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Good service rewarded

Ina Skosana

The South African Revenue Services (SARS) raked in four awards at the public sector excellence awards.

The award ceremony on Tuesday night saw the bigwigs from private and public sectors come together to celebrate “the good guys” in the public sector.

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela gave the keynote address at the event, taking time to thank those who contributed to “making South Africa work”.

“True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar,” she said. “The nominees are our strongest link in our teenage democracy.

“You have contributed to making the constitutional dream possible today. We truly have a lot to celebrate.

SARS deputy commissioner, Ivan Pillay, said: “We are a values-driven organisation that wants to do the right thing. We are driven to do the best we can for the average South African.”

Former independent Electoral Commission chairperson and secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches Brigalia Bam was one of the recipients of a lifetime achievement award for years in public service.

Bam received a standing ovation in recognition for all her hard work. “Thank you for honouring me in this way,” she said.

“This will serve as inspiration for others to live long. It is so wonderful to be a senior – people account all the things you have done in your life and give you a lifetime achievement award.

“I hope my generation has left a good legacy for the younger generations. We must remain focused and protect the integrity of our country.”

The second recipient of a lifetime achievement award was Samuel Motsuenyane for his role in the advancement of black business in South Africa. Motsuenyane is a founding member and former president of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and dedicated many years to developing commercial farming in black areas.

“It is with gratitude and a sense of humility that I accept this award. I couldn’t have done it without the guidance and advice I got from my parents,” Motsuenyane said.

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