**CITATION: PETER SEXFORD MAGUBANE**

Peter Sexford Magubane was born on 18 January 1932 in Vrededorp, Johannesburg and grew up in Sophiatown.

He rose from being a driver at *Drum* Magazine in its heyday to a photographer renowned worldwide for his courageous and consistent documentation of apartheid South Africa and its people. He is the doyen of black photographers in this country, a self-taught pioneer who has wielded his camera with remarkable effect for 60 years. He lived, as a photographer deeply affected by apartheid and was also one of its most outstanding chroniclers.

He was mentored by the *Drum* legend and renowned photographer Jurgen Schaderbeg and his first major assignment was shooting the ANC’s 1955 convention which produced the Freedom Charter. He became a close friend of many of the figures in the liberation movement including and in particular Nelson and Winnie Mandela. He has photographed most of South Africa’s key historical moments, including the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, the Rivonia Trial in 1964 and the Soweto uprising of 1976.

He was the first black photographer on the *Rand Daily Mail* in 1967, at a time when the law forbade him to use the same darkroom as his white colleagues, and the newspaper had to build him his own in another building.

He established a reputation for the capacity to take pictures under difficult circumstances when he had to hide his camera from police or shoot covertly, he did it with remarkable courage and commitment. He was made to suffer severely for this dedication: a long period ofarrest, interrogation and solitary confinement in 1969, after shooting pictures at a demonstration outside the trial of Winnie Mandela; another long spell in solitary confinement in 1971; arrest and assault, including a broken nose, while shooting in Soweto 1976; buckshot wounds in 1985, when he was caught in police crossfire and a five-year banning order in the 1970s, which prevented him from taking photographs.

He has also taken photographs for *Time*, the United Nations agencies and *Sports Illustrated* which further cemented his status as an internationally renowned photographer.

He has published or co-published a number of books, including *Black As I Am*, with Zindzi Mandela (1978); *Magubane’s South Africa* (1978); *Soweto* (1978) *Soweto Speaks* (1979); *Black Child* (1982); *June 16: The fruit of fear* (1986); *Soweto: Portrait of a City* (1990); *Women of South Africa: Their Fight for Freedom* (1993); *Nelson Mandela, Man of Destiny* (1996); *Vanishing Cultures of South Africa* (1998); *African Renaissance* (2000) and the *AmaNdebele* (2005). In 2003 he co-published with Sandra Klopper an African Heritage series: *Homesteads*, *Dress and Adornment*, Ceremonies and Arts and Crafts.

In 2001 Magubane’s work was exhibited in a collective exhibition of some of South Africa’s great and leading photographers Jurgen Schadeberg, Alf Khumalo and Ernest Cole entitled Soweto – A South African Myth-Photographs from the 1950s. His work has been exhibited in more such exhibitions.

His awards include being the first black South African to win Press Photo of the Year in 1958; the Robert Capa Award in 1986, the Missouri Honor Medal in 1992, The Martin Luther King Luthuli Award in 1995, the Mother Jones and Leica Cameras Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997, the Order for Meritorious Service Class II from President Mandela in 1999 and honorary doctorates from the University of South Africa, Fort Hare, Tshwane University of Technology, Rhodes University, and Columbia College, Chicago in the United States of America.

Magubane is one of South Africa’s leading lensman chronicling its history in ways that will preserve the memory of its struggles, pains and joys for time immemorial.