

# Diplomatic Scene

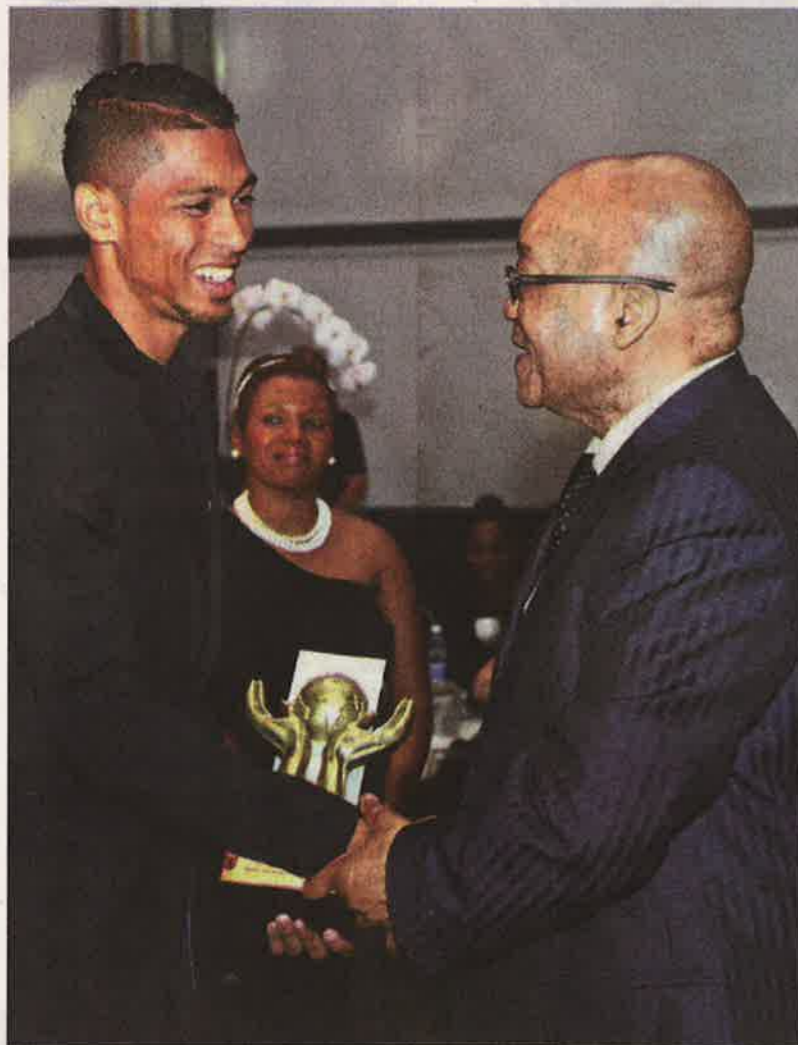
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President Jacob Zuma hands over the OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award to Agnes Msimang.



International Relations Minister Maite Nkoane-Mashabane hands over a trophy for Ubuntu Ambassadorial Excellence to Ambassador Bene M'Poko.



Wayde van Niekerk shakes hands with President Jacob Zuma after receiving the Ubuntu Sport Diplomacy Award.

## SA nurturing a culture of ubuntu

Top awards handed to worthy recipients underpin principle of sharing and caring

### STAFF REPORTERS

**T**HE economy, mentioned in President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation Address, was one of the main issues at the second Ubuntu Awards held in Cape Town at the weekend.

The Ubuntu Awards, hosted by the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, recognise leaders in various sectors for distinguished service and contributions that promote South Africa's national interests and values across the world.

The awards event was attended by more than 500 guests, including Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete, National Council of Provinces chairwoman Thandi Modise, Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, senior government officials, MPs, business leaders, media executives and diplomats.

Taking the stage, Zuma turned his attention to serious matters, including the Lily Mine tragedy in Barberton and the economy which he said was a "main priority" for the government.



## STAR ATHLETE 'HUMBLED' BY AWARD

CLUTCHING the Ubuntu Sports Diplomacy Award, South African field and track golden boy Wayne van Niekerk said he has his sights on breaking records at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro later this year.

The 22-year-old took gold in the men's 400m at the IAAF World Championships in Beijing last year, becoming the fourth fastest man ever over the distance.

Success runs in Wayne's family. His mother, Odessa Swarts, competed against former South African champion Geraldine Pillay on the track, in the early 2000s while his father, Wayne van Niekerk was a track and field athlete, "performing well in the 100m and high jump".

His stepfather, Steven Swarts, ran the 800m and 1 500m, his brother won the 400m Free State championships. His sister Kayla was awarded Free State colours

for distance running and hockey.

Shortly after receiving his award at a ceremony in Cape Town on Saturday night, Van Niekerk said: "I am excited for the 2016 Olympics in Rio. It's all about staying focused now and disciplined."

"It really just humbles me that my country has been supporting me, encouraging me to accomplish as much as I can as an athlete."

"Here I am being awarded for that. It is really humbling, he said."

Another young South African awed by an Ubuntu award was Catherine Constantinides who received the Youth Diplomacy Award.

An activist and champion of the environment who has worked extensively in SA and highlighted the plight of refugees in camps in the Western Sahara, she said she was grateful for the acknowledgment by the country she was proud to call home. - Staff Reporter

"We have been meeting with the business community so that we can move together to put in place measures that can ignite growth and create jobs," he said to applause.

He stressed the need for co-operation with the rest of the world as South Africa advanced its vision of building a non-racial, non-sexist South Africa, and said the country wanted an Africa that was peaceful and prosperous.

International Relations Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane gave the background to the awards - now in their second year.

She said Ubuntu - the principles of which was sharing and caring for one another - was the central concept of social and political organisation in the African global outlook.

"The spirit of Ubuntu is tightly woven into our interaction with fellow Africans and the international community," she said.

She referred to Ubuntu Radio (on DStv Channel 888 or www.ubunturadio.com), a 24-hour online radio reaching more than 45 African countries.



Hugh Masekela was presented with the Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award by Ambassador Vika Khumalo.

PICTURE: JACOLINE SCHOONEES/DIRCO

The station's content represents the work being done by the government and communicates South Africa's foreign policy and promotes BrandSA domestically and abroad.

She said South Africa had an increased role in the activities of the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development

Community, (SADC) as well as in the international arena.

The winners of Ubuntu Awards in each of eight categories were:

- Economic Diplomacy Award (Africa): Standard Bank.
- Economic Diplomacy Award (Global): Discovery Health; Social Responsibility Award: Ian Scher of

Rescue SA.

● Cultural Diplomacy: Rescue SA, Black Coffee and Hugh Masekela. Youth Diplomacy Award: Catherine Constandtinides.

● Sports Diplomacy Award: Wayne Van Niekerk.

● Ambassadorial Excellence Award: Bene L.M'Poko.

● OR Thambo Lifetime Achievement Award: Agnes Msimang and Johnny Makhatini (posthumous).

The event ended with Hugh Masekela and his band taking to the stage. It was not long before diplomats and others were on the dance floor.



Independent Media executive chairman Dr Iqbal Survé hosted a luncheon at Mount Nelson Hotel before President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation Address. Guest of honour was Speaker of Parliament Baleka Mbete. The event, at which the group's #RacismStopsWithMe campaign was launched, was attended by ministers, top officials and diplomats. Top: Dr Survé shares a light moment with Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille and businessman Christo Wiese. Right: Advocate Thuli Madonsela and Secretary of Parliament Gengezi Mgidlana. PICTURES: IAN LANDSBERG



Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, left, with UK High Commissioner Judith Macgregor and Baroness Scotland of Asthal, Patricia Scotland, during a meeting with the diplomatic community based in South Africa at the Caballi wine farm, Western Cape.

PICTURE: JACOLINE SCHOONEES

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Top: Dr Survé shares a light moment with Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille and businessman Christo Wiese.

Right: Advocate Thuli Madonsela and Secretary of Parliament Gengezi Mgidlana.

PICTURES: IAN LANDSBERG



Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, left, with UK High Commissioner Judith Macgregor and Baroness Scotland of Asthal, Patricia Scotland, during a meeting with the diplomatic community based in South Africa at the Caballi wine farm, Western Cape.

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