



Recipients of the National Orders 2019

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National Orders awarded to deserving recipients



Mr Jeffrey Tsakale receives the Order of Mendi for Bravery on behalf of nine-year-old Thapelo, who drowned on 28 February 2018 after rescuing his friend from a waterlogged trench in Soshanguve, north of Pretoria.

On Thursday, 25 April 2019, just two days before the 25th Freedom Day since the dawn of freedom and democracy in South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa bestowed National Orders to 30 deserving recipients at the investiture ceremony held at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria.

Government has since 2003 been bestowing National Orders to deserving citizens and eminent foreign nationals who have contributed towards the advancement of democracy and who made a significant impact on improving the lives of South Africans.

The six 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** – also recognise individuals who have made their mark in the building of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa, as envisaged in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.

National Orders also contribute towards unity, reconciliation and nation-building in South Africa.

President Ramaphosa, as the Grand Patron of National Orders, was assisted by the Director-General in The Presidency, Dr Cassius Lubisi, who is also the Chancellor of National Orders and the Advisory Council on National Orders, in bestowing the awards to the recipients.

The recipients of the 2019 National Orders:

THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY

This Order is awarded in Gold for exceptional acts of bravery in which awardees would have placed their lives in great danger or may have lost their lives in their efforts to save lives or property, in Silver, for extraordinary acts of bravery through which recipients' lives were placed in great danger while saving or trying to rescue persons or property, and in Bronze for outstanding acts of bravery through which their lives were endangered while saving or trying to rescue persons or property.

The Order of Mendi for Bravery in Silver



Mr Thapelo Tambani (Posthumous):

For his selfless act of saving another life, which led to his unfortunate demise. His heroic act remains a legacy to all who knew him and got to know of him after his courageous sacrifice.

On 28 February 2018, Thapelo, a nine-year-old boy, drowned after a heroic and successful effort to save the life of his friend, Mulalo Sien Muelelwa. Mulalo fell into an open waterlogged trench at a building site and was slowly drowning when Thapelo, putting his own life at risk, jumped into the muddy water. Sadly, after saving his friend, he drowned after he could not get himself out of the trench.

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA

The Order of Ikhamanga is awarded to South African citizens who have excelled in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism or sport.

The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver

- **Mr Achmat Davids (Posthumous):** For his excellent contribution to the field of literature and the preservation of history through storytelling. His body of works enriched our understanding of the Cape Muslims' contribution to the development of the Afrikaans language.
- **Mr Jacques Henry Kallis:** For his excellent contribution to the sport of cricket and for placing South Africa on the world sporting map with his brilliance. His stellar career and commitment to the sport inspired many young people to aim for excellence.
- **Ms Yvonne "Chaka Chaka" Mhinga:** For her excellent contribution to the field of music and her general contribution to social cohesion. Her melodic voice reverberated and found resonance in many parts of our continent and the world.
- **Ms Nomhle Nkonyeni:** For her excellent contribution to the performing arts. Over many decades, she has shown durability and adaptability. She has graced

national and international stages, and her mastery of her craft has moved many audiences locally and around the world.

- **Mr Benjamin Pogrand:** For his excellent contribution to the field of journalism and to scholarship on the liberation struggle. His informative writing shone the light on our country during some of the darkest days in our history. He defied those who would deceive the world.
- **Mr Mathatha Tsedu:** For his excellent contribution to journalism in South Africa and on the African continent, as well as his selfless contribution to the liberation of our country and continent. His mighty pen continues to be his tool in the building of our democracy.
- **Ms Mary Twala-Mhlongo:** For her excellent contribution to the performing arts and for creatively raising awareness on women's health issues through storytelling. Her sense of humour and humility on and off the stage has endeared her to the nation at large.

The Order of Ikhamanga in Gold



Mr Johaar Mosaval:

For his exceptional contribution to the performing arts, particularly ballet dancing. His exceptional talent led him to be the first black South African to become a senior principal dancer at the Royal Ballet.



THE ORDER OF THE BAOBAB



The Order of the Baobab is awarded to South African citizens for distinguished service in the fields of: business and the economy; science, medicine, and for technological innovation, and community service.

The Order of the Baobab in Silver

- **Mr Braam Jordaan:** For his brilliant efforts at raising awareness on the importance of Sign Language and the human rights of hearing-impaired people around the world through his colourful spectrum of films and books.
- **Ms Constance Mirriam Thokozile Koza (Posthumous):** For her excellent contribution and consistent commitment to education and community development. Her selfless giving to society enriched and empowered many lives.
- **Mr Bongani Donald Mkhwanazi (Posthumous):** For his excellent contribution to the upliftment of black business. He was a doyen of black business and one of the foremost champions of the economic transformation of post-apartheid South Africa. His efforts had a commendable effect on social cohesion and nation-building.
- **Dr Ray and Mrs Dora Phillips (Posthumous):** For their excellent contribution to the creation of the first social-work network designed to improve the terrible living conditions of the growing population of the oppressed. They also established the South African Institute of Race Relations, one of the leading liberal institutions in the country.
- **Mr William Smith:** For his excellent contribution to the teaching and demystification of mathematics and science. Through the medium of television, he made mathematics and science accessible even to the most marginalised in our society.

THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE

The Order of Mapungubwe is awarded for achievements in the international area which have served South Africa's interests.

The Order of Mapungubwe in Bronze

- **Prof Thokozani Majozi:** For his outstanding contribution to science, particularly the development of a novel mathematical technique for near-zero-effluent batch chemical facilities which enables the reuse of wastewater. As a young scientist, more trailblazing is expected of him in the years ahead.

The Order of Mapungubwe in Silver

- **Prof Malik Maaza:** For his outstanding contribution to the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. He is a pioneer on the African continent. His work has improved our knowledge and made headway in the development of cutting-edge technology.
- **Prof Ari Sitas:** For his excellent contribution to social-science scholarship and progressive policymaking. He is also a renowned storyteller and poet. He is a multi-talented scientist who moves effortlessly between profound knowledge production and the arts.

The Order of Mapungubwe in Gold



Ms Bomo Edna Edith Molewa (Posthumous):

For her exceptional contribution to the fight to save our planet. Having served her country during the liberation struggle, she immersed herself in the global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change on the planet. Through her tireless efforts, South Africa is recognised as one of the global leaders in matters of environmental justice.

Ms Molewa, who passed on 22 September 2018, previously served South Africa in various roles, including as a school teacher, political activist, Premier of North West, Cabinet Minister and acclaimed environmentalist.

THE ORDER OF LUTHULI

The Order of Luthuli is awarded to South Africans who have served the interests of South Africa by making a meaningful contribution in any of the following areas: the struggle for democracy, human rights, nation-building, justice, peace and conflict resolution.

The Order of Luthuli in Silver

- **Ambassador Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe:** For her excellent contribution to the fight for liberation. She did outstanding work in raising awareness on repression in South Africa and mobilised support for those who were facing the apartheid security forces on a daily basis.
- **Brigadier General Velaphi Msane:** For his excellent contribution to the liberation struggle and for his steadfast conviction in the equality of all. His courage allowed him to put his people first, with scant regard for his own safety; he left his loved ones behind to fight for not just South Africans, but for all of humanity.



Mr Antony Andrew Trew:

For his excellent contribution to the attainment of democracy and the reconstruction of a post-apartheid society. His linguistic prowess and meticulous application of language is imprinted in many dossiers of government where he served tirelessly and loyally.

Mr Trew is a South African politician and discourse analyst who not only advanced our struggle for freedom but committed his life to the service of the South African nation. He served the country with distinction, beginning in the Office of President Nelson Mandela and moving on to establish and develop the Government Communication and Information System, where he retired as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Strategy and Content Management.

- **Mr Moyisile Douglas Tyutyu:** For his excellent contribution to the fight for the freedom of all South Africans. As an underground operative of Umkhonto we Sizwe, he proved to be a man of courage, living by his conviction that all are equal. He continues to be the fount of wisdom for young activists.
- **Prof Yosuf "Joe" Veriava:** For his excellent contribution to the medical profession in South Africa. He has consistently personified medical ethics and progressiveness. He also courageously pushed back the barriers of the unjust and repressive laws of apartheid.

THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF OR TAMBO

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo is awarded to those who have actively promoted the interests and aspirations of South Africa through excellent and outstanding cooperation and active expression of solidarity and support.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo in Bronze

- **Dr Riccardo Sarra (Italy):** For his consistent contribution to the fight for the liberation of the people of South Africa and the Southern African region. He has nurtured and encouraged cooperation between Italian and South African institutions over a long period.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo in Silver

- **Mr Klaas de Jonge (The Netherlands):** For his excellent contribution to the fight for the liberation of the people of South Africa. With little regard for his own life, he became part of the armed resistance to apartheid. He demonstrated his commitment to South Africa by continuing to be part of the democratic project after the historic 1994 elections.
- **Archbishop Khotso Makhulu (United Kingdom):** For his courageous contribution to the fight for liberation. He followed his calling and lived the ideals of lending a helping hand to his fellow human beings. He provided refuge, comfort and family to young activists arriving in exile to join the South African liberation struggle.
- **Prof Paulette Pierson-Mathy (Belgium):** For her outstanding and insightful contributions to the struggle for liberation. She has been a prolific author of original reports and publications providing deep insights into the realities of apartheid, and the struggle for liberation in Africa and Southern Africa in particular.
- **Prof Amii Omara-Otunnu (US/Uganda):** For his excellent contribution to the global fight for democracy and social justice. He has been a reliable, tried and tested friend of South Africa. He is well-known for his efforts to build international partnerships between our academic institutions and those in other countries.
- **Ms Lucia Raadschelders – Posthumous (The Netherlands):** For her outstanding contribution to the struggle against apartheid. Over many years, she was a reliable friend of our country and post-liberation, she continued to play a critical role in supporting our democracy and archiving our history of the Struggle.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo in Gold:

- **His Excellency Admiral Didier Ignace Ratsiraka (Madagascar):** For his outstanding contribution to the struggle for democracy in South Africa. He offered the liberation movement a national and international platform through his country's National Television and Radio Station to operate Radio Freedom in the battle of ideas between apartheid propaganda and non-racial democratic values.

Call for Nominations

Complete the Nomination Form downloadable from:

www.thepresidency.gov.za

The closing date for nominations: 31 August 2019