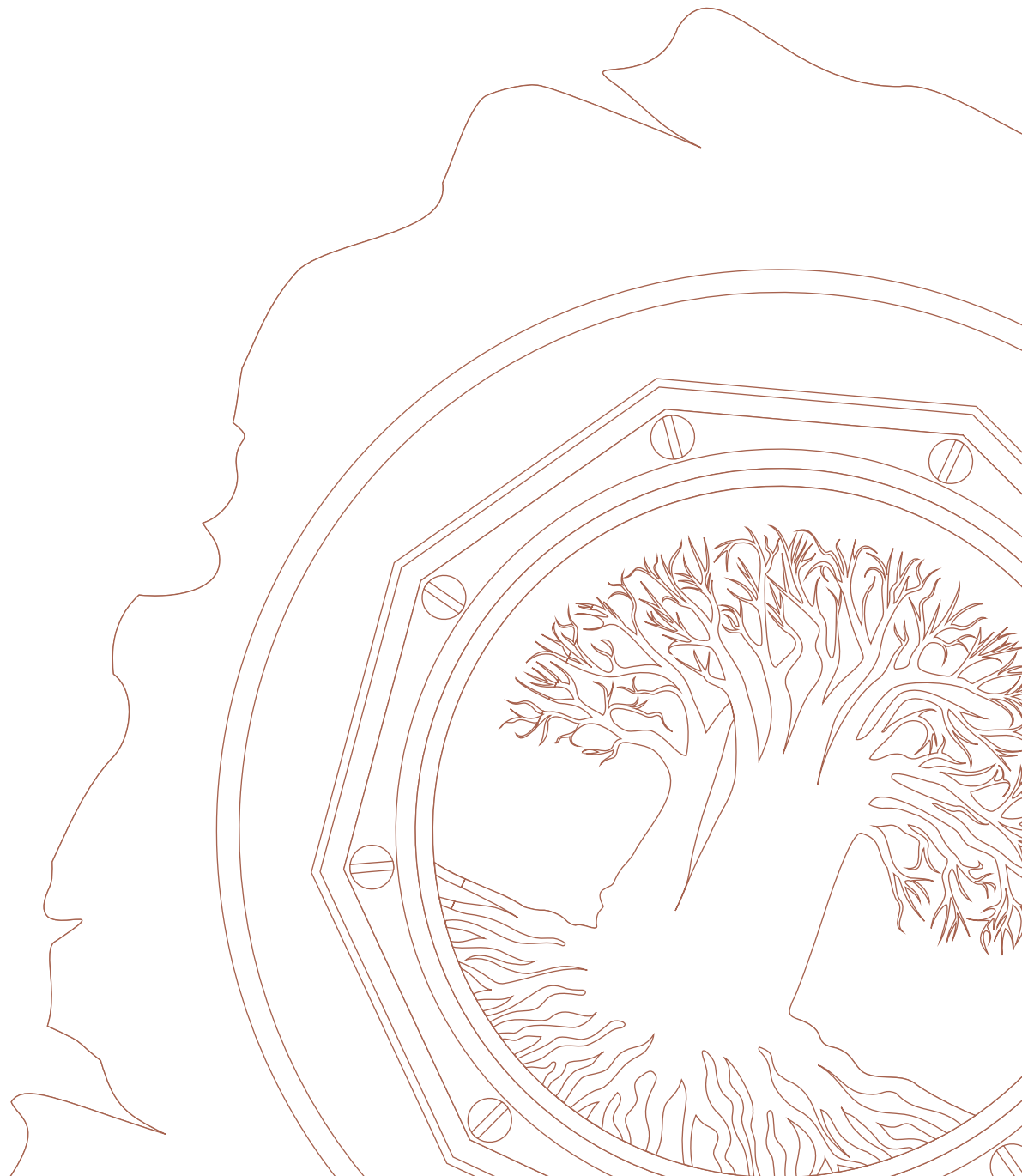
Strydom is an active financial donor for Gift of the Givers, Feed SA, UNICEF India and UNICEF South Africa. He has been

involved with charities around the world and three different children's homes in South Africa for more than 10 years.

One of the children's homes in South Africa takes care of 214 children that were found to be in need of care and/or protection by courts of law. The reasons for this range from abandonment, abuse (physically/sexually), neglect, trafficking, poverty, behavioural issues and orphans.

Through his love, understanding, empathy and compassion, he is a ray of hope and sunshine for these children. Strydom is a great example of unconditional love and care for children in South Africa.

His philanthropic work over the past 10 years was done without any personal benefit to himself, but purely served to help make South Africa a better place for all. Strydom's generosity makes him a true pioneer of selflessness and a visionary leader for the betterment of South Africa.







THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN GOLD

MS ETHEL DE KEYSER (Posthumous)

For her astounding contribution to the struggle for liberation. Her fundraising for scholarships for freedom fighters and their children's education boosted the morale of our fighters in exile.

Ms Ethel de Keyser was born in Cape Town, South Africa to Eastern European immigrants from Russia and Lithuania.

Her ambitions were at first artistic rather than political, but her brother, an activist, drew her into the political struggle against apartheid and eventually she had to flee the country to live in exile while her brother was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for sabotage.

Her lifetime was dedicated to fighting apartheid and she recorded numerous achievements in that regard. She was the Executive Secretary of the United Kingdom (UK)-based Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) for 10 years, during which time she made the organisation a force to be reckoned with not just in the UK but globally.

De Keyser was Director of the British Defence and Aid Fund, and then founder of the Canon Collins Educational Trust for South Africa, which continues to this day and has awarded over 4 000 scholarships to South Africans committed to building a new, just and open society.

Her key milestones in the struggle for liberation include the following: In 1959 she was part of the meeting that led to the formation of the AAM. In her capacity as a volunteer, she was adept as the organiser of fundraising concerts.

She returned to South Africa and took part in underground activities for the African National Congress in 1960, after her brother was detained. While driving through central Cape Town, her car was surrounded by Special Branch policemen, and she was served with a deportation order.

In 1967, de Keyser was made Executive Secretary of the AAM and she turned it from a loosely organised movement into a professional, organised and highly impactful organisation whose influence reached across the globe.

She took on the leadership of the AAM in a difficult period after the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 and the Rivonia Trial that took place in South Africa between 9 October 1963 and 12 June 1964. She left the AAM to take care of her brother after he was released from the then Pretoria Central Prison (now Kgoši

Mampuru II Correctional Centre). Canon Collins and de Keyser set up a trust to fund exiled activists and their children to study in the UK and other countries, acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to contribute to the new democracies predicted to emerge in southern Africa.

After Collins's death, the organisation was renamed Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa (CCETSA). De Keyser was the Director of the Trust until her death in 2004.

In the year of South Africa's first democratic elections, the CCETSA began funding the Giyani Science Centre to implement a project to improve the standard of mathematics and science education in Limpopo. The Nelson Mandela Scholarship was established by de Keyser and Unilever funded one hundred scholars to develop leadership capacity in previously disadvantaged communities.

In 2001, the Ros Moger and Terry Furlong Scholarship Fund was established in memory of two dedicated British educationalists to support southern African scholars to complete degrees in

the fields of education, arts and humanities. The funds have supported the studies of more than 120 students. In 2004, de Keyser was awarded an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for her services to human rights.



THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN GOLD

MR EBRAHIM ISMAIL EBRAHIM (Posthumous)

For his lifelong commitment to the liberation of all South Africans. He lived by the courage of his conviction and became a formidable opponent to the repressive apartheid government.

Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim joined the liberation movement as a youth activist in 1952, and participated in the Congress of the People campaign, which developed and adopted the Freedom Charter in 1955.

He was active in all the campaigns of the 1950s and after the banning of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1960, Ebrahim joined the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto We Sizwe, in 1961 and became part of the Natal Regional High Command. He was arrested in 1963 and was Accused Number 1 in the Pietermaritzburg Sabotage Trial, otherwise known as the 'Little Rivonia Trial'.

Ebrahim was sentenced to 15 years on Robben Island and when he was finally released in 1979, he was immediately banned and restricted to his hometown in Durban. In 1980, acting on the instruction of the ANC, he went into exile. After spending time at the ANC head office in Lusaka, he underwent military training in the ANC camps in Angola. He was then deployed by

the ANC leadership as the Head of the ANC's Political Military Committee in Swaziland.

The ANC Senior Organ in Maputo decided that as one of the senior leaders he should be infiltrated into the country in January 1985, to assess the situation on the ground and make contact with the underground units in Durban. When the apartheid regime became aware of his presence in the country, he went into deep hiding for months before returning to Swaziland.

In December 1986, Ebrahim was kidnapped from Swaziland by the South African National Intelligence Service on the orders of the apartheid regime's top brass and detained at John Vorster Square Police Station, where he was severely tortured.

In a highly publicised trial that lasted until 1989, he was charged with high treason and sentenced to a further 20 years imprisonment on Robben Island. In 1991, the appeal court ruled, in a landmark judgment, that his abduction from a foreign

country was illegal, and that the South African court had no jurisdiction to try him. He was subsequently released from Robben Island in 1991.

In July 1991, Ebrahim was elected to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC and also became a member of the National Working Committee. He worked full-time at the then ANC head office at Shell House and was tasked by Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu to establish the Patriotic Front. As the main convenor of the Patriotic Front, Ebrahim brought together over 93 political, religious, community, cultural and civic organisations.

The aim of the Patriotic Front was to achieve consensus on both the negotiation process and the final outcome of the negotiations that led to the establishment of a democratic South Africa. Ebrahim also participated in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa negotiations as part of the security committee. He remained a member of the NEC until 2017.

He was elected a member of the National Assembly of Parliament in 1994, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee and also became a member of the Joint Select Committee on Intelligence. He resigned from Parliament in July 2002 to take up

the position of the Senior Political and Economic Advisor to the Deputy President. Between 2003 and 2009, he was involved in numerous conflict resolution initiatives around the world.

Ebrahim was invited on a number of occasions to participate in Norway's "Mediators Retreat". The conflict arenas he worked in included Israel and Palestine, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Bolivia, Nepal, Madagascar, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and the Central African Republic.

Ebrahim became a director of the conflict resolution non-governmental organisation, In-Transition Initiative. He served as the ANC's Head of International Affairs from 2007 to 2009.

In May 2009 he was appointed the Deputy Minister of International Relations, a position he held until 2014. He then served as the Parliamentary Counsellor to the President until 2019.



THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

MS MOLLY BELLHOUSE BLACKBURN (Posthumous)

For her contribution to the fight for liberation in South Africa, often risking her life for firmly upholding the liberation cause and ideals to the end.

Ms Molly Bellhouse Blackburn was born in then Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha). She was a South African anti-apartheid activist, political activist, civil-rights campaigner and politician, widely respected by both blacks and whites. Blackburn's parents instilled in her the ideals of liberty and progress.

She graduated from Rhodes University with a Bachelor of Arts degree after finishing school in 1947 with a first-class matriculation. Blackburn spent time teaching in London in the United Kingdom before settling in Belgium.

Seven years later, however, she returned to then Port Elizabeth and joined the Black Sash, an activist group founded in 1955 by six women (Jean Sinclair, Elizabeth McLaren, Ruth Foley, Tertia Pybus, Jean Bosazza and Helen Newton-Thompson).

In 1981 she started her political career by winning the provincial council seat of Walmer for the Progressive Federal Party, the then official opposition of the country. Ms Di Bishop, who would become a lifelong friend and fellow activist, also won a

council seat that year. She and Bishop began investigating rent restructuring and controversial police shootings. They began to be seen as 'troublemakers' by the authorities. She received death threats and was arrested a few times.

On 28 December 1985, Blackburn was killed in a car accident between Oudtshoorn and then Port Elizabeth; she was 55 years old. Bishop and Molly's sister, a passenger, were injured.

At her funeral held at St John's Church in then Port Elizabeth on 1 January 1986, a large crowd, mostly black South Africans, gathered to pay their last respects. Blackburn was survived by her husband and their seven children.



THE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER

MR MOKI JACOB BONISILE CEKISANI

For making a significant difference in our society by providing an indispensable bridge between the struggle for liberation and post-apartheid community development.

Mr Moki Jacob Bonisile Cekisani is a born activist and scholar of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM). He is a previous winner of *The Herald* Citizen of the Year Award in the Environmental Category. He is a father of six who is actively involved in community development projects in Walmer Township in Gqeberha, where he still lives.

Cekisani was first politically awoken by the freedom acquired by African states such as Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya, and was inspired by Pan-Africanist leaders such as Jomo Kenyatta, Ndabaningi Sithole and Robert Mugabe.

When he was 20 years old, he joined the Pan-Africanist Congress and became prominent in the anti-apartheid movement as one of the leaders of the BCM where he gained most of his political knowledge with leaders such as Robert Sobukwe and Kwame Nkrumah having a lasting effect on his political thinking.

He subscribes to the vision of liberating the oppressed people and creating a non-racial society, which is what attracted him

to the Struggle and the BCM, in particular. He believes that Africa belongs to all who are a part of it, that we are all Africans, irrespective of our skin colour. He was first detained in 1963 for four months under the State of Emergency and was thereafter detained in August of 1967, and his final detention of 1977 coincided with the arrest and death of Steve Biko. He suffered a brutal torture that led to him partially losing his hearing. His banning order and house arrest in 1979 were finally lifted in 1986.

After his house arrests and detention, he went on to establish Zamani Sewing Industries in then Port Elizabeth and Mthatha. In 1989 he initiated the Foundation for Sport in Africa, which combined his love of sports and desire to advance the struggle for equality by using the skills of professional athletes to train previously disadvantaged athletes.

A year later, the Ubuntu Environmental Project was started. Cekisani saw that working for the environment would contribute to South Africa's freedom in a non-political and inclusive way.





THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

DR ABUBAKER EBRAHIM DANGOR

For his admirable and distinguished contribution to the field of science through his groundbreaking research in physics.

Dr Abubaker Ebrahim Dangor was born in Vrededorp, Johannesburg. He attended the Johannesburg Indian High School in Fordsburg and went on to study at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University), where he graduated in 1960 with a first class in physics.

He excelled in experimental physics which drew the attention of Imperial College at the University of London where he completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. He was appointed to a lectureship role even before completing his studies and became absorbed in cutting-edge experimental research into Plasma Physics, as a result of which he co-founded the college's Plasma Physics Research Group.

The group undertook ground-breaking research both at Imperial College and at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy in Oxford. Early in his career, his main contributions were to the experimental programme at the Culham laboratory on tokamak devices. The development in Z-pinch physics eventually led to the building of the Mega Ampere Generator for Plasma Implosion Experiments.

His major contribution in science was in the 1980s where he started a major effort into the relatively novel idea of using plasma as the medium for the next generation accelerators.

Dangor and his team have published 282 peer-reviewed papers in the most reputable physics and science journals. The most cited published paper has had 1942 citations and the 10th most cited paper has 304 citations. He mentors and supervises over 30 PhD students, many of them from Commonwealth countries.

He is one of the leading scientists in the field of Plasma Physics in the world. In recognition of Dangor's prodigious research output, his alma mater, Wits University, bestowed on him a meritorious Doctorate of Science at the graduation ceremony in 2005.



THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

DR VHAHANGWELE MASINDI

For his contribution to environmental sciences focusing on water. His work seeks to find much-needed solutions.

Dr Vhahangwele Masindi was born in Mukula Village, Thohoyandou in the Vhembe District of Limpopo in 1987 and completed his secondary education at Mukula High School in Mukula Village.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Environmental Sciences, Master of Science (MSc) degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering (Distinction), MSc degree in Environmental Management (Distinction), Bachelor of Environmental Management degree, and a Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (Distinction).

He currently manages the Research and Development division for Magalies Water. Other positions include the Visiting Principal Research Scientist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Academic Associate at the University of South Africa, Academic Associate at the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom, and moderator in the water departments for the University of Limpopo and Tshwane University of Technology, amongst other institutions.

He is also a part-time lecturer at the University of Venda. To date, Masindi has received national recognition in the form of numerous awards and accolades.

He is one of the youngest editors of the *Water SA* journal and the guest editor for the *Minerals* journal, both of which are accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Training. He is the moderator, reviewer, and advisor for the National Research Foundation (NRF) and other academic institutions and research councils in South Africa and abroad.

Masindi is a regular and outstanding reviewer for premier, specialised, high-impact factor, and leading environmental sciences and chemical engineering journals. They include the journals of *Hazardous Materials*, *Cleaner Production*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Environmental Management*, and *Environmental Chemical Engineering*.

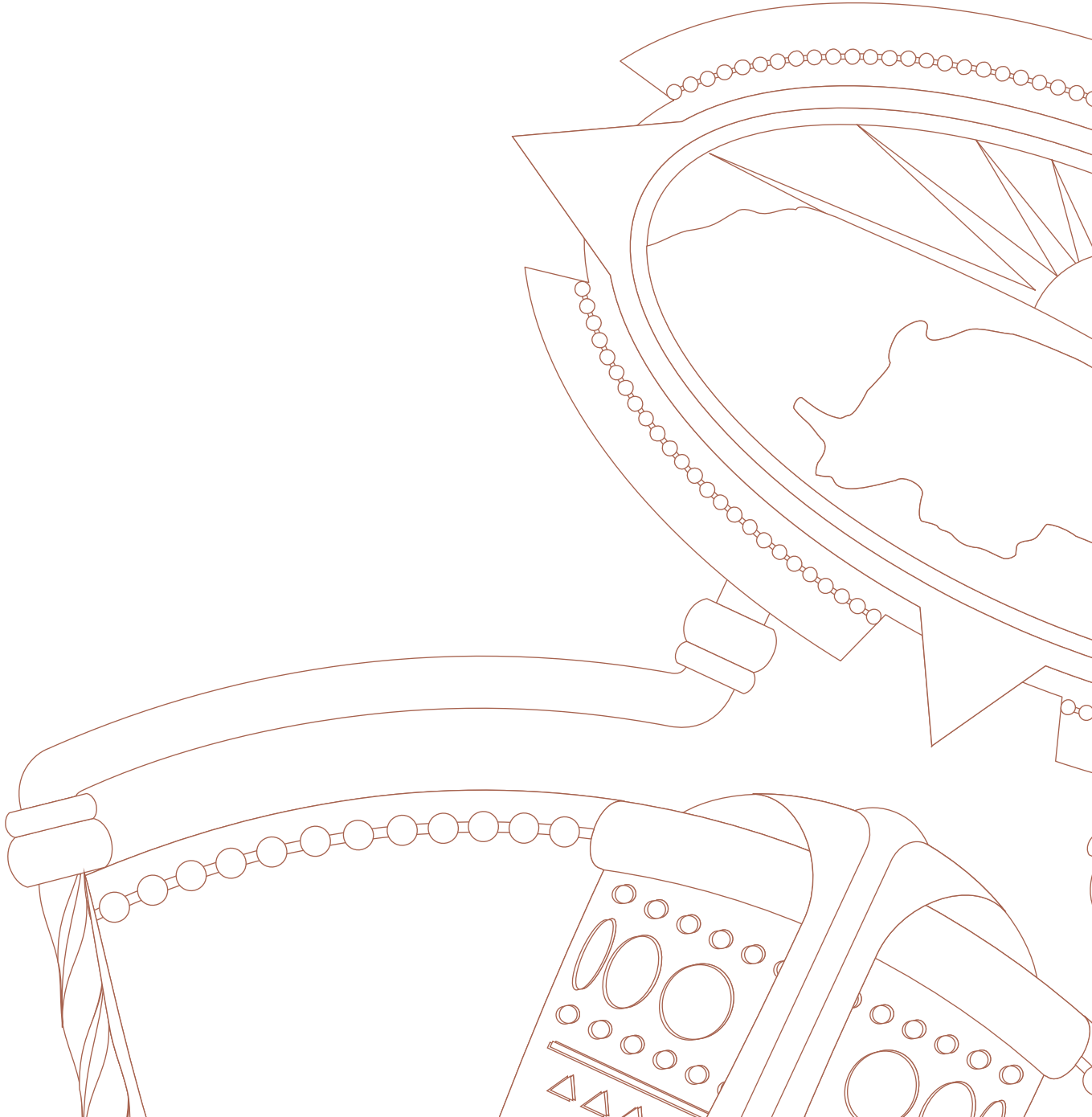
He currently has 2 600 citations and a Google h-index of 27, Scopus h-index of 25 and the Web of Science h-index of 23.

He also serves on the Natural Science Sector Committee of the South African Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that is coordinated by the Department of Science and Innovation.

The majority of his frequently cited and most influential papers in their respective journals and fields included the *Journal of Environmental Management*, *Journal of Water Process Engineering*, and the *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering*.

He has developed and deployed novel technologies to benefit South Africans in historically marginalised communities. Masindi has significantly contributed to the advancement of science and engineering in the developing world and further afield.

His primary focus was grossly underpinned to the development of technologies to address industrial and societal challenges in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere in the world.







THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

MS TRACY CHAPMAN (United States of America)

For her contribution to the fight for freedom by participating in efforts to free Nelson Mandela and raising awareness of human rights violations globally.

Ms Tracy Chapman is a world-renowned musician and social activist, and has since her professional debut in 1988 up to this day been committed to music and art forms dictated by her conscience.

Her first major international performance was at the Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Tribute Concert at the Wembley Stadium in London, which was organised in solidarity with the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) for a Free South Africa campaign.

On 11 June 1988, the world witnessed a music concert, the first of its kind (in terms of scale and reach) in support of the progressive forces for change in South Africa. The event was broadcast to many countries across the world, reaching hundreds of millions of people.

Both the 1988 concert and the subsequent one in 1990 are known as the Free Nelson Mandela concerts. Although not overt and definitely not branded as such, the events received support and endorsement from the AAM and the African National Congress.

Chapman was among the artists who performed on that historic day. She was among luminaries such as Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston and Harry Belafonte who also gave a speech.

She was young and unknown then. It can be argued that the event launched her into international audiences and in turn, her contribution furthered the cause of freedom in South Africa. Since then, Chapman has taken up many causes based on her conscience and commitment to justice, freedom and equality.

Her timeless music, which largely follows similar themes, continues to inspire many people and causes across the world. Indeed, she has deep connections to the struggles of under-classes all over the world, including the then political prisoners of South Africa as symbolised by Madiba.



THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

MS CHRISTABEL GURNEY (United Kingdom)

For providing steadfast support and friendship to freedom fighters by mobilising international communities and raising awareness of human rights violations globally.

Ms Christabel Gurney is an activist and historian who was involved in the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM). She joined the organisation in 1969 and was the editor of its journal, *Anti-Apartheid News*, from 1969 to 1980.

Later, she was secretary of the Notting Hill Anti-Apartheid Group. She received the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire “for political service, particularly to human rights” in the 2014 Birthday Honours.

Her first anti-apartheid activity was as a member of an ad hoc student group organising a London march before an AAM conference held in June 1969 in support of southern African freedom fighters in the wake of the Wankie and Sipolilo incursions.

She took part in direct action to stop the Wilfred Isaacs cricket tour of England in the summer of 1969. This involved sitting on the pitch in an attempt to stop play at the oval and other grounds. Subsequently, she helped organise the direct action and

mass marches which disrupted the 1969-1970 Springbok rugby tour and led to the cancellation of the 1970 Springbok cricket tour.

As a volunteer at the AAM headquarters, she worked in research and communications, and was elected to the AAM’s Executive Committee. From 1969 to 1980, she edited the AAM’s monthly newspaper, *Anti-Apartheid News*. As editor of the newspaper, she met and interviewed leaders of the international solidarity struggle and Southern African liberation movement leaders.

In this capacity she liaised with the African National Congress’s (ANC) London office and worked closely with MP Naicker, the editor of *Sechaba*, an ANC publication. She represented the AAM at international conferences, including conferences on women and children under apartheid.

In the early 1970s, she acted as secretary of the ‘Dambusters Mobilising Committee’, a group set up at the request of the ANC to campaign against the building of the Cahora Bassa Dam

in Mozambique. The group exposed the role of Barclays Bank in financing the dam, which led to the successful campaign to force the bank to withdraw from apartheid South Africa. In 1972 Gurney organised a protest at Barclays Bank's Annual General Meeting, the first such attempt to question the pro-apartheid activities of a major company at a shareholders' meeting. The campaign spiralled and the bank eventually withdrew from South Africa in 1986.

In 1972, Gurney co-authored *The South African Connection*, published by Penguin Books, with Ruth First and Jonathan Steele. The widely reviewed and circulated book exposed British trade and companies' investment in apartheid South Africa.

She spoke widely on the need for British companies to pull out of South Africa and was one of the key proponents of the demand for withdrawal as opposed to 'constructive engagement'.

From 1980 to 1990, Gurney served on the AAM National Committee and was active in the Notting Hill Anti-Apartheid Group, serving for some years as its secretary. She continued

to be active in numerous national anti-apartheid campaigns and on subgroups such as the AAM's Consumer Boycott Unit. In Notting Hill, she organised anti-apartheid participation in the Notting Hill Carnival and protests outside the South African Ambassador's residence.



THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

MR THOMAS OLIVER NEWNHAM - Posthumous (New Zealand)

For his relentless fight against the oppressive apartheid laws. He was particularly instrumental in shaming apartheid South Africa, and stopping rugby tours between South Africa and New Zealand.

Mr Thomas Oliver Newnham (Queen's Service Order) was a New Zealand political activist and educationalist. As Secretary of the Citizens Association for Racial Equality (CARE), he was involved in several left-wing causes by attacking institutional racism in New Zealand, and opposing the 1981 Springbok rugby tour and apartheid in general.

He spoke Cantonese and Mandarin fluently after living in China, and was heavily involved in helping Chinese immigrants in his later years. He wrote the book, *Dr Bethune's Angel: The Life of Kathleen Hall*, about the New Zealand missionary nurse who worked with the Canadian physician, Dr Norman Bethune, in China in the 1930s.

Newnham devoted his life to peace, cooperation, international solidarity and support. From 1959 – when he joined the 'No Maoris, No Tour' protest against the upcoming All Blacks tour of South Africa – to the fall of apartheid in the early 1990s, his support for the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa was relentless and ultimately hugely effective. He also supported South Africa's international and multilateral relations, especially

through his lifelong commitment to nuclear disarmament and world peace.

His prolific record of publications demonstrated his authoring prowess and his achievements across diverse but connected themes. Each publication conveys an acute insight and deep perspective that can only be derived from direct personal experience.

In 1959 many South Africans and New Zealanders were looking forward to the All Blacks tour the following year. However, some people in both countries were against the tour. For previous tours (1937 and 1949), the New Zealanders had complied with the South African apartheid regime's requirement that the All Blacks, like the Springboks, must be 'all white'.

As the 1960 tour approached, however, resistance against the injustices was gaining momentum in both New Zealand and South Africa. This was a pivotal moment for Newnham, a 34-year-old New Zealander who was living in a remote Maori township with his wife and their two small children. He recognised the

significance of the 'all white' All Blacks issue, and not just for the Maori. He asked himself, how could a nation that prided itself on its race relations record, allow its iconic rugby team to be infected in this way by the insidious tentacles of South African apartheid?

He joined the protest and from that point on, his colours were irrevocably pinned to campaigns for human justice, with the anti-apartheid struggle paramount among them. Although the 1960 tour went ahead, the anti-apartheid movement gained traction in New Zealand.

He began to play a leading role in the CARE lobby group, which together with another one, Halt All Racist Tours, played a pivotal role in galvanising nationwide and international support for New Zealand's opposition to apartheid and racial discrimination.

For four decades, Newnham worked tirelessly within and beyond these organisational structures to challenge New Zealand's position on sporting contact with South Africa, along

with taking many important initiatives aimed at highlighting and improving New Zealand's own racial inequities.

During this time, he developed strong ties with key anti-apartheid figures in South Africa and around the world. Through these networks, Newnham helped to initiate a number of speaking tours of New Zealand by prominent international anti-apartheid activists such as Denis Brutus and Judith Todd.

These tours proved to be instrumental in exposing many of the pro-apartheid myths that were coming out of then white South Africa.



THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

MR PETER TOSH 'WINSTON HUBERT MCINTOSH' - Posthumous (Jamaica)

For his contribution to the liberation struggle using his musical talent to advance the liberation cause worldwide through incisive and awareness-raising lyrics in his music.

Mr Peter Tosh was born in Grange Hill, Jamaica on 19 October 1944. He was a devoted anti-apartheid activist and a singer, who promoted awareness about the apartheid system through his music.

Born Winston Hubert McIntosh, Tosh was not just a musician but he was a freedom fighter who felt that music was a vital tool in various struggles. He was assassinated in Jamaica on 11 September 1987 and was posthumously awarded the Order of Merit by the Jamaican Government.

Tosh composed possibly the most powerful song against apartheid titled *Apartheid*, and he was the first major songwriter to discuss the system of apartheid openly through that song. In 1977 he rejected an offer to come and perform in South Africa to a white audience.

The offer was at the time his biggest ever, but he maintained that he will only come to South Africa to perform in Soweto and

he would donate the earnings made from that concert to the African National Congress (ANC) and the Steve Biko Football Club.

Tosh has performed on various anti-apartheid concerts without being paid. In 1983, members of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe, used the Peter Tosh Concert that was staged in Eswatini as a channel for them to get into that country.

Many other South Africans crossed over to Swaziland illegally in what was described as the biggest illegal crossing ever between the borders of the two countries. Those who had no tickets were watching from outside the fence and when Tosh saw them, he ordered that the gates be opened to allow them to get inside the stadium.

Apart from the song, *Apartheid*, Tosh has composed a number of other big songs about the struggle for black people's liberation, such as *Get Up Stand Up*, *Fight On*, *Equal Rights* and *Not Gonna*

Give It Up. On his final album, 'No Nuclear War', he re-recorded the song *Apartheid* and this album won him a Grammy Award.

Tosh stood in solidarity with the struggle against apartheid, singing the Struggle songs, performing at various anti-apartheid concerts and fearlessly speaking out against the apartheid regime in interviews.

He inspired many to get up, stand up and to fight on. One of the famous lines from *Not Gonna Give It Up* is "I'm not gonna give it up; I will be fighting till Africa and Africans are free".

When the late Struggle stalwart, Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, visited Jamaica, she gave a speech where she spoke about the power and impetus of reggae music in the fight against apartheid.

She said reggae was illegal in South Africa so they had to use white labels to sneak records in and cower in dark rooms listening to the likes of Tosh.

The late former President of the ANC, Mr Oliver Tambo, who led the party throughout its exile years, acknowledged the role reggae music played when they were feeling down and defeated, but just playing Tosh would revive and bring back that lion-hearted militancy in them.



THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO IN SILVER

MS RUTH WEISS (Germany)

For her contribution to the liberation struggle. Her prolific writing shone the light on injustices in South Africa. She has been a source of knowledge for other journalists and activists.

Ms Ruth Weiss has been an excellent, unwavering friend and great supporter of the people of South Africa during her long life of 98 years.

She was the Grand Old Lady of the German Anti-Apartheid-Movement and is an important role player of the recent European-African history.

As an editor and correspondent for *Deutsche Welle*, major German newspapers and international media like the *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, BBC and *Times of Zambia*, she was one of the most influential Africa journalists focusing on southern Africa.

Former colleagues have described Weiss as a shining light in the dark times of apartheid who never ever lost her deeply entrenched humanity. She has also written novels, thrillers and children's books depicting mainly African and Jewish historical and contemporary topics.

As a contemporary witness and through readings from her more than 80 books and unpublished book manuscripts in schools and institutions of adult education, she has been successfully involved in educational work against racism and anti-Semitism for decades.

An example of her literature aimed at sensitising the German youth about apartheid was her bestseller with 18 editions titled, *My sister Sara*, which had become mandatory reading at secondary schools in Germany. In the novel, anti-Semitism and racism/apartheid intersect dramatically.

To highlight the great significance of Weiss for South Africa, three prominent South Africans said the following: Ambassador Phumelele Stone Sizani stated in his laudation on Weiss on the occasion of the rose planting ceremony in her honour at the Embassy of South Africa, Berlin, on 24 March, 2022: "If people like Ruth Weiss had not immersed themselves in the fate of the black people of South Africa, if people like her

did not link their own lives with those of the oppressed, and if experiences of discrimination that Mrs Weiss suffered in her youth in Germany did not find a connection for her in her new homeland, then South Africa would have been doomed."

The late social campaigner and Struggle stalwart Denis Goldberg summarised Weiss on the occasion of naming a major school in Germany after her in 2010 as follows: "The fight against the evils of this world requires more than just words. We must act. It takes civil courage. And that, Ruth Weiss has. She is a role model as a campaigner for women's rights, for people of all cultures and skin colours and she is able to inspire young people. She is a campaigner for tolerance, she is a humanist, she believes people CAN live together and must be ready to tolerate others".

The late writer and political activist Nadine Gordimer wrote: "Ruth Weiss, a white and a European, listened to and learned from blacks in her own country, South Africa, and in Zambia, Zimbabwe, where she became a shrewd and greatly trusted interpreter of African thought, aims and strategies, and a friend of many black leaders and – perhaps more importantly –

ordinary people. She has passed on her journalistic skills to a whole generation of young Africans studying the media. She is the most humane woman I have ever met."

