



# *2012 Awards Ceremony for National Orders*

## **AMBASSADORS OF A FREE SOUTH AFRICA**



Produced by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Celebrating freedom, celebrating honour

Every year, on Freedom Day, South Africa pays homage to its heroes and heroines and eminent foreign nationals who have played their part in making South Africa what it is today.

With the birth of a new non-racial and non-sexist democracy in South Africa 18 years ago, there was a critical need to review the system of national orders and awards. The previous system consisted of one Decoration and four Orders which did not embrace the spirit of the rebirth of South Africa.

In May 1998, the then newly-instituted President's Advisory Council on National Orders was given the task to review the system of National Orders and awards.



A technical committee embarked on an extensive and inclusive research process that involved public consultations, interviews with stakeholders on a national scale, group discussions focusing on alternative systems, the commissioning of historical research and the gathering of jewellery and medal designers to design the new medals.

The then Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in cooperation with the Government Communication and Information System investigated further symbols and symbolism that would capture the essence a new democracy.

A panel of academics and specialists in indigenous symbols was asked to identify key factors and elements that represented the collective and inclusive history and experience of Africa with South Africa as the main point of reference.

This resulted in the commissioning and ultimate design of the new National Orders.

Today, South Africa is a country that embraces freedom and no longer excludes or discriminates on the basis of sex, colour and creed. As the country moves forward, it is distinguished by a new culture of human rights and respect for the dignity of the human spirit.

In so doing, new symbols that reflected our nation and its rebirth have evolved. The National Orders were conceived in that same spirit of rebirth and are the highest symbols of pride and honour in our country.

## How the nomination process works

The National Orders are the highest awards bestowed on ordinary South Africans or eminent foreigners who are doing or have done extraordinary things for our country. The awards tell a story of distinguished men and women who have enriched our lives through what they do or have done.

"We bestow national honours on men and women whose towering credentials rival our highest mountains. Yet, they stand before us with a wondrous modesty which defies their huge distinctions in various fields which have enriched our lives immeasurably," says Dr Cassius Lubisi, Director-General in The Presidency.

The nominations for National Orders can be made by members of the public, non-governmental organisations, civic-based organisations and faith-based organisations. Nominations must include a motivation with the following information:

- a summary of the nominee's achievements
- a list of exceptional milestones reached by the nominee in his/her career and/or international arena
- a description of the exceptional, outstanding, dedicated service or act of bravery rendered by the nominee.

The nominations will be considered by the National Orders Advisory Council, which recommends qualifying candidates to the President.

**The closing date for nominations for the next series of awards is 30 July 2012.**

The nomination form can be downloaded from [www.thepresidency.gov.za](http://www.thepresidency.gov.za)

Nominations should be sent to: The Chancery of Orders, Private Bag X1000, Pretoria, 0001 or delivered to the following address: Chancery of Orders, The Presidency, Room 20, West Wing, Union Buildings, Pretoria, 0001.

For more information, visit [www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)

## *“South Africa is proud of you”*

When a bus carrying 44 children overturned and fell into a river, Neil John Sharrocks did not think twice. He put aside his own fears and put his own life at risk to save the lives of those children.

On 27 April 2012, Sharrocks was recognised for the selfless act he performed and received the Order of Mendi for Bravery from President Jacob Zuma. He is one of the diverse range of people honoured by President Zuma through the conferring of National Orders.

National Orders are awarded to deserving citizens and eminent foreign nationals who have contributed meaningfully towards making the country a free, democratic and successful nation, united in its diversity.

The awards comprise the Order of Mendi for Bravery, the Order of Ikhamanga, the Order of the Baobab, the Order of Luthuli, the Order of Mapungubwe and the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo.

Speaking at the National Orders Awards Ceremony, President Jacob Zuma said: “We are bestowing honours upon all deserving people and patriotic South Africans, as well as our international friends and compatriots as an important reminder of the history of this country, and its relationship with the international community which waged relentless struggles against apartheid.

“We are honouring all who made a very important contribution to this country and continue to make us proud to be South Africans by making history in their diverse avenues.”

In 2010, government made the decision to hold the National Orders Awards Ceremony on Freedom Day in order to align and link them with the country’s Freedom Day celebrations, and properly honour all those who have made sacrifices and a meaningful contribution to the country’s freedom, at national as well as on the international level.

“We honour all those who were in the forefront of our struggles, who through their political activism, working class leadership guided and inspired our people to be where they are today. We honour and pay tribute to all those gallant fighters who were part of that historic foundation and all those who successfully led the people’s struggles to its ultimate destination,” said President Zuma.

“These acts have contributed in creating a better life for all, and contributed to nation building, common nationhood and helped us in consolidating our 18-year-old democratic dispensation. This year is no exception,” he explained, adding that the country was celebrating people, who, in the definitive show of selflessness and love, risked and lost their lives to save others.

Like Sharrocks, the men and women honoured contributed differently.

Juluka founder, international entertainer and cultural activist “Johnny” Clegg, who received the Order of Ikhamanga was awarded for his

excellent contribution to, and achievement in the field of bridging African traditional music with other music forms.

Zane Maureen Wilson who received the Order of the Baobab was awarded for her outstanding contribution as an entrepreneur, mental healthcare practitioner and a leader in the struggle to create awareness of diseases such as depression and anxiety.

Professor Apollon Davidson, who received the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo, was awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle for the eradication of apartheid and to the development of a post-apartheid, free and democratic South Africa.

“Today we also honour and award those individuals who have excelled in fields that are less known and less celebrated including aviation, piloting, entrepreneurship, as well as academic fields like research in science and engineering,” said President Zuma.



“We salute and congratulate each and every one of you being honoured with our highest honours in the country, the National Orders, you are indeed an inspiration to us all. South Africa is proud of you,” he said.

The Order of Mendi for Bravery was awarded to Neil John Sharrocks and Michael Janse van Rensburg (Posthumous).

Gladys Faith Agulhas, Jonathan “Johnny” Clegg, Muthal Naidoo, Joseph Nong “Joe” Thloloe, Daniel “Cheeky” Watson and Julian Sebothane Bahula received the Order of Ikhamanga.

The Order of the Baobab was awarded to Selwyn “Scully” Levin, Gladys Ramahuta, Zane Maureen Wilson, Professor Daniel Gerhardus Krige, Reverend Fenner Christian Kadalie (Posthumous), Professor Christopher John Robert Dugard, Frank Kennan Dutton and Lwandle Wilson Magadla (Posthumous).

The Order of Luthuli was awarded to John Stephen Gomas (Posthumous), Elizabeth Sophia Honman (Bettie du Toit) (Posthumous), Peter Ramoshoane Mokaba (Posthumous), Josiah Tshangana Gumede (Posthumous), Zaccheus Richard Mahabane (Posthumous), Sefako Mapogo Makgatho (Posthumous), James Sebe Moroka (Posthumous) and Alfred Bitini Xuma (Posthumous).

The Order of Mapungubwe was awarded to Dr Patience Mthunzi, Professor Barry David Schoub, Albert Mvumbi Luthuli (Posthumous) and Oliver Reginald Kaizana “OR” Tambo (Posthumous).

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo was awarded to Professor Apollon B Davidson, Randall Robinson and Edward M Kennedy (Posthumous).

For detailed information on the 2012 National Orders recipients, see pages 6 and 7.



# South Africa's National Orders

The National Orders are the highest honours South Africa bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals.

The President confers Orders and Decorations, assisted by the Director-General in The Presidency who, in the context of the National Orders, serves as the Chancellor of National Orders.

## The Order of the Baobab



The Baobab, a tropical African tree, depicts endurance, wisdom, endowment and bounty. These are characteristics that the recipients of this Order should possess.

Various elements in the Order's design symbolise longevity, community support, contribution, and prosperity.

The central motif of the Order is the image of the Baobab tree enclosed in a nine-sided polygon, which represents the nine provinces of our country as well as the many possible areas of possible contribution and service to the nation.

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

The design has three elements: a neck badge (a gold, silver or bronze medallion on a neck band); a miniature (a miniature gold, silver or bronze medallion for wearing as a brooch or on the breast pocket); and a lapel rosette.

The Order is awarded in three classes: gold, silver or bronze.

## The Order of Luthuli

The Order is named after Chief Albert Luthuli whose leadership during the Defiance Campaign against the apartheid system won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960.

The central motif of the design of the Order is the triangular flintstone, which represents a basic survival tool used by our ancestors to skin animals, construct shelter and cut strips of skin to make clothes. It sym-



bolises Chief Luthuli's vision for all people to be empowered to participate fully in society. Below the flintstone is Isandlwana Hill – an abstract representation of our country's national flag representing freedom and democracy. Two bull horns are on either side of the design, which signifies the empowerment and prosperity of African people. The leopard skin rings at the base of the horns represent the trademark headgear of Chief Luthuli.

The Order is awarded to South Africans who have made a meaningful contribution to the struggle for democracy, human rights, nation-building, justice and peace, and conflict resolution.

The Order of Luthuli is awarded in gold, silver or bronze.

## The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo



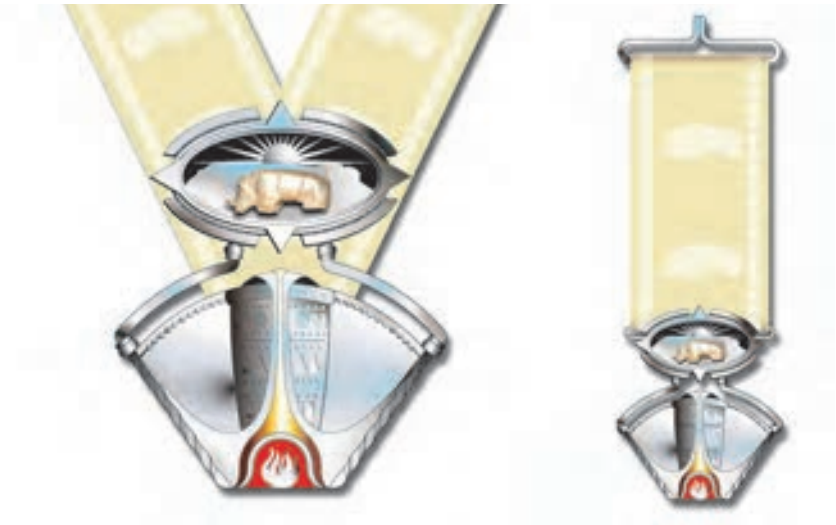
Struggle icon Oliver Tambo played a major role in the growth and development of the international movement of solidarity against racism and apartheid. Among other things, he established the first missions of the liberation movement in Egypt, Morocco, Ghana and London. This was a modest start to bring the friends of South Africa together throughout the world in a continuous and sustained mobilisation of the international community in support of a free and democratic South Africa.

The Order is awarded to heads of state and other dignitaries for promoting peace, cooperation and friendship towards South Africa.

In the design of the main badge of this Order, the watchful eye of the majola (mole snake) symbolises the active expression of solidarity and support for South Africa.

The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo is awarded in three classes: gold, silver and bronze. All these awards include four elements: a walking stick, a neck badge, a miniature and a lapel rosette.

The Order of Mapungubwe



The Mapungubwe kingdom existed in the northern corner of our country a millennium ago. The kingdom had a sophisticated state system and a developed agriculture sector. It also developed a mining and metallurgy industry. The Kingdom traded with countries as far as China. During its time, it represented excellence of human thought and ingenuity.

The bottom segment of the design represents the skill and craft of smelting, smithing, pottery and ceramics. There is also a fire representing the furnace used to purify and temper metal and fire pottery. The furnace also evokes the life-sustaining properties of fire, used by humankind since the Iron Age to provide warmth and sustenance. The fire represents also the advancement of humankind. The overflowing urn at the centre symbolises abundance of wealth and excellence.

The majesty of the shape of the Mapungubwe sceptre and the delicately crafted Mapungubwe rhino reflect remarkable workmanship. Its overall message is that South Africa and its people can prosper, regardless of the conditions in which they find themselves.

The Order of Mapungubwe is awarded to South African citizens for excellence and exceptional achievement. It is awarded in gold, silver or bronze.

The Order of Ikhamanga

The ikhamanga, more commonly known as the strelitzia, crane or bird of paradise flower, is the central motif of the Order of Ikhamanga and symbolises the unique beauty of the achievements of South Africans in the creative fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport.

The different design elements on the award e.g. one of the Lydenburg heads, concentric circles and two roads disappearing into the horizon, all highlight the creative and sports fields and represent exceptional achievement and success.



This Order is awarded in gold, silver or bronze.

The Order of Mendi for Bravery

The Order has various design elements depicting bravery, courage and resilience.

On the shield is the ill-fated warship, the *SS Mendi*, which sank on 21 February 1917 with all its officers. On board were also 600 black South African volunteer soldiers on their way to France to assist in the Allied War effort during the First World War. Legend has it that these soldiers, together with their fellow white officers, sang as the vessel sank. Above the ship, flies a blue crane which represents the souls of the drowned brave soldiers.

The green emerald, which lies in the centre, is the core from which three pointers emerge that represent the way ahead in rendering assistance to those in need during natural disasters and other extreme difficulties that take place around the globe.



In the background are a knobkierie and spear, which complement the shield as symbols of defence and honour. The edges of the holding shape are trimmed with the spoor of a lion, indicating border patrols, within and beyond our country, by dedicated and brave South Africans.

This Order is awarded to South African citizens who have performed extraordinary acts of bravery

The Order of the Mendi for Bravery is awarded in gold, silver or bronze.



# Our heroes and icons

## Recipients of National Orders in 2012

The names and faces that are seen on these pages represent what is possible through sacrifice, bravery, courage and dedication. These are extraordinary men and women from both inside and outside our country, some who are no longer with us. Some are born and bred of this soil, others of distant lands. Yet, all are deeply rooted to our beloved country, South Africa.

Those who received National Orders this year are:

### Order of Mendi for Bravery

#### Silver

**Neil John Sharrocks**



Awarded for displaying an act of bravery by putting his own life at risk to save the lives of 44 children who were at the risk of drowning when the bus they were travelling overturned and fell into a river.

#### Gold

**Michael Janse van Rensburg (Posthumous)**

Awarded for his bravery, courage and fearlessness by putting his life in danger to save the life of a fellow human being who was drowning.



### Order of Ikhamanga

#### Silver



**Gladys Faith Agulhas**

Awarded for her contribution to and role in the field of arts and theatre work in South Africa and for putting South Africa on the world map in her field.

**Jonathan “Johnny” Clegg**

Awarded for his excellent contribution to, and achievement in the field of bridging African traditional music with other music forms.



**Muthal Naidoo**

Awarded for her contribution to and role in the field of arts, culture and literature in South Africa.

**Joseph Nong “Joe” Thloloe**

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to and achievement in the field of the media, literary writing and journalism and for his contribution to the liberation struggle.



**Daniel “Cheeky” Watson**

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the field of sport, in particular rugby.



#### Gold



**Julian Sebothane Bahula**

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to and achievement in the field of music and the arts and the struggle for a free and democratic South Africa.

### Order of the Baobab

#### Bronze

**Selwyn “Scully” Levin**

Awarded for his immense contribution to and achievement in aviation, both as a pilot and trainer, in South Africa and internationally.



**Gladys Ramahuta**

Awarded for her outstanding contribution to community development, women’s empowerment and upliftment of the lives of people in rural areas.

**Zane Maureen Wilson**

Awarded for her outstanding contribution as an entrepreneur, mental healthcare practitioner and a leader in the struggle to create awareness of diseases such as depression and anxiety and her contribution to the formation of the South African Depression and Anxiety Group.



#### Silver



**Professor Daniel Gerhardus Krige**

Awarded for his contribution to and achievement in the field of engineering, as well as his contribution to the fields of science and geostatistics.

**Reverend Fenner Christian Kadalie (Posthumous)**

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to society, and his dedicated service to the community of District Six and the Cape Flats through his ministry which took care of the poor and the marginalised.



#### Gold



**Professor Christopher John Robert Dugard**

Awarded for his immense contribution to and achievement in the field of law, especially in human rights and international law.

Frank Kennan Dutton



Awarded for, among other things, his exceptional contribution to and achievement in his investigative work as a dedicated and loyal police officer, and for his role in working for peace in KwaZulu-Natal.

Lwandle Wilson Magadla (Posthumous)

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to and achievement in his work as a dedicated and loyal police officer, for his role in uncovering the truth for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and his role in working for peace in KwaZulu-Natal.



Order of Luthuli

Silver

John Stephen Gomas (Posthumous)



Awarded for his exceptional and outstanding contribution to the struggle for workers' rights and his selfless contribution to the struggle for a free, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

Elizabeth Sophia Honman (Bettie du Toit) (Posthumous)

Awarded for her excellent contribution to the struggle of workers' rights and the realisation of a non-racial, non-sexist, free and democratic South Africa.



Peter Ramoshoane Mokaba (Posthumous)

Awarded for his contribution to the struggle against apartheid, and his contribution towards the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, free and democratic South Africa.



Gold



Josiah Tshangana Gumedede (Posthumous)

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle for democracy and freedom.

Zaccheus Richard Mahabane (Posthumous)

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle for democracy and freedom.



Sefako Mapogo Makgatho (Posthumous)

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle for democracy and freedom.

James Sebe Moroka (Posthumous)

Awarded for his contribution to the struggle for freedom, and for his outstanding contribution to the struggle for a free democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.



Alfred Bitini Xuma (Posthumous)

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle for a free, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.



Order of Mapungubwe



Bronze

Dr Patience Mthunzi

Awarded for her invaluable contribution to scientific research in South Africa and internationally.

Silver

Professor Barry David Schoub

Awarded for his invaluable contribution to research in the containment and curing of infectious diseases; to science; and the people of South Africa and internationally.



Platinum

Albert Mvumbi Luthuli (Posthumous)



Awarded for his exceptional and outstanding leadership skills, in leading a peaceful struggle for human rights, and a non-racial, non-sexist, free, just and democratic South Africa.

Oliver Reginald Kaizana "OR" Tambo (Posthumous)

Awarded for his exceptional and outstanding leadership skills, in leading a peaceful struggle for human rights and a non-racial, non-sexist, free, just and democratic South Africa, which belongs to all who live in it.



Order of the Companions of OR Tambo

Silver



Professor Apollon B Davidson

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle for the eradication of apartheid and to the development of a post-apartheid, free and democratic South Africa.

Randall Robinson

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle against apartheid through the Free South Africa Movement.



Gold



Edward M Kennedy (Posthumous)

Awarded for his exceptional contribution to the struggle for the attainment of a non-racial, non-sexist, free and democratic South Africa.





Proud father: David Janse van Rensburg receives the Order of Mendi for Bravery on behalf of his son, Michael.



Younger generation: Anastasia Tambo accompanied her parents to receive the Order of Mapungubwe on behalf of her grandfather, Oliver Tambo.



Artistic achiever: Gladys Algulhas receives the Order of Ikhamanga from President Zuma.

# Honour and excellence rewarded

The National Orders Awards Ceremony, held at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria, brought together South Africans and foreign nationals representative of diverse backgrounds and achievements together for an evening of recognition and prestige.



Remembering a legacy: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe welcomes Albertina Luthuli, daughter of struggle icon Albert Luthuli.



Solemn reflection: Cultural activists and recipients of the Order of Ikhamanga Muthal Naidoo (left) and Johny Clegg listen to President Zuma's address.



Rewarded for resilience: (From left) Joan Kadalie, Prof Daniel Krige, Zane Wilson and Gladys Ramahuta prepare to receive the Order of the Baobab.