

Protector: use state power fairly



IMAGE 1 of 1

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela wants state power and resources to be used justly and fairly in the public interest.

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JOHANNESBURG - Public Protector Thuli Madonsela wants state power and resources to be used justly and fairly in the public interest.

She was speaking during the Public Sector Awards held in Sandton on Tuesday night. "For this dream to be realised the country needs a people-centred and performance driven culture."

Madonsela, who was named newsmaker of 2011 together with suspended African National Congress Youth League president Julius Malema, also said public funds should be used to advance the prospects of citizens.

"People should use the money prudently. Public power and public money should be used for public interest. People who serve in the public sector should work toward creating a better life for all our people," Madonsela said.

Public Sector Excellence recognises government departments, its agencies and retired public servants who have served South Africa with precision and distinction.

"It is indeed gratifying to know that the architects of our democracy were not wrong in their hope that if they provide the architecture for the state men and women would step up and do the right thing," she said.

Former Independent Electoral Commission chairman Brigalia Bam and former president of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce president Dr Sam Motsuenyane received lifetime achievements for distinguished public service.

"Issues of governance are still a challenge to us and so what remains for all of us is to have respect for our dignity. We hope we have left a legacy for younger generations," Bam said.

The South African Revenue Service walked away with four Public Service Excellence Awards for its best service while the South African Broadcasting Corporation scooped the communications sector despite its woes.

Other awards went to South African Airways, the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration and the department of basic education.

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[« Back](#)