

10<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## World Netball Congress 2021

### Service Award Citation



#### **Citation for Maggie De Plessis**

##### **Netball South Africa**

Maggie has been involved in international netball for more than forty-five years, as a player, umpire and administrator.

As International umpire Maggie has umpired at two World Championships during 1999 and 2003 as well as two U/21 World Championships in 2000 and 2005. She has also umpired the final match between Australia and New Zealand at the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002. She has umpired more than eight test series between 2001 and 2008. Maggie was appointed a member of Match Officials Advisory Panel (MAP) in 2008 and served on the panel until 2015. In 2017 she was selected as ITP for the Africa region and chaired the Umpires Appointment Panel for the U/21 World Championships in Botswana.

Maggie was actively involved in Umpire development in Africa from 2006 till 2019. During 2012 she was part of the ITP panel that compiled guidelines for the development of umpires in Africa. She has also assisted in developing the Netball

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Namibia Umpires' structure. Up to the end of 2019 she worked closely with the ACOF system to uplift umpiring in Africa.

Maggie started playing netball at the age of nine and was involved in umpiring from that age. As Secondary School player her performance led to her selection in the provincial school side for five successive years. She was selected as Wing Attack in a South African School's side in 1973 and 1974. As student she represented her province for eight years as a player and was awarded the State President's Award for best player at the National Senior Championships in 1976 and 1978. She received National Colours in 1981 as Wing Attack. It was during this time that her love for umpiring was renewed, and she received her national "A" badge in 1995. She served on the South African Umpiring Board from 1995 up to 2015. During this time talent identification became a passion and she acted as coach for cadet IUA umpires as well as NSA umpires.

During the World Netball Championships in 1999 in Christchurch, New Zealand she was accredited as the first International Umpire in Africa and South Africa. Maggie became a role model and succeeded to inspire umpires all over the African continent. She shared her knowledge and expertise with everybody. As ITP Maggie achieved enormous success. As the leading umpire in Africa, she contributed tremendously to the uplifting of umpires in Africa by conducting various umpire courses. The Code of Conduct she abides by has given umpires in Africa and South Africa the respect they deserve.

Maggie has also received a Service Award by the South African School's Association as well as an Administrative Award by the Educational Department of Gauteng.

Maggie du Plessis has given outstanding and exceptional service to Netball for over forty-five years including a significant contribution at International level and we thank her for her outstanding contribution to our sport over many years.