

**WA AFRICAN COMMUNITIES AWARDS**

*Statement*

**HON AYOR MAKUR CHUOT (North Metropolitan)** [5.51 pm]: I want to reflect on a very important event that I attended on Saturday, 4 September. It was a great honour to be among members of my African community at the fourth gala event for the WA African Communities Awards. I went to that event with my colleagues Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson, Minister Bill Johnston, and the member for Mirrabooka, Meredith Hammat. It was such a good night and I am happy to be able to reflect on it.

The WA African Communities Awards recognise the achievements and contributions of African communities in our society, and the non-African communities, businesses and organisations who make a great impact on the lives of African-Australians in Western Australia. May I congratulate all the finalists again, as I did on the night. The wonderful work they do is very important and will encourage other people to also do wonderful things in our community. A highlight of the night was that one of my great mentors, Janine Freeman, whom we all know, was acknowledged with a Community Pillar Award. Because it was an African event, it was really great for the African community to see that western community leaders are making a contribution to our society. I was really happy to see Janine smile and dance as usual with the community.

I would also like to acknowledge Joe Tuazama and his team. Joe is a great leader, and he has a great team. This was the fourth gala night to celebrate these awards. We should all be proud of things like that in our community, because they help bring African and western communities together. It is also another way of enabling people to see the beauty of Africa. Africans love their colours. This was a night to wear our kanga and other colourful attire! Also, I had my make-up on that night, and that was really good. Thank you so much, President, for allowing me to stand and speak.