

THE NATIONAL ORDERS AWARDS, OCTOBER 2004

1. THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY

1.1 THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY IN BRONZE

1.1.1 SUB-LIEUTENANT ETIENNE GUNTER (1976-)

For outstanding bravery, courage and determination displayed while saving a fellow human being from drowning.

On 31 January 2001 a 61-year-old swimming and surfing enthusiast was enjoying herself on a boogy-board in the sea at Voëlklip-Mond near Hermanus on the Southern Cape coast.

An abrupt change in the weather, for which the Cape is notorious, resulted in the sea turning rough unexpectedly. The hapless swimmer found herself being swept out to sea on her board by a strong, swift current. Soon she found herself near dangerous rocks, being washed off her board by strong waves.

Although other bathers on the beach had been alerted to her situation and a few attempted a rescue, they soon retreated due to the very dangerous conditions in the water. More than an hour had passed before Etienne Gunter chanced upon the small crowd of bathers who alerted him to the precarious position of the woman in the water. He immediately attempted a rescue. Repeatedly repulsed by the fierce waves he kept trying until he managed to break through the waves. By the time he reached her she was struggling to stay afloat, swallowing water and extremely weak. The turbulent conditions in the water meant that Gunter was himself repeatedly tumbled over and forced beneath the waves.

After struggling for some time against the treacherous current, Gunter was joined by a friend, and together they tried to haul the surfer back to the beach, but to no avail. Realising that it would be impossible to pull the hapless surfer through the heavy surf, Gunter made the critical decision to return to shore for a life-line while his friend assisted the surfer in staying afloat. Even though his leg was badly injured when he was smashed against rocks, the intrepid rescuer returned to the water and with the life-line now attached to his body, swam back to the surfer and his friend. With the assistance of bathers on the beach they were slowly hauled out of the water, with Gunter being injured while shielding the now feeble swimmer from the jagged rocks.

By the time the 61-year-old swimmer was back on the beach, she was unconscious. On arrival at the hospital she had no discernible blood pressure or

pulse. Yet she regained consciousness two days later and subsequently made a full recovery.

Sub-Lieutenant Etienne Gunter risked his life repeatedly, braving the treacherous sea for the sake of rescuing a fellow human being, someone he didn't know. His determination, nerve and clear thinking under extreme conditions were a rare expression of deliberate fearlessness and spontaneous valor. All of South Africa is proud to have him as a member of our national defence force.

Etienne Gunter was born on 26 May 1976 in Belville, Cape Province. He graduated from the University of Stellenbosch with an Engineering Degree in 2002 and is currently a member of the South African Navy at the Simon's Town Dockyards.

1.2 THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY IN SILVER

1.2.1 JIMMY BOOYSEN (1969-)

For selflessly risking his own life and displaying bravery and heroism whilst saving the lives of three children.

On the night of 15 August 1995 Jimmy Booyesen was aroused from his sleep by the sound of terrifying screams from outside his house. Alarmed by the piercing cries for help, he warily peered through his window to be confronted by darting shadows of fire across the walls of his neighbour's wood and iron shack.

Realising that the cries were those of his neighbour's children inside the burning shack, Booyesen, now fully aware of the impending catastrophe, ran out of his house and kicked down the door of the fiercely burning shack. To Booyesen's consternation, the heavy smoke billowing from inside the open doorway and flames already licking at the woodwork prevented him from seeing anything inside.

Tormented by the excruciating screams of the little children he often saw playing in the street and without any regard for his own safety, Booyesen entered the raging inferno. Practically blinded by the smoke and the heat, but with great composure, he cautiously worked his way towards the direction of the children's rapidly fading cries. Reaching out his hands in the dark, he found the three whimpering children at the point of suffocation, huddled on a bed. Sweeping them into his arms, he rushed out just seconds before the lean-to exploded into a fire-ball.

Jimmy Booyesen risked his own life to save the lives of three young children who in all probability would have perished in a terrifying inferno. In doing so he displayed immense bravery and heroism.

Jimmy Booyesen was born on 31 December in 1969 in Grassy Park in Cape Town where he has been a lifelong resident. He attended Zeekoevlei Primary School and Zeekoevlei Secondary School and currently works for the South African Post Office in Goodwood.

1.3 THE ORDER OF MENDI FOR BRAVERY IN GOLD

1.3.1 RICHARD BARNEY LEKGOTLA MOLOKOANE (1957-1985)

For his inspiring leadership, his exceptional bravery and readiness to risk his life fighting for liberation.

Richard Barney Lekgotla Molokoane was born on 27 August 1957 in Tladi, Soweto.

Molokoane became politically active during the student uprising of 1976. Like many of his contemporaries he went into exile where he joined the African National Congress and joined the June 16 Detachment of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

Proud of his role as a fighter for freedom, Molokoane was scrupulously faithful to the ideals of the ANC and MK. Although he was gifted in many fields, he was always eager to learn through listening and debating. He was a disciplined soldier, always concerned with maintaining good health and peak physical condition. He was particularly fond of the rigours of survival courses, which he believed prepared him for any contingency. As a commander he was exceptional, taking particular care with the safety and well-being of those under his command.

Immediately after completing his course of training outside the country in 1978 he was selected for a reconnaissance mission. When his unit came into contact with enemy forces in Zeerust, Molokoane was shot in the leg but he managed to outwit and outmanoeuvre his adversaries during a 200km retreat to base.

His tactical ingenuity and leadership were recognised and he was soon promoted to commander. From 1978 till 1985 when he was killed, Molokoane led repeated missions into the country, successfully completing a number of dangerous missions, including the daring and sophisticated sabotage of the SASOL plant and the shelling of the headquarters of the South African Defence Force in Voortrekkerhoogte.

After a successful mission to sabotage the industrial complex at Secunda, his unit was intercepted by enemy forces. From a reconstruction of events based on local eye-witness accounts, the battle which ensued lasted four hours in which

the three members of the unit fought courageously until the end. They died when enemy helicopters dropped a napalm bomb, incinerating the comrades instantly.

History and a committed allegiance to the cause of liberation bequeathed that Richard Barney Lekgotla Molokoane should shoulder an onerous responsibility, one that ought not be the fate of any young man in a normal society. Yet as a soldier in MK, “Buda” as his closest friends affectionately called him, executed all of them with distinction, being equally effective in the underground and in public work. He will forever be remembered for his exceptional bravery, his total dedication to the cause of freedom, and for his rousing leadership which inspired the loyalty and trust of those he commanded. Molokoane gave up his life so that others may be free.

2.1 THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN BRONZE

2.1 VICTOR RALUSHAI (1935-)

For his outstanding contribution to the academic field of indigenous history, knowledge systems and heritage.

Victor Ralushai was born in Mbilwi, Thohoyandou on 6 July 1935. He attended the local schools of Mphaphuli Memorial School (1946 – 1952) and Mphaphuli Secondary School (1953 – 1955) where he obtained his Junior Certificate. Ralushai completed matric at the Pax College in Polokwane (then Pietersburg) in 1958.

After a short stint as a clerk at Lukoto Bus Service and the Department of Post and Telegraphs, Ralushai enrolled for a BA Degree at the Pope Pius XII University College, (now the National University of Lesotho). When under pressure from the Apartheid government the Sibasa Local Council withdrew his bursary, Ralushai had to depend on the kindness of relatives and friends. The Roman Catholic Church gave him a nominal salary on condition that he undertake part-time teaching at Tshivenda to Irish priests at the Missiological Research and Language Laboratory at Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape.

Thereafter Ralushai returned to Johannesburg where for four years he was subjected to all the humiliations of being a migrant labourer, forbidding him from changing jobs and requiring him to return home yearly and renew his work permit. Yet Ralushai’s academic record and potential had been recognized. In 1971, he was awarded a King’s College Cambridge University Scholarship to study History. But Ralushai had developed a keen interest in Social Anthropology and he transferred to Belfast, Northern Ireland where he had been awarded PH. D Scholarships by Queen’s University and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropology in New York.

Realising that in order to access the written accounts of German missionaries of the Vhavhenda and Bapedi, Ralushai spent some time in Staffen, Bavaria in Germany where he mastered German. In 1977 he completed his PH. D studies with the thesis '*Conflicting accounts of Venda History with particular reference to the role of Mutupo in social organization*'.

Thereafter, Ralushai took up academic positions at the University of Botswana and Swaziland, (1978) and at Jos University, Nigeria, (1979), where many young South African student refugees enjoyed his professorial erudition.

Ralushai was struck down with a serious bout of malaria, and on his recovery he was advised to return home where he was once again subjected to the harassment and barriers of Apartheid functionaries in the homelands. Despite ill-health, Ralushai persevered and was eventually appointed Vice-principal at the University of Venda in 1986. However, his ill-health meant that he was forced to take early retirement in 1992.

He has attended numerous international conferences and has read academic papers in South Africa, North America, the United Kingdom and Western Africa. A leading academic, Ralushai has no fewer than twenty academic publications to his name. He is a member of the National Development Agency; the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (South Africa) and the Limpopo Province Heritage Agency.

Professor Victor Ralushai's research formed a key basis for the successful motivation to UNESCO to declare Mapungubwe a World Heritage Site. He has just completed a research project funded by the Freedom Park Trust entitled, *From Mapungubwe to Thulamela Ruins – Sites as Sources of History*.

2.2.2 JEANNE ZAIDEL-RUDOLPH (1948-)

For her outstanding contribution as a composer, pianist and teacher in the development of music in South Africa and internationally.

Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph was born in Pretoria in 1948 and was educated at Pretoria High School for Girls. As a student, she displayed an extraordinary gift for playing the piano. Under the guidance of her teachers (including Goldie Zaidel, Philip Levy and Adolph Hallis in South Africa and John Lill in London) she won many prizes and awards for her piano performances.

Zaidel-Rudolph studied music at the University of Pretoria and at the Royal College of Music in London, where she received tuition in composition from John

Lambert and Tristram Carey. A meeting with the distinguished pianist and composer György Ligeti led to an invitation to join his class in Hamburg, Germany, an experience which was to prove a major influence in her later compositional work. On her return to South Africa, Zaidel-Rudolph took up a teaching position at the University of the Witwatersrand while pursuing her studies further at the University of Pretoria. Supervised by her life-long mentor, Stefans Grové, she became the first woman in the country, in 1979, to obtain a Doctorate in Composition.

Since her start as a composer in the early 1970s, Zaidel-Rudolph's compositional output has been considerable. Moreover, she has composed in a wide range of musical genres, including choral, ballet, rock opera, film and solo instrumental, as well as for large-scale symphony and for small chamber arrangements. In 1995 she had the honour of arranging the first composite version of South Africa's new National Anthem at the request of former President Nelson Mandela. She was commissioned in 1996 to write a work, *Oratorio for Human Rights*, for the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. In 1997, she composed a song, *He walked to Freedom*, for Nelson Mandela's honorary doctorate ceremony at the University of Cape Town. In 2000, 2002, and 2003 she participated in the show *Celebration* in Canada, the USA and the UK, for which she composed, conducted and orchestrated the music.

Zaidel-Rudolph has been the recipient of many awards. In 1974, she was the first South African composer to be awarded the prestigious Cobbett Prize for composition at the Royal College of Music. In 1986 she won the first prize for composition in the first Total Oil (SA) Competition in South Africa. She also has the distinction of being the first South African composer to have her complete body of work recorded and issued commercially.

This prodigious South African composer, pianist and teacher, is the epitome of the superlative creative talent so abundant in our country. Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph's refined creativity in the field of music composition has coloured our lives and added immensely to the vibrancy and rich texture of our multi-cultural society.

Zaidel-Rudolph's works are regularly performed in Africa, Europe and America. She currently teaches at the School of Music of the University of the Witwatersrand where, since 1975, she has ploughed back much of her expertise and skill into nurturing new talent in the field of music. She is married to fellow academic, Michael Rudolph, who holds the position of Chair of Public Oral Health in the School of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand. They have 4 daughters and two grandchildren.

2.2 THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER

2.2.1 SATHIMA BEA BENJAMIN (1936-)

For her excellent contribution as a jazz artist in the development of music in South Africa and internationally, and contributing to the struggle against *apartheid*.

Sathima Benjamin was born into a humble family in pre-apartheid Claremont, Cape Town in 1936. She was deeply influenced by the cosmopolitan culture she grew up with in the shadows of Table Mountain. Yet, this idyllic youth was soon to be shattered by the declaration of her beloved birth-place as a 'white area'.

By the early 1960s, Benjamin was a talented jazz singer and in great demand in music and theatre. Yet as Apartheid laws were implemented, black performers found it increasingly difficult to earn an income or to maintain a sense of dignity in the face of overt racism. Given limited career opportunities, performers were forced to endure separation of audiences and facilities. As with so many of her contemporaries, Benjamin found herself on foreign shores where she felt she could fully explore her art, first touring with the *Jazz Epistles* in Europe in 1962.

In early 1963, while Benjamin was performing with fellow Cape Town expatriate and pianist Abdullah Ibrahim in Zürich, she met the legendary Duke Ellington. Later Ellington supervised several recording sessions at the famous Barclay Studios in Paris with Benjamin's singing accompanying the *Dollar Brand Trio*, with Ellington and Billy Strayhorn as second and third pianists.

From the early 1960s, Benjamin toured the world, becoming well known in jazz circles and a regular feature at musical festivals. Invited to sing with Ellington's band at the famed Newport Jazz Festival in New York, Benjamin was attracted to that city's cosmopolitan nature which in some way reminded her of her home town, and she settled there in the mid-1960s. There she honed her craft and established herself as a leading exponent of her musical genre. Her uniquely modest stage presence and understated vocalizing made her a sought-after jazz singer.

In New York, Benjamin also took up the fight for liberation, assisting the ANC with fundraising concerts and raising awareness of the struggle.

Sathima Bea Benjamin has recorded more than ten albums. In 1997, after the long-lost original tapes of the legendary recordings with Duke Ellington in Paris were discovered, an album was finally released to much critical acclaim, thirty four years after its first recording. That album captures Benjamin's sublime and captivating voice as a young performer in a repertoire of subtle ballads,

accompanied by no fewer than three of the world's greatest jazz pianists: Abdullah Ibrahim, Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

Sathima Benjamin has added richly to the genre of jazz and jazz vocalization. Her contribution to music in South Africa and the world is truly superlative, and she remains a standard whereby other emerging female jazz singers still measure themselves.

Benjamin is married to the great South African composer and pianist, Abdullah Ibrahim. They have two adult children. She runs her own independent record company, *Ekapa*, which records and distributes jazz music. Benjamin alternates between her adopted city, New York and her home in Cape Town, occasionally performing on other continents.

2.2.2 JOHANNES JACOBUS DEGENAAR (1926-)

For his excellent contribution to philosophy and literature, his intellectual honesty and principled role in the broad struggle to resist conformity to the *apartheid* ideology.

Johannes Jacobus Degenaar was born on 7 March 1926 in Ladysmith and was sent to the Cape as a young man to study at the University of Stellenbosch where he completed his M.A. in 1948 and a D.Phil in 1950. Later on he studied at the universities of Groningen, Leiden, Oxford, Berlin and Heidelberg.

From 1949 he lectured in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Stellenbosch, becoming professor and Head of Department in 1969, a position he held until his retirement in 1991.

Degenaar broke new ground in the rigid and oppressive academic ethos of the University in the 1950s when he began to lecture on the existential philosophers Kierkegaard, Camus and Heidegger. Inspired by the prison writings of Bonhoeffer, the philosopher, Christian and Nazi death camp victim, Degenaar became deeply absorbed by the problem of secularization which led to the writing of the book *Die Sterflikheid van die Siel* (The Mortality of the Soul).

The publication of this thought-provoking book led to friction and later, open hostility from mainstream Afrikaner organizations such as the Dutch Reformed Church and the Broederbond. Yet Degenaar consistently refused to conform to Apartheid ideology and to curtail his ideas.

In his writings, Degenaar uncompromisingly denounced the Apartheid ideology and examined the notion of plural democracy and its viability in the South African context. He also investigated structural violence, analysed notions of ethnicity

and explored Afrikaner thought. In 1958 he formed an informal discussion of like-minded intellectuals of mostly non-Broederbonders.

The burden of fending off sustained pressure to rein him in and contain his teaching at the university eventually compelled him to accept the position of head of a separate and new Department of Political Philosophy where he continued to demonstrate his independent-mindedness. Degenaar later turned to aesthetics and literary theory and his lecture course in the 1980s is still regarded as one of his most valuable philosophical contributions. His most recent research dealt with models of nation building. Degenaar published over 150 articles in scientific journals and a dozen book contributions. His publications range from monographs on N.P. van Wyk Louw, de Chardin and Camus, to philosophical anthropology and political philosophy. He was also involved in a documentary film on the psychology of fairy tales entitled "Understanding Little Red Riding Hood".

Despite being condemned, ostracized and vilified as a traitor by the Afrikaner establishment, Degenaar remained unbending in his convictions. His consistent opposition to Apartheid despite official persecution and his intellectual rigour and depth have made him the embodiment of intellectual honesty and moral integrity.

Degenaar was awarded the Stals prize in 1984, the N.P. van Wyk Louw Medal in 1998 and D. Phil, *honoris causa*, by the University of Stellenbosch in 2001.

2.2.3 VERA GOW (ADAMS) 1932 –

For her excellent contribution to the development of arts and culture in South Africa and sterling performance in the field of operatic music.

Vera Gow was born in Cape Town in 1932. Her primary school years were spent near Evaton in the Free State Province where her father was Dean of the Theological School at the Wilberforce Institute of the African Methodist Church (A.M.E.).

In Evaton, Gow was immersed in an ethos of music and culture, singing in the church and at community weddings. She was profoundly influenced by the *Manhattan Brothers* and Dolly Rathebe who performed at her school.

At the age of 15, Gow moved to Cape Town, where at Trafalgar High School, she thrived in the vibrant milieu of culture and liberation politics, singing in school productions such as *The Peasant Cantata* and *Hiawatha's Wedding*. At 17, Gow joined the legendary Eoan Group in District Six, where, under the guidance and

leadership of its founder, Mrs Southernholt, young people were taught drama, ballet and classical singing.

In 1956, the Eoan Group became the first fully-fledged operatic company in South Africa, albeit an amateur grouping, when under the leadership of Dr Joseph Manca and Mr Ismail Sydow, the Group decided to stage complete operas. Gow became a regular singer in the company and toured the country singing the female role of Flora in *La Traviata* and later, Lolla in *Cavaleria Rusticana*, and Muzzetta in *La Boheme*.

Such was the acclaim of the company that by 1965 it was touring the country with no fewer than five productions: *Rigolletto*, *La Boheme*, *Il trovatore* (with Gow in the lead female role of Leonora), *L'Elisir D'Amore* and *Carmen* (with Gow in the lead role of Carmen).

In 1967 Gow was offered the much-coveted role of Violetta in *La Traviata*, a role she performed over four sold-out seasons of this production. In 1968 she sang in *South Pacific* and two years later in *Carmen Jones*, the musical based on Bizet's *Carmen*.

Yet, the cold winds of Apartheid were beginning to impact on all forms of social living in the Western Cape. District Six was declared white and the beloved A.M.E. church of Gow's father and grandfather was razed to the ground. When the young Dr Chris Barnard went back-stage on the opening night of *South Pacific*, he was hurriedly escorted out for breaking the provisions of the Group Areas Act. Eventually all venues in the city were closed to non-racial performances and in a callous irony, the government's Performing Arts Council opened with a performance of Verdi's *Aida*, at its newly built whites-only operatic venue, the Nico Malan Theatre.

Having qualified as a social worker in 1965, Gow began to work among farm-workers in the Western Cape to improve their working conditions while highlighting the pernicious impact of the "tot-system".

In 1972 Gow won the Johann Nel Award from the Cape Town Players' Club for her substantial contribution to the arts in the Western Cape. In 1979 she moved to Johannesburg and currently lives in Eldorado Park where she continues to pursue her career as a Social Worker. She still sings at local community events. It remains an historical injustice that Vera Gow's achievements and those of the seminal Eoan Group have not yet been given the appropriate consideration by cultural historians.

2.2.4 HASSAN HOWA (1922-1992)

For his excellent contribution to the struggle for and the development of non-racial sport in South Africa.

Hassan Howa was born in 1922 in Cape Town into a large working-class family. He matriculated from Trafalgar High School in District Six after which he worked in the family business. As a young man, Howa was deeply influenced by his father Yusuf Howa, who was a prominent member of the South African Indian Congress, which stood for justice, equality and non-racialism.

In the community in which Howa grew up – one which was collectively the victim of discrimination and racism – where sport played a central role in maintaining a sense of sanity and dignity in the face of oppressive social conditions, his passion was for the game famously described as “the gentleman’s game of flannelled fools”, cricket.

After a memorable amateur career on the pitch, he took up the challenge of cricket administration and the promotion of the sport. In 1947, Howa was a founder member of the SA Cricket Board of Control (SACBOC) which worked resolutely to promote cricket among the dispossessed and the oppressed.

Having experienced poverty and social discrimination throughout his life, Howa deplored the pernicious impact of deprivation and racism on all aspects of human development. For him, participation in sport was critical for the growth and development of the individual as well as for society as a whole.

As the grand scheme of Apartheid separation began to impact on all spheres of South African life, the right to pursue sport became increasingly prescribed, and Howa found it impossible to remain quiet in the face of the naked injustice, blatant inequalities, and the disproportionate allocation of resources of the Apartheid state. These he saw as actively eroding the inherent purpose of sport.

Strongly influenced by the political movements of the Western Cape, with its long-standing tradition of principled opposition to racism, Howa reluctantly found himself becoming the voice of equality and of non-racial sport in South Africa, resolutely refusing to co-operate with the Apartheid-endorsed cricket establishment.

Through SACBOC he led a fearless campaign throughout the 1970s against “white” cricket. Having galvanized the support of communities and community organizations in South Africa and with the support of kindred international organizations, the campaign succeeded in ensuring that the Springboks were banned from participation in international cricket.

Seeing the need to ensure that *all* Apartheid sport be isolated and boycotted, Howa argued for the creation of an over-arching sports body to pursue non-racial sport and was instrumental in the founding of the South African Council on Sports (SACOS). As its leader, he lobbied for South Africa's expulsion from world sport under the slogan: *No "normal" sport in an abnormal society.*

Despite official state harassment and persecution by the security police who kept a close watch on his movements and activities, Howa never relented on his fundamental purpose and mission. The boycott campaign eventually led to the virtual total isolation of Apartheid sport as part of the international political campaign to isolate the Apartheid regime.

Fiercely independent and unbending in his fundamental belief in a non-racial society, Hassan Howa never gave up his dream that one day all children, whatever their class origin, colour or creed, would have the same opportunities to play sport and to represent their country. He devoted his life to the attainment of the noble goal of non-racism in sport.

2.2.5. INGRID JONKER (1933- 1965)

For her excellent contribution to literature and a commitment to the struggle for human rights and democracy in South Africa.

Ingrid Jonker was born on 19 September 1933 on a farm in the rural area of Douglas, near Kimberley in the Northern Cape. After her parents' divorce, Jonker experienced a childhood of material deprivation and emotional setbacks. In her early adulthood she had a short, unhappy marriage.

Jonker was a sensitive child with a keen self-awareness and gifted beyond her years. She started writing poetry at the age of six and her first published poems appeared in her high school magazine. Her first known collection of poems, *Na die Somer* (After the Summer) was compiled in 1946, when she was just thirteen.

By sixteen, she was corresponding with seasoned Afrikaans poets such as D.J. Opperman and publishing regularly in family magazines such as *Die Huisgenoot*. The first collection of poems by Jonker to be published was *Ontvlugting* (Escape), in 1956. After delays caused by the apprehension of nervous publishers, her second collection of poems, *Rook en Oker* (Smoke and Ochre), was published in 1963. This collection, replete with Jonker's now characteristic free verse and sensual yet surrealistic imagery, was received amid much critical acclaim from writers, poets and critics, and fierce official opprobrium. Jonker's work was also condemned by her father, then a leading member of the National Party and the chairperson of the parliamentary committee responsible for the

Apartheid system of censorship. Through sheer depth and the impact of her words, *Rook en Oker* won the prestigious *Afrikaanse Pers- Boekhandel* Prize.

Jonker was an active member of *Die Sestigers*, a group of anti-establishment writers and poets, which included Breyten Breytenbach, Andre Brink, Adam Small and Bartho Smit, who had taken it upon themselves to challenge the conservative literary norms of the time.

South Africa lost a gifted and sensitive poet when, at the age of 31, Ingrid Jonker ended her own life on 19 July 1965.

Much of Jonker's early writing evidently relates to the episodes and trauma of her early life. Yet as a mature poet, Jonker never failed to express compassion for her fellow human beings, reflecting a refreshing innocence devoid of pernicious social prejudice and hatred. This seminal Afrikaans language poet sensitively engaged with the cause of the poor and the lot of black South Africans from the position of a common humanity.

The advanced ideas inherent in Ingrid Jonker's poems have made her a recognized literary figure internationally, with her poems being studied, translated and published in many languages including English, German, French, Dutch, Polish, Hindi and Zulu. The collected works of Jonker, including several short stories and a play, were published in 1975 and re-issued in 1983 and 1994.

Former President Nelson Mandela, in commenting on Jonker's poem *Die Kind* (The Child), which he read out in full in his inaugural State of the Nation address to Parliament in May 1994, said, "... in this glorious vision, she instructs that our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child". Of Jonker herself, Mandela said that: "She was both a poet and a South African. She was both an Afrikaner and an African. She was both an artist and a human being. In the midst of despair, she celebrated hope. Confronted by death, she asserted the beauty of life."

Ingrid Jonker's sensitive, humane and forward-looking perspectives have made her a literary icon of a whole new generation of Afrikaners and South Africans, who have re-discovered her relevance in a free and democratic South Africa.

2.2.6 ELSA JOUBERT (ELSABÉ ANTOINETTE MURRAY STEYTLER (1922-)

For her excellent achievements in literature and for contributing to the development of journalism in South Africa.

Elsabé Antoinette Murray Joubert (married surname Steytler) was born on 19 October 1922 in Paarl where she grew up, and studied at the universities of Stellenbosch (BA and SOD) and Cape Town (MA in Afrikaans-Nederlands).

Within two years of starting a career as a high school teacher in Cradock she became editor of *Die Huisgenoot* (1946-1948) and thereafter a full-time writer. Since then Joubert has written numerous novels, short stories, travelogues and plays.

Joubert's works are mainly inspired by the continent of Africa, in which she has travelled extensively. Very early on in her career as a writer, Joubert rejected the strictures of mainstream Afrikaner writing and threw in her lot with the emerging Afrikaner literary dissident movement. The publication in 1979 of her novel *Die Swerfjare van Poppie Nongena* (translated by Joubert herself into English in 1980 as *The long Journey of Poppie Nongena*) - an epic tale of the endless adversity and struggle of a humble black woman under Apartheid laws - had a major impact, both in the literary world as well as in broader South African society. In that novel, Joubert chose to portray South Africa in a poignant yet honest manner. The plot reflected the brutality and injustice of the Apartheid system, while her characterizations reflected the courage and fortitude of people in the face of hardship and difficulty.

Her novel *Die Reise van Isobelle* (published in 1995 and translated into English by Catherine Knox as "The long journey of Isobelle" in 2002), which deals with the story of the women of an Afrikaner family spanning 100 years, is sometimes described as the "racial flipside of *Poppie*" in that it explores with deep insight and sensitivity, the cultural and historical milieu within which essentially well-meaning people were misled into supporting Apartheid. This novel lifted the veil to reveal the essential truth of the Apartheid tragedy, and won Joubert the Eugène Marais and Hertzog prizes in 1997.

Joubert is much celebrated and internationally recognized for her contribution to South African, and especially Afrikaans, literature. She has been awarded several prestigious literary prizes locally and internationally. She is the recipient of almost every prize for Afrikaans writing, many more than once. For *Poppie*, Joubert received three prestigious prizes (the W.A. Hofmeyr, the Louis Luyt and the CNA prizes). She was also awarded the Winifred Holtby prize in 1981 by the British Royal Society of Literature and was made a fellow of that society. *Poppie* is commonly regarded as one of the best novels to have emerged on the African continent in the 20th century.

Joubert's work has been translated into many languages, with *Poppie* being translated into no fewer than 13 languages. From 1982 to 1984, her drama based on *Poppie* (co-authored with Sandra Kotzé) was performed worldwide, to much acclaim. For this work Joubert and the co-author received the Olivier award for the best play (London), and an Obi award for best script (New York). In 1998 Joubert was again awarded the Hertzog prize for Prose. Elsa Joubert received an honorary doctorate from the University of Stellenbosch in 2001 for her contribution to literature.

The total body of work of the illustrious and prolific Elsa Joubert, remains seminal to the development of South African and Afrikaans literature.

Elsa was married to the journalist and writer, the late Klaas Steytler. She has two daughters and a son and lives in Cape Town.

2.2.7 ALFRED KHUMALO (1930 -)

For his excellent contribution to documentary photography and journalism in South Africa.

Alf Khumalo was born in Johannesburg and matriculated at the Wilberforce Institute in Evaton.

He started his working career as a journalist in 1951, freelancing for *Bantu World* where he was also expected to take photographs to illustrate his stories. As a young man, Khumalo had been captivated by the visual impact of the printed picture, and especially its ability to capture permanently the essence of what is seen or imagined and to “freeze moments in time”, even trying his hand at drawing scenes which caught his attention. Having experienced the matchless facility of the camera to capture the image, Khumalo’s childhood obsession inevitably led him to follow the profession of photography.

In the course of an illustrious career as a documentary photographer for over half a century, Khumalo has documented the life and times of the evolving South Africa, both the commonplace and the historic, in the process capturing on film for all time, much of our collective history. Khumalo documented *inter alia*, the Treason Trial, the Rivonia Trial, the resurgence of the trade unions in the 1970s, the emergence of Black Consciousness, the Student Uprising of 1976, the state of emergencies of the 1980s, the un-banning of the liberation movements, the Codesa talks, the first democratic elections and the inauguration of the first democratic government. His drive to capture the moment allowed him the privilege of witnessing and recording extraordinary moments despite numerous bouts of detention, arrests and official harassment.

Over the years, his work has been published in newspapers and journals in most South African newspapers and in many across the globe, including *The Observer* (UK), *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *The Sunday Independent* (UK). Most recently, Khumalo was given the singular honour of exhibiting a collection of his life’s work at the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2004, an exhibition that drew much acclaim.

Despite his age, Khumalo continues to work professionally and to dedicate his time and effort to promoting his craft. In an effort to ensure that a new generation of South African photographers emerge and to make sure that aspiring photographers do not face the same obstacles he did when he started out, he has opened a photographic school in Diepkloof, Soweto, which offers nine-month courses designed to train photographers from disadvantaged backgrounds.

South Africa will for all time be indebted to this outstanding documentary photographer whose immense body of work stands as a monument to his perseverance and to the dedication to his art, as well as to the struggles that have won us freedom and democracy.

2.2.8 ELIJAH MAKHATHINI (1942-)

For his excellent contribution to and achievements in South African boxing against *apartheid* odds.

Elijah Makhathini was born on 3 October 1942, in Eshowe, KwaZulu Natal.

Coming from a humble background and with little formal education, Makhathini started working at an early age to contribute to the well-being of the family. At a time when there were few alternative opportunities for sport and recreation for black people, Makhathini took to boxing at the local gym to keep fit. Soon his grace and speed in the ring made him a recognisable and popular participant at amateur boxing matches.

Despite the prowess he displayed in the ring early on, he was to wait until February 1971, by which time he was 29 years old, before he was able to claim professional status as a middleweight.

In his first professional bout Makhathini beat a leading boxer named Phuthumakuboni on a technical knockout in the 5th round, which was a portend of the success he was to enjoy over the next few years. In the same year he won 12 fights in a row – a feat unprecedented at the time – before being held to a draw over 10 rounds by Joseph Sishi. The following year at Currie's Fountain in Durban, he beat his first international opponent, the then former world welterweight champion Curtis Cokes. Thereafter followed a string of further successes in the ring. In August 1974, "Tap Tap" as he became popularly known, fought and beat Juarez de Lima. A year later he out-boxed former world welterweight and middleweight champion Emile Griffith. In 1976 Elijah knocked out Victor Ntloko in the 7th round to win the SA black middleweight title. When he knocked out Jan Kies in three rounds at the Rand Stadium later in the same year, he became South Africa's first undisputed national middleweight champion, a title he successfully defended twice in 1977. Although he lost that title in 1978

to Doug Lumley in Durban, he continued with exceptional performances in the ring, remaining unbeaten in seven fights in the same year. In 1979 he beat the formidable Charlie Weir by a knockout in the 8th round.

Makhathini retired from professional boxing in 1980, still the reigning South African champion in the Super Middleweight division.

In Elijah Makhathini's relatively short professional boxing career, he achieved the success which few professional boxers enjoy in much longer careers. He remains a South African sporting hero and symbol of accomplishment and triumph in the face of adversity.

2.2.9 JAMES MATTHEWS (1929 -)

For his excellent achievements in literature, contributing to journalism and his inspirational commitment to the struggle for a non-racial South Africa.

James Matthews was born on 25 May 1929 in District Six in Cape Town to working class parents. After completing standard seven, Matthews began to work and held a variety of jobs, including newspaper boy, office messenger, clerk, and telephonist.

Yet for Matthews, the lure of words and the art of expression were fundamental to his being. His first writings were published in 1946 at the age of 17. Soon he found himself working as a journalist. Over the years, Matthews contributed to many national newspapers such as the *Golden City Post*, *The Cape Times*, and *Drum*, and later to the independent community newspaper, *Muslim News*.

His gift was for creative writing and poetry to which he was inexorably drawn, even at great cost to himself. Through short stories, Matthews explored the issues, dilemmas and the world of the working class in Cape Town and the townships, sprawled across the Cape Flats to which black people were forcibly removed.

Having witnessed the profound impact of poverty, exploitation and racism on the psyche and outlook of the oppressed, Matthews became, through his poetry, a leading articulator of the Black Consciousness philosophy which propagated the notion of self-reliance to counter the insidious de-humanisation of black people. His first published collection of poetry *Cry Rage* (co-authored with Gladys Thomas and published in 1972) became the first collection of poetry to be banned by the Apartheid regime. Most of Matthews's later publications were banned as well. In 1976, Matthews was himself detained at Victor Verster prison near Paarl in the Western Cape and he was repeatedly denied a passport.

Matthews was determined to pursue his chosen path as an independent thinker, writer and cultural worker despite official repression and harassment. His brand of political writing powerfully articulated the demands and longing of South Africans at the height of Apartheid repression. A keen sense of purpose led him to establish the first black-owned art gallery in Cape Town and to set up his own publishing house, BLAC, an acronym for Black Literature, Arts & Culture.

Even though Matthews's poetry, short stories and novel were read across the world and he was recognised as a major writer and poet, years of enforced isolation cut him off from his readership. Deprived of the commercial success that should have been his due, Matthews's life was one of financial hardship and poverty.

Matthews is an exceptionally gifted intellectual whose commitment to political and social justice and demanding *littérature engagée* is only surpassed by his humility and fierce independence. His art gallery and publishing house – though financially unsuccessful – were significant symbolic blows against the enforced cultural desert of Apartheid. It provided the indispensable, albeit short-lived space for true artistic and literary expression which served as the launch-pad for the continuing development of South African writing.

Matthews was elected patron of the Congress of South African Writers at its founding in 1987 and received the freedom of Lehrte and Nürnberg (both in Germany), while the University of Iowa in the USA awarded him an Honorary Fellowship in Writing. Matthews has also read and lectured at several German Universities.

In 2000, Matthews established *Realities*, a new publishing house to follow his dream of creating a publishing vehicle for South African writers. Matthews still lives on the Cape Flats, where he continues to give readings at local high schools.

2.2.10 THEO MTHEMBU (1927 -)

For his excellent contribution to the development of boxing as a professional fighter, trainer and writer, and to the struggle for non-racial sport in South Africa.

Theo Mthembu was born in Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal on 27 February 1927.

Mthembu's boxing career started at the age of 16 at Inkamane College in Vryheid, KwaZulu Natal and later at the Adams College at Amanzimtoti where he trained under the legendary Khabi Mngoma.

Mthembu turned professional in 1948 after enrolling at the Bantu Men's Social Centre Boxing Club in Eloff Street, Johannesburg. In 1950 he was instrumental in establishing a boxing club at Entokozweni Family Welfare Centre in Alexandra Township, which produced three Transvaal Provincial Champions in its first year of operation. Mthembu's active boxing career was cut tragically short the following year when he was caught in the crossfire of a gun-fight and badly wounded.

Although Mthembu could no longer box, his love for the sport led him, a few years after the shooting tragedy, to pursue a career as a trainer and later as a boxing writer. In 1955 he moved to Dube Village, Soweto where he set about establishing a boxing club, at first using a classroom at the Orlando West Primary School as a venue. Two years later, the club moved to the corner of Mahalefele and Sandile Streets in Dube, where it has remained until today.

Mthembu, together with Dennis Brutus, Rev. Sigamony, Essop Pahad and a few others helped to found the first non-racial sports movement in the then Transvaal. As a trainer, Mthembu proved to be a godsend to the youth of Soweto. Despite the severe lack of equipment and relatively primitive facilities he devoted himself to helping local youngsters and to nurturing the talent he saw, whilst struggling to improve amenities at Dube.

He was handsomely rewarded when he produced the world-rated Anthony "Blue Jaguar" Morodi, the S.A Bantam, Junior Light and Lightweight Champion as well as Levy "Golden Boy" Madi, the S.A Featherweight Champion. His burning desire and ambition to produce a world champion was realized when he took in a scrawny 10-year-old youth whom he painstakingly cultivated. Today Jacob "Baby Jake" Matlala - the shortest fighter in professional boxing - is a legend who became the first South African to win three world titles.

Mthembu, an excellent writer, analyst and critic, promoted the sport brazenly in his journalistic career. When in the mid-70s Mthembu started a newspaper for Black miners called *Mining Sun*, he advanced the cause of boxing by giving it much exposure, a move which led directly to the introduction of amateur boxing in the mining industry.

Mthembu has won many awards and prizes for his contribution to sport and boxing. In 1998 he was presented with the Jack Cheetham Memorial Award for contribution to sport. He was also awarded the President's Sports Award (Silver) by former President Nelson Mandela, the Life-Time Achievement Award presented to him by Boxing South Africa, the King Kong Meritorious Award, and the Special Recognition for Achievement (2003) by the Gauteng Provincial Government.

Few men have devoted themselves to the sport of boxing in South Africa as unconditionally as Theo Mthembu has. This accomplished gentleman has remained faithful to and passionate about his sport over the course of a long career as a boxer, a trainer, a manager and a journalist. South African boxing has been the richer for Mthembu's presence.

Mthembu who is retired, follows boxing as eagerly as he did during his youth and still writes on the subject.

2.2.11 DOLLY RATHEBE (1930 - 2004)

For her excellent contribution to music and the performing arts and commitment to the ideals of justice, freedom and democracy.

Dolly Rathebe was born in Randfontein, west of Johannesburg, in 1928, but grew up within the unique cultural and political milieu of Sophiatown in the 1930s and 1940s.

As a young woman Rathebe was drawn to the burgeoning and vibrant music scene in Sophiatown and started singing with local jazz bands in neighbourhood clubs. In 1949 she was spotted by a talent scout - and was offered the lead female role in *Jim Comes to Joburg*, one of the earliest South African films made for a primarily black audience. Although she was essentially untrained as an actor, her sparkling performance as a nightclub singer revealed a raw, natural talent. Dolly, as she was popularly called, was in great public demand and became the first African female movie star.

Soon Rathebe was in every suburban and township lounge, gracing the cover of the ubiquitous *Drum* magazine and her fame as a jazz singer grew considerably. The fact that she had been arrested with *Drum* photographer, Jürgen Schadeberg - for contravention of Apartheid laws while on a photo-shoot - only served to swell her now widespread fan base. "Dolly" was now the nation's sweetheart and as a measure of her mass support, her very name became synonymous for "all right" or "okay" in township slang.

In the next decade, Rathebe toured the country and the region extensively with South Africa's top bands, including the Manhattan Stars and the Harlem Swingsters. She also featured as the star attraction on Alf Herbert's famous *African Jazz and Variety Show* which opened in 1954 and ran for many years.

Similarly, when the seminal South African production of *King Kong* opened in 1962 it included Rathebe in its illustrious line-up. That production eventually took the UK by storm, but sadly, in the aftermath of the Sharpeville massacre, resulted in many of the country's top performers remaining in exile for many years. Rathebe, however, returned to her homeland. The precipitous impact of the

dislocation of stable communities into dormitory townships and with a cultural landscape largely denuded of its best talent, authentic cultural expression went into utter decline and was to take a long time to recover.

Although Rathebe's career was to be briefly revived in the mid-1960s when she joined the Elite Swingsters - the Afro-jazz group which achieved some international success, she was never able to recreate her former fame.

Rathebe finally retired from her music career and after stints in Port Elizabeth, Durban and Cape Town, eventually moved to Mabopane, near Pretoria in 1971, occasionally making an appearance on the stage and in the studio – her last recording was with the reunited Elite Swingsters in 1991.

In her later years, Rathebe occupied herself with community work and development. Motivated by the need to give a helping hand to the poor and the less fortunate, she was instrumental in the building of a community hall in Mabopane and funded the construction of a centre called *Meriting kwaDolly*, (“Dolly's Retreat”) at Sofasonke village near Klipgat, north of Pretoria. She was a member of the executive committee of the Ikageng Women's League.

Dolly Rathebe was a principal player in the cultural renaissance which flowered briefly before it was terminated by Apartheid. She contributed hugely to the development of what was to become the inimitable and enduring sound of South African Jazz. Sadly she passed away soon after she had been nominated for national honours.

2.2.12 MMAPULA MMAKGOBA HELEN SEBIDI (1943-)

For making an excellent contribution in the field of visual and traditional arts and craft.

Mmapula Mmakgoba Helen Sebidi was born in Marapyane, near Hammanskraal, in 1943. She developed a life-long love for the designs of traditional arts and craft when as a young girl she accompanied her grandmother who was a traditional wall and floor painter.

Coming from a humble family with limited means of obtaining formal education, circumstances forced Sebidi to seek work as a domestic worker in Johannesburg. In private and in her own time she pursued her nascent sense of creativity until her work was discovered by her employer, who, astonished by her talent, encouraged her to paint.

Realising that she needed to receive formal lessons in the art of painting, Sebidi enrolled to study from 1970 to 1973 at the remarkable White Studio established by the pioneering black painter John Keonakeefe Mohl in Sophiatown.

With a firm grounding in the fundamentals of painting technique and composition, Sebidi's art made a qualitative leap. She broadened the scope of her medium and her work began to be noticed within the art world. Soon, she was asked to exhibit. The *Johannesburg Artists under the Sun* exhibitions in the early 1980s represented a commercial breakthrough for her, enabling her to make a decent living from her art for the first time.

Having experienced the difficulty of pursuing art as a career, Sebidi was concerned with the development of art appreciation and art education. In 1985 she took up a teaching position at the Katlehong Art Centre near Germiston. Between 1986 and 1988 she worked for the Johannesburg Art Foundation while teaching at the Alexandra Art Centre. She also participated in numerous art projects with community organisations such as the Funda Art Centre, and the Thupelo Art Workshop.

Sebidi draws her inspiration for her work on the happenings and experiences of daily township life. The suffering and disruption inflicted by Apartheid, especially on women, are common themes, often executed with complementary techniques. In the celebrated collage pieces *Tear of Africa* and *Where is My Home?* The artist renders her subject matter in broad jagged brush or crayon strokes playing with contrasting light and dark tones to emphasise the idea of rupture.

Sebidi was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to travel to the USA and exhibit at the Worldwide Economic Contemporary Artists' Fund Exhibition. In 1989 she was awarded the Standard Bank Young Artist Award. Helen Sebidi, as she is known professionally, has become a recognized artist in South Africa and internationally. Her work is exhibited regularly in major galleries across the country and abroad. Her work is routinely included in standard reference books on South African art.

The life-history of the struggle of this consummate artist, to follow her innate need to express herself through art, her adversity and challenges, and finally her critical success, stands as a metaphor for our collective struggle to define ourselves as a nation. Mmapula Mmakgoba Helen Sebidi's work reminds us of where we come from, and prompts us towards our future. Her body of work continues to nourish our collective soul as a nation.

2.2.13 SEWSUNKER SEWGOLUM (1930-1978)

For his excellent achievements in the field of golf and his perseverance in the face of debilitating *apartheid* laws.

Sewsunker Sewgolum was born in 1930 into a family of poor sugarcane labourers in Natal and started working at an early age. As a young boy,

Sewgolum took to imitating the golfers he had seen on a nearby golf course by hitting a golf ball with a syringa stick.

Later, Sewgolum was able to practice his childhood passion when as a caddie he was given an old second-hand golf club. At the club where he was a caddie, he was allowed to play on Mondays and despite his unorthodox golf grip, Sewgolum honed his technique and was soon acknowledged as an exceptional player.

Sewgolum began to dream of playing professionally and finally made a brilliant debut as a professional in 1959 when he won the Dutch Open, which he won again in 1960 and 1963. Despite Sewgolum's success, as a black golfer he was not allowed to play professionally in his own country. The golfing establishment regarded him with amusement and mild embarrassment, while to the Apartheid officials overseeing sport he was a black trouble-maker, who should not have aspired to play golf professionally. For years Sewgolum was forced to pursue his game as an amateur in "non-European" tournaments.

Under pressure, the authorities permitted Sewgolum to play in the Natal Open in 1963 at the famous Durban Country Club after having been satisfied that Apartheid laws would not be broken. "Suitable arrangements" were made for Sewgolum to use a mini-van as a change room and have his meals with the black caddies. When Sewgolum did the impossible and won, to the eternal disgrace and shame of both the white golfing fraternity and government officials, Sewgolum was not allowed to enter the Durban country club to receive his prize.

A picture of a downcast Sewgolum standing in the rain being handed his trophy through an open window - while the rest of the golfers and officials were warmly ensconced in the clubhouse enjoying the post-game fare, outraged the world and gave impetus to the international movement to boycott Apartheid sport.

For inadvertently putting the bigoted state policy under the international spotlight, Sewgolum became a target of official harassment and machination. When he again won the Natal Open two years later, Apartheid *apparatchiks* were determined not to make any "concessions" thereafter and explicitly thwarted his chance of representing his own country in golf.

Within a year of this victory, Sewgolum was banned by the South African government: He was not allowed to play in any tournaments, could not enter any golf course, not even as a spectator. Out of sheer malice the Apartheid government withdrew his passport, thus closing off any possibility of competing internationally. In 1970 he was specifically banned from the Natal Open.

In the ensuing years, denied the right to play the game he loved, Sewgolum was said to be a broken man, struggling to survive and staring forlornly at his golf trophies. He died a pauper in 1978, at the relatively young age of 48.

This unassuming son of farm labourers, who could not read or write, dared to dream, and succeed, in the face of overwhelming adversity, including a racist golfing establishment and - in a classic irony of apartheid logic – a government which actively undermined his accomplishments and outrageously humiliated and scorned him.

Sewsunker Sewgolum still remains one of the greatest golfers to come out of South Africa.

2.3 THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

2.3.1 NATALIE DU TOIT (1984-)

For excellent achievements in the international sporting arena and serving as an inspiration to all South Africans.

As a young girl of 14, Natalie Du Toit represented South Africa in swimming at the Commonwealth Games held in Kuala Lumpur in 1998. For such a young achiever the world was her oyster and Du Toit had every reason to have high hopes.

In a tragic scooter accident less than two years later, Du Toit lost a leg. Yet so strong was her determination to overcome her setback that within four weeks, before she had learnt to walk without assistance, she was back in the swimming pool.

Twelve months later she won the 50m and 100m disability freestyle swimming titles at the Commonwealth Games held in Manchester in 2002, breaking two world records in the process. Even more astonishing was her historic qualification for the 800m *able-bodied* open freestyle final – the first time ever that an athlete with a disability had qualified for a final – and her incredible second place in that event. Du Toit repeated this feat the following year, beating many other elite able-bodied swimmers at the 2003 All-Africa and Afro-Asian Games.

Earlier this year, Du Toit was heralded as among the greats of Paralympic history when she took no fewer than six medals at the Athens Paralympics, five of which were gold and one silver. In the process she set four world records and one Paralympics record. Du Toit again made Paralympics history when she smashed the record for the 400m freestyle with a stunning 4 min 28,09 seconds win that lopped an incredible 7,06 seconds off the previous world record which she had also set in 2003.

Besides her truly amazing accomplishments as a swimmer, Du Toit is also an inspirational speaker, actively campaigning for the rights of disabled people in South Africa and worldwide. She believes that “society needs to understand that we are people first, who happen to have disabilities. There is nothing wrong with us. It is a lack of reasonable accommodation that prevents us from contributing meaningfully to the economy, sport, education, housing and transport”.

Natalie du Toit is a living example of tenacity and human triumph over adversity. She is a true inspiration to all South Africans and to young people the world over.

Du Toit was presented with the David Dixon Award as the outstanding athlete of the Commonwealth Games and was named South Africa's top Sportswoman of 2002. She is currently studying genetics – her passion - and physiology at the University of Cape Town. Her dream is to represent her country in the able-bodied Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

2.3.2 JOSEPH ALBERT MASHITE MOKOENA (1919 – 1969)

For his exceptional contribution to the field of mathematics, and dedication to the development of South Africa and the African continent.

Joseph Albert Mashite Mokoena was born in Johannesburg on 25 November 1919. From an early age, he displayed a special affinity for the abstract world of Mathematics.

Mokoena passed the Junior Certificate and Matriculation examinations with flying colours at St. Peter's Secondary School. When he graduated from the Fort Hare University College in 1942 with a B.Sc. degree, he did so with a distinction in Mathematics. While teaching at Fort Hare he was awarded the B.Sc. Honours degree from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1944, after which he went on to achieve a first-class M.Sc. with distinction from the University of South Africa in 1948. In 1950 he was awarded a research fellowship in Mathematics at Brown University (Providence, Rhode Island, USA). During this tenure he collaborated with colleagues at McGill University in Canada.

In common with many African intellectuals of the day, Mokoena was inspired by the wave of liberation politics sweeping the African continent. Even while working towards his Ph.D. in Mathematics, Mokoena was drawn to the challenge of contributing to the development of the Continent and supporting the liberation movements in recently liberated African countries.

His first port of call was Kumasi in the newly independent Ghana where, in 1957, he joined the Mathematics department of the then Kumasi College of Technology (now the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology). While in Kumasi, Mokoena was awarded his Ph.D. degree in Mathematics by the

University of the Witwatersrand in April 1959. Thereafter, in 1960, he moved to Zaria in Northern Nigeria to teach at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology (since renamed Ahmadu Bello University). After a short stint at Aston College of Technology (now Aston University) in Birmingham, United Kingdom in 1963, Mokoena returned to his beloved home continent where he was employed as UNESCO Mathematics lecturer at the then University of Rhodesia in Salisbury (now the University of Zimbabwe in Harare). The impending Unilateral Declaration of Independence saw Mokoena upping himself to neighbouring Zambia where he took up a position in 1965 at the fledgling School of Natural Sciences at the University of Zambia again as UNESCO lecturer, where he contributed to the development of the Mathematics curriculum of that new university.

In February 1969, at the age of 49, Mokoena passed away following injuries sustained in a car accident in Lusaka.

Fate prematurely robbed the African continent of one of its great mathematicians. Yet in his short life, Mokoena made an indelible mark in the field of Mathematics and Mathematics education in Africa. Although a retiring and studious individual with a singular passion for Mathematics, his humble beginnings and deeply felt need to contribute to the development of his people drew him to dedicate himself to the ideal of freedom for his continent.

2.3.3 MILWA MNYALUZA PEMBA (1912-2001)

For his pioneering and exceptional contribution to the development of the art of painting and literature.

Milwa Mnyaluza Pemba was born on 2 April 1912 at Hill's Kraal in Korsten, Port Elizabeth. Although art classes were not offered at the Van der Kemp Mission Primary School where he schooled, Pemba developed an early love for art which his father encouraged by buying him pencils and crayons. The young Pemba became notorious for escaping from the drudgery of schoolwork into his private world of drawing.

In 1924 Pemba won a Grey Scholarship to Paterson School where he devoured the art books in the school library. As a 16 year old pupil, he entered and won an art competition at a local agricultural show. Pemba began to expand his repertoire to include drawing portraits based on photographs for which he earned pocket-money.

While convalescing from an appendicitis operation in 1931, Pemba took to producing sketches and paintings of fellow patients and staff. After being introduced to the artist Ethel Smyth, who taught him the foundations of the

medium of watercolour, he produced a portrait of an old man, a patient at the hospital. Rev. Dr Shepherd, the Director of the Lovedale Press and Chaplain of Lovedale College, was so impressed that he asked permission for the watercolour to be used for the frontispiece of the book *U-Nolishwa* by Henry Ndawo and commissioned Pemba to prepare illustrations for the book. Thus Pemba became involved in the first book known to be written, illustrated, printed and bound by Africans.

Pemba's art was his passion, yet art was not a viable career for a young black man in the early part of the 20th Century, and Pemba studied teaching and took up a position at the Wesleyan Mission School in King William's Town in 1935.

He continued to pursue his art successfully over the next six decades. His exquisite paintings and drawings slowly began to attract a wider audience and led to his exhibiting more widely. After his works were accepted for an exhibition of "Negro and Bantu Art" in Port Elizabeth in the late 1930s, Pemba exhibited regularly (until shortly before his death in 2001).

Pemba turned professional in the late 1940s, and entirely against the tide of the growing threat of overt racism engulfing South African society, held his first solo exhibition in East London in 1948. Pemba's successful exhibition and the sale of his paintings, at the Eastern Province Art Association's annual exhibition in 1965, provoked undisguised racial hostility.

Despite indifference from the mainstream art world which regarded his work at best as colloquial, and antipathy from the Apartheid government which, given the pre-ordained prescriptions of the Apartheid ideology, saw his profession as inappropriate for a 'native', Pemba persevered with his work thanks to the support of a few patrons, and his wife Eunice who helped to supplement his income by running a 'house shop'.

In the last few years of his life, this great pioneering South African artist, Milwa Mnyaluza Pemba, commonly known as George Pemba, who in 1944 wrote that "I do not know if ever I will become a great artist, but an artist of my own nation I surely am to be...", received belated recognition from the art world and South Africans at large. His artistic talent – reflected in the body of work he has left to posterity - and his dogged determination to express himself as a black artist despite the odds, mark him as a South African who shall be remembered and admired for all time.

Pemba, who was also a writer of note, penning at least two plays known to have been staged, was conferred with an honorary Masters' Degree from University of Fort Hare in 1979 for his contribution to South African art.

2.3.4 SOUTH AFRICA'S 2010 SOCCER WORLD CUP BID COMMITTEE

For its exceptional contribution to the world of sport and for displaying great wisdom and leadership in the successful bid to host the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Having experienced the bitter national disappointment of a previous bid attempt and having taken to heart the hard lessons of that failure, South Africa's soccer fraternity under the leadership of Molefe Oliphant, President of SAFA, went back to the drawing board with humility to prepare for another attempt at securing the much-coveted event on behalf of the nation. Displaying unity and single-mindedness over a period of four years, the committee focused on the task at hand. Painfully analysing the weaknesses of the previous bid through minute examination and analysis of presentation and strategy, the 2010 World Cup Bid Committee unpacked the barely apparent flaws of the ill-fated earlier bid without rancour, spite or ill-feeling.

Drawing on the individual strengths of each committee member, with each of them displaying great presence of mind and a keen strategic sense, the committee under the chairpersonship of Ivan Khoza, collectively engineered a new bid based on detailed plans for imaginative stadia within a developmental environment, comprehensive security preparations for any contingency, creative hospitality and transport arrangements for tournament participants and enthusiasts, and world-class technological and infrastructural capability, all presented with just sufficient seasoning and flavour to showcase the sheer love of the country for the sport.

Thus was prepared a bid which was the envy of many other countries with many times the resources. With nothing left to chance, the complicated process was stage-managed by the CEO of the Bid Committee, Danny Jordaan, with skill and refinement. The sterling work of the Bid Committee was confirmed by a FIFA Technical Committee which rated the South African bid above all the other contenders on technical grounds.

Needless to say, South Africa's bid coaxed even the most cynical observer into admiration and swayed the most sceptical assessor to the firm conviction that South Africa was the best and most appropriate host and venue for the prized tournament.

All South Africans are proud of winning the bid and are grateful for the efforts and hard work of the committee, who without resorting to under-handedness and intrigue, did what was necessary to pursue the goal of convincing the world of our state of readiness.

Not letting the previous setback undermine their conviction, the committee focused on what was needed to turn the great wish of the South African people

into a reality. In performing their national duty, they have made all South Africa, and indeed all of Africa, immensely proud.

3. THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE

3.1 THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN GOLD

3.1.1 SYDNEY BRENNER (1927-)

For his exceptional contribution in the field of medicine and for putting South Africa on the world stage.

Sydney Brenner was born on 13 January 1927 in Germiston. Brenner went to Germiston High School where he matriculated in 1941.

Having developed an interest in Chemistry while still at school, Brenner gradually accumulated enough test tubes and other glassware to do chemical experiments at home, using small quantities of chemicals purchased from a chemist. He soon graduated to biochemistry and tried to discover what gave flowers their distinctive colours, making his first discovery in his home-made laboratory that the pigments he extracted changed colour when the pH of the solution was changed.

Brenner went to the University of the Witwatersrand to study medicine, graduating with the degree of MB BCh in 1951. He spent two more years doing an Honours degree and an M.Sc. in the field of Cytogenetics – a subject which he essentially taught himself – and which was the beginning of his research in the field of Genetics. Thereafter he went to Oxford to do a PhD in Physical Chemistry.

Brenner's scientific bibliography began well before he had his first degree. In 1945 he co-authored a scientific paper with two others. His first paper as sole author appeared in 1946.

On his return from Oxford he set up a laboratory in the Department of Physiology in the Medical School in South Africa and set himself the task of developing a bacteriophage system which could be used to solve the genetic code. He continued to work on theoretical aspects of the genetic code and during this period was able to prove the impossibility of all overlapping triplet codes, a discovery which was circulated in the prestigious journal of the RNA Tie Club and later communicated to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In December 1956 Brenner was offered work at the esteemed Cavendish Unit in the United Kingdom where he continued his work on molecular genetics, initiating groundbreaking research into the genetic make-up of the *C. elegans* there. He

became director of its successor, the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, in 1977. In 1995, he founded the Molecular Sciences Institute set up with funds from the industry. Brenner retired from the Institute in 2000 and in 2001 was appointed a Distinguished Professor in the Salk Institute in La Jolla, USA.

Sydney Brenner's long and distinguished career as a first-rate scientist and his innovative scientific contributions have made him one of the world's leaders in scientific research.

3.2 THE ORDER OF MAPUNGUBWE IN BRONZE

3.2.1 TSHILIDZI MARWALA (1971-)

For outstanding contributions to, and inspirational achievements in, the field of engineering science.

Tshilidzi Marwala was born at Duthuni Village in the Tshivhase region of the Limpopo Province on 28 July 1971. He attended the Dimani Agricultural High School and matriculated from the Mbilwi Secondary School in 1989. In his matriculation year, Marwala entered and won the National Youth Science Olympiad and was sent to the United Kingdom to attend the London International Youth Science Fortnight.

The youthful Marwala used the opportunity to visit the University College of London and Oxford University where he gained an appreciation of the importance of engineering and science for the development of modern society.

Determined to make a difference in his own country, he made up his mind to follow a career in engineering, but having missed the deadline for university study, he wasted no time in enrolling in a post-matric programme at St. John's College in Johannesburg. The following year, Marwala was awarded a scholarship by the Educational Opportunities Council to study Mechanical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University in the USA where he graduated *Magna Cum Laude* (higher distinction).

In 1995 he was employed at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research as a project engineer. Marwala studied at the University of Pretoria and obtained his Masters in Mechanical Engineering in 1996. Between 1997 and 2000, Marwala went to the University of Cambridge to do a PhD in Computational Intelligence, after which he became a post-doctoral research associate at the University of

London's Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine where he worked on intelligence software.

On his return to South Africa in 2001, he took up a position at the South African Breweries to work on projects to develop artificial tasters and the electronic nose, before taking up his current position as Associate Professor and Head of Control and Systems Group at the School of Electrical and Information Engineering of the University of the Witwatersrand. As a measure of his achievement and professional regard, Marwala has also been appointed as Extraordinary Professor of the University of Pretoria.

In his relatively short career, Marwala has published more than 50 papers and articles in international journals, conference proceedings and books and has received more than 30 academic awards for his work, including the National Research Foundation's President Award. He has presented papers in 14 international conferences in South Africa, Europe, Asia and North America. His work has been cited by many organizations including the International Standards Organizations (ISO) and NASA. Marwala collaborates with researchers in South Africa, the United States of America, England, France, Sweden and India. He regularly acts as a reviewer for international journals.

Thirty-three year-old Professor Tshilidzi Marwala's accomplishments are nothing short of astounding. Through hard work and personal application, this young South African from deep rural South Africa, has excelled in his chosen field of study, transporting himself to the cutting edge of his profession. By realizing his childhood dream of contributing to the development of his country and continent, he has become a living example of what liberation means for personal and national development. He is an inspiration to all South Africans.

Marwala currently serves as a councillor for the National Advisory Council on Innovation, is an executive member of the South African Council for Automation and Computation, and a fellow of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

3.2.2 BATMANATHAN DAYANAND REDDY (1953 -)

For outstanding contributions to, and achievements in, the fields of mathematics and science.

Batmanathan Dayanand Reddy was born on 10 March 1953 in South End in Port Elizabeth where he spent his childhood and early teenage years. Reddy attended primary schools in Schauderville and South End, and the South End High School.

When South End was declared a white area in terms of the Group Areas Act in 1965, his family, together with thousands of residents of this diverse and vibrant community, were uprooted and forcibly removed to racially designated group areas. With the extended-family general dealer business, established by his grandfather over thirty years before, now in ruins, Reddy's parents settled in Cape Town in 1968 after an aborted decision to emigrate to the United Kingdom.

Daya, as he is popularly called, and his younger brother were sent to live with family members in Vrededorp (Pageview), an area that was ironically to suffer the same fate as South End soon after. After Reddy matriculated from Lenasia Indian High School at the end of 1969, he enrolled for a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Cape Town (UCT) for which he had to obtain special ministerial permission.

After he was awarded his undergraduate degree in 1973 (with first-class honours), Reddy took up a scholarship to Cambridge University where he graduated with a PhD in 1977. After a year spent doing research at the University College, London, Reddy returned to Cape Town to take up a joint lectureship in the Departments of Applied Mathematics and Civil Engineering at the University of Cape Town, a reflection of his established multi-disciplinary interests and work. Reddy was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1982 and Associate Professor in 1985. In 1989 he was appointed Professor in Applied Mathematics and in 1999, Dean of the Faculty of Science, a position he still holds.

Reddy's teaching, research and professional interests lie at the interface of applied mathematics and engineering. He has written or co-written more than 85 articles mostly in international academic journals, and is also the author or co-author of three texts or monographs and three edited works. He is a member of numerous editorial boards of scientific journals, and regularly serves on the scientific committees of international conferences in his areas of expertise. Reddy was awarded an A rating by the National Research Foundation in 1996 and every subsequent year since then. He holds Fellowships of the Third World Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society of South Africa, the South African Academy of Engineering, and at the University of Cape Town. He is also an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

From humble origins, Professor Reddy has risen to reach the pinnacle of his profession, extending the boundaries of knowledge from the vantage point of the imperatives of development of his society, at the tip of Africa. His academic work has spanned a wide spectrum, from abstract studies of a highly theoretical nature to resolving fundamental problems of a practical and industrial nature. Professor Reddy is a mathematician for whom any problem represents a challenge to scientific research and application. His achievements redound to the credit of our nation.

Daya Reddy is married to Shaada (née Pillay), a librarian at the University of Cape Town. They have a son, Jordi who is a first-year engineering student.

4. THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF O R TAMBO

4.1 THE ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF O R TAMBO IN GOLD

4.1.1 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA)

For its exceptional contribution to the development of the sport of football on the African continent, the consolidation of democracy and development in a free South Africa.

Our history has recorded the bold stand taken by FIFA at a time when the Apartheid government had many international friends and its isolation was not yet a foregone conclusion. When FIFA imposed a sports boycott against South Africa in 1976, it was one of the first world sporting bodies to distance itself from the Apartheid state and its odious policy of racial segregation in sport.

That singular action of refusal to sanctify Apartheid in sport, by such an eminent organisation, emboldened the world campaign to isolate the regime and gave the lie to the bigoted logic of Apartheid ideology.

Equally important was the effect of this action on the oppressed masses of South Africa, who, secure in the knowledge that they had international support in their struggle for justice, equality and democracy, fought ever more fervently for their own liberation.

FIFA has played a major role in the development of football in the developing world and on the African continent. Through the Goal Programme initiated by President Joseph S Blatter it has funded many projects across the continent, including South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho and Malawi, to enable financially hard-pressed football associations to build headquarters, lay grass or artificial turf pitches, establish technical training centres, or provide other basic amenities. This decisive intervention in the interests of the development of soccer has had a major impact on the game on the continent of Africa and beyond.

FIFA has also made gigantic strides towards the ideals of gender equality in sport by initiating and supporting women's football throughout the world, including competitions such as women's world cup soccer. An active programme to empower women in football has also seen their participation in high soccer-

governing administrative structures, as well the ownership of professional teams in many countries, a phenomenon absent from many other sporting codes.

For South Africa and for the African continent, the greatest accolade paid to the continent was to select an African country to host the 2010 World Cup Soccer Competition. It is a moving and fitting tribute to the contribution to the game by countless soccer legends from this continent, past and present.

In the annals of sporting history FIFA stands out as one organization which stood up for the essential spirit and ethos of sport, for the inalienable right of all – irrespective of origin, gender, class, colour or creed – to engage in sport. Its steadfast commitment to the ideal of fairness in sport helped render Apartheid unviable, and assisted decisively in undermining the Apartheid state. For that determined stand, FIFA will have high honours in our history and will forever be firmly ensconced in our collective consciousness.

4.1.2 LENNART JOHANSSON (1920-)

For excellent contributions to the reconstruction and development of South Africa and the African continent through fighting for fairness and justice in the World Cup soccer bid process.

Lennart Johansson was born on 5 November 1920 in Stockholm, Sweden.

A lover of the “beautiful game”, Johansson started his career in football administration in 1962 with Alk Solna (a Swedish Football Club) where he stayed until 1984, when he began to serve the European Football Association (UEFA).

Under his leadership he managed to build UEFA into the strongest confederation in the world, responsible for the Euro finals, the Champions League as well as the European Cup, universally regarded as the most attractive continental competition in the world.

In addition, Johansson has served as Vice-President of FIFA for the past 14 years. As chairperson of both the Organising Committee of the World Cup as well as the World Cup Bureau, in Italy in 1990, the USA in 1994, France in 1998, Korea-Japan in 2002, Germany in 2006 and – soon to be – South Africa in 2010, he has been instrumental in transforming the World Cup Soccer Competition into the biggest sporting event on earth. Moreover, Johansson has over the years gained a reputation for his unquestionable pedigree in the knowledge of the game. He personifies all the fundamental values of sport such as honesty, transparency, trustworthiness and integrity.

Shortly after South Africa’s failed bid to host the 2006 World Cup, he publicly expressed his support for South Africa to host the 2010 World Cup. He

furthermore undertook to persuade as many other administrators of South Africa's worthiness and preparedness. When he was later reminded that South Africa did not support him in his bid for FIFA chairmanship, and may have contributed to his defeat, he was not dissuaded from his word.

No doubt Johansson's understanding of South Africa's struggle against racism and Apartheid, and his own country's historical support for the struggle and the importance for South Africa and Africa's development of hosting the World Cup soccer competition were uppermost in his mind during the decisive moments of voting for the winning bidder.

Lennart Johansson's highly principled and exemplary leadership has withstood the severest test, and he has not been found wanting. This fairminded sportsman and administrator who refused to compromise even at his own expense, has stood up for honesty and justice in sport. He is honoured as a true friend of South Africa and Africa. He remains an inspiration to football players, administrators and the masses of supporters throughout the world.

4.1.3 GAMAL ABDEL NASSER (1918 – 1970)

For his exceptional contribution in the struggle against colonialism and for a better and peaceful Africa and the world.

Gamal Abdel Nasser was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in January 1918. Inspired by a nascent sense of nationalism then sweeping Egypt, the young Nasser joined the army of the 11-year old independent country at the tender age of fifteen.

Having graduated from the Royal Military Academy in 1938, Nasser rose rapidly through the ranks. Yet, Nasser considered the relationship between the house of the royal family of King Farouk and the former colonial government of Britain to be unnecessarily servile.

In the face of overwhelming poverty, socio-economic and political needs, the royal house began to be seen as self-serving, corrupt and venal, more concerned with its own importance and wealth than with the development needs of the nation. When in 1948 Egypt was defeated as part of the coalition of forces against the unilaterally declared independence of the State of Israel, it was the last straw. The military defeat was seen as a national dishonor and directly placed at the door of a monarchy that was seen as out of touch with the people of Egypt and responsible for failing to arm Egypt's soldiers properly. These views were to shape Nasser's perspective on the politics of his country and mould his vision for the future of Egypt.

In 1952, Nasser was part of a group of soldiers at the head of a popular national uprising which overthrew the monarchy in a bloodless coup. When the leader of

the revolution proved indecisive, the popular and charismatic 34-year old military officer was called on to take over. He immediately proceeded with a revolutionary programme to overhaul his country.

Nasser began to undertake real social and political transformation, bringing about revolutionary reforms to the feudal agrarian system and implementing hugely popular socialist policies. Nasser's astute leadership through two decades of post-colonial, post-monarchical rule restored his nation's sense of self-confidence and honour and laid the foundation of the modern Egypt. Freed from the limitations of a feudal society, Egypt underwent a period of rapid growth and development from which millions of Egyptian peasants benefited. His far-sighted policies and revolutionary practices raised the poorest of the poor out of the mire of poverty.

A true champion of anti-imperialism, Nasser rejected neo-colonialism. He set about to assert Egypt's independence when he nationalized the Suez Canal, a stand for which he received much support throughout the Middle East. Together with India's Nehru and Indonesia's Sukarno, Nasser founded the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). At the same time Nasser's actively propagated the right of all people to freedom and supported liberation movements in the colonies.

Nasser falls into that category of rare breed of principled internationalist revolutionaries. His steely resolve to carve out an independent foreign policy and his far-sighted international initiatives were way ahead of their time and ultimately paved the way for the current movement to re-define the relationship of nations of the South with each other and with the North.

He elevated the poor yet proud nation of Egypt, into a major international power-broker. He remains a highly revered figure in Egypt, the Arab world and among the people of the South. His legacy is forever etched into the popular consciousness of humankind.

4.1.4 TREVOR RICHARDS (NEW ZEALAND) (1946 -)

For his exceptional contribution to the struggle for the attainment of a non-racial, free and democratic South Africa through consistent advocacy of non-racial sport and the boycott of *apartheid* sport.

Trevor Richards was born in 1946 in New Zealand. As a young student leader at Auckland University, Richards was deeply disturbed by the oppression and exploitation of black people in South Africa and joined the ranks of the Anti-Apartheid movement.

Incensed by the Apartheid regime's use of sporting exchanges and international sport to attempt to give what was in reality a tyrannical society a veneer of

normality, Richards, together with Ton Newnham, John Minto, David Nickham and others formed the organization called Halt All Racist Tours (HART) in 1969, initially to co-ordinate opposition to the 1970 All Black tour to South Africa.

Over the next twenty years, HART – of which Richards was National Chairperson for ten years – actively contributed to the international campaigns to stop all sports tours to and from South Africa, establishing close working relationships with the South African Non-racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa. In 1973, when the New Zealand Government insisted that South Africa compete in the Softball World Championships in New Zealand despite HART's campaign, it caused world outrage. HART's campaign to prevent the New Zealand Rugby tour to South Africa resulted in 17 African countries and Guyana and Iraq withdrawing from the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal in protest against the New Zealand Government's intransigence. In 1981 HART organised countrywide protests against the South African rugby tour to New Zealand, resulting in a national outcry when demonstrations of thousands of New Zealand marchers were met with a violent response from the police, leaving hundreds of protestors injured.

Eventually the moral strength of the argument of the small lobby group of Anti-Apartheid campaigners developed into an unstoppable world-wide movement to ban Apartheid sport. In 1977 the United Nations Declaration against Apartheid in Sport – which Richards helped to draft - was endorsed by the majority of member countries.

In 1988 Richards became the first Africa Programme manager for New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA). In 1992 he finally visited South Africa for the first time and the following year he established the VSA programme in South Africa in which New Zealand volunteers assisted in voter education to prepare for South Africa's first democratic elections.

Trevor Richards was one of the early campaigners against Apartheid in New Zealand. His unflinching resolve and indefatigable efforts to undermine the abhorrent Apartheid system by campaigning relentlessly for a sports boycott, has made him an icon of the Anti-Apartheid campaign in New Zealand and South Africa, and a world symbol of selflessness in defence of equality, justice and the inalienable rights of all humanity.

South Africans stand in awe of this man who fought so gallantly on behalf of a people so far away.

The role that Trevor Richards played in the Anti-Apartheid movement has earned him wide acclaim and many awards, both in New Zealand and internationally. He served as the Chair of the Africa Centre (1996 – 2003) and currently serves as a trustee of the Nelson Mandela Trust. From 1988 to 1990 he served as a member

of the New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs' Advisory Committee on South Africa and in 2002 he was appointed to the New Zealand Government's Pacific Development and Conservation Trust. His account of the history of New Zealand's contribution to the fight against Apartheid was published as *Dancing on our Bones: New Zealand, South Africa, Rugby and Racism*, in 1999.

4.1.5 AHMED SÉKOU TOURÉ (1922-1984)

For his exceptional contribution to a free, united, peaceful and prosperous Africa.

Ahmed Sékou Touré was born in 1922, in Guinea, the son of a Muslim peasant farmer. One of seven children, he attended a school of Koranic studies at Kankan in Guinea, eventually graduating from a French technical school. As a young worker in the French colonial administration, the young treasury clerk became a trade union activist.

He became general secretary of the Postal Workers' Union in 1945 and organised the *Union Générale des Travailleurs d'Afrique Noir* in 1956, later becoming the full-time head of the Guinea branch of France's *Confédération Générale du Travail*.

Touré was a key player in the massive strike in 1953, which resulted in the first decisive victory of African workers over their colonial masters. This workers' victory held out great promise for larger political triumphs under Touré's able political leadership, which had begun in 1946 when he, together with other nationalist leaders, founded the *Rassemblement Démocratique Africain*.

In 1956 Touré was elected Guinea's deputy to the French National Assembly in Paris, a member of the Guinea Legislative Assembly and the mayor of the city of Conakry.

After campaigning successfully for independence during the De Gaulle Referendum in 1958, he led his country out of the French Community saying that, "The notion of a continuing French community would maintain our status of indignity, and our status of subordination. We prefer poverty in liberty, to riches in slavery."

As first President of independent Guinea, Touré, a brilliant organiser and planner, introduced far-reaching reforms to his country. He brought the notorious landlords under the control of the Guinean government and oversaw the distribution of land (and thus effectively, wealth). To combat the debilitating effects of extreme underdevelopment in his country, Touré first introduced socialist measures and later, in the 1970s, he undertook an extensive

programme of economic liberalization. Although modest in comparison to the needs of his people, the progress he facilitated endeared him to his compatriots who in turn continually returned him to power in democratic elections until his death in 1984.

Touré was a strong champion of African unity and Pan-Africanism. He wasted no time in attempting to strengthen ties with neighbouring and other African countries and thus lessen their collective dependence on former European colonisers. Moreover, to put these ideas into practice, he initiated the *Guinea-Ghana-Mali Union*, a proposal of union between African countries which preceded the idea of the African Union by 40 years.

Essentially the founder of the trade union movement in Guinea, Ahmed Sékou Touré's name resonates in the hearts of the three million Guineans as the man who led them to freedom and for three decades thereafter. This great African intellectual, thinker, patriot and leader, eloquent poet, and brave freedom fighter, remains the idol of countless millions across the continent, commanding respect, awe and veneration. His contribution to African Unity and the formation of the OAU and inspired leadership still serve as a beacon for the continent.