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## MEDIA STATEMENT Immediate release

On Wednesday evening, **11 September 2019 at 19:00**, the following prizes, among others, will be presented at the South African Academy of Science and Arts' prestige award ceremony to be held at the Atterbury Theatre in Pretoria:

- The Medal of Honour for Visual Arts to the renowned artist **Helen Sebidi**.

This Medal of Honour is intended to recognise exceptional achievement in the visual arts such as painting, sculpture, architecture, weaving, ceramics, mosaics, photography, advertising and animated films.

Helen Mmakgabo Sebidi, a leading South African female artist, is known for her particular use of symbols associated with her people and their unique value system and way of making meaning in the rural areas of South Africa.

Sebidi travelled widely to exhibit her art, including among others, Britain, the Netherlands and the USA. In 2004 she received The Order of Ikhamanga from President Thabo Mbeki.

- The Frans du Toit gold medal for operational leadership to **Johan van Zyl**.

Dr. Johan van Zyl is the chief operating officer of the Toyota Motor Corporation worldwide. He is responsible for all Toyota operations in Europe as well as sales and marketing activities in 54 countries. The number of Toyota employees in Europe is around 20 000. He previously received the Eurostar Award as one of the top 18 executives in the automotive industry in Europe.

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