

MAIN PICTURE: Prince Harry arrives at the gala dinner in Johannesburg. **RIGHT:** Harry makes his appeal. **FAR RIGHT:** Only the best decor and traditional African dishes were laid on for the prince.



Prince Seeiso (46) have a strong bond partly because both lost their mothers. Harry was just 12 when Diana died and Seeiso 36 when Queen Mamohato Bereng died in 2003.

Prince Seeiso recently joked he and Harry got along well because they were “the slightly less well-behaved younger brothers”.

The two men established Sentebale (Sesotho for “forget me not”) in 2006 and have just spent two days at the charity’s centres in Lesotho. Michelle Freeman of Radio Lesotho tells how Harry took the time to personally interact with the young kids.

“He went to the trouble of learning about their culture.” At the Kananelo Centre for deaf children in the district of Maseru he learnt hand signs and performed traditional dance moves with the children.

The princes – Harry wearing a pink apron – even joined in to make *vetkoek* with the kids. At St Bernadette’s Centre for the Blind, also in Maseru, Harry listened as the children read from their Braille books and later played soccer with them.

Thanks to the Sentebale project the centre now has beds, shower facilities and Braille aids. “The teachers and people of Maseru regard him as a hero,” Michelle says.

She remembers when a little boy started crying, Harry gave him a hug, pacified him with sweets and allowed him to sit between him and Prince Seeiso. “It was so sweet. Harry is sensitive and kind, and cares about children. He’s also funny; he cracks jokes all the time.”

With the Sentebale project Harry wants to raise millions for the construction of the planned Mamohato Centre in Lesotho, a clinic for children with HIV/Aids and those orphaned by the pandemic. In his speech at the gala dinner he appeals to guests to open their hearts and purses. “It would be under-

standable for children who have endured such hardship at such a young age to lose faith and give up,” Harry says. “What amazes me is the opposite is the case: they battle on and make the most of their situation.”

From his speech it’s clear the project is close to his heart, and it’s reminiscent of the way his mother opened her heart to those less privileged. Diana supported 118 charity projects, many of which still cater for children with HIV/Aids in African countries.

“I hope my mother will be proud too,” Harry says, “Maybe they [his and Prince Seeiso’s moms] are together somewhere up there, with blueprints and sketches already mapped out! I can only hope we put the swings in the right place.”

The guests laugh and applaud, and later thousands of rands are raised with an auction and through pledge forms. No one reveals what a ticket to the dinner cost but that money also goes to Sentebale.

The menu is a five-course feast and includes a crocodile curry, poached prawns and scallops as hors d’oeuvres, followed by traditional Karoo lamb and pistachio mousse. Each course is served with a wine from Jordan wine estate near Stellenbosch.

Then Yvonne dedicates her song You are My Child to committed African leaders throughout the continent. Later a guest mentions that several patrons went across to greet Harry at his table during the dinner. “He was so relaxed. You’d never say this is a prince sitting here.”

But he is, one with a heart of gold. **S**

Next page:
Harry in Lesotho



USE TAG READER ON YOUR PHONE TO SEE PRINCE HARRY CHATTING TO THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SOUTH AFRICA, NICOLA BREWER.

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HE MIGHT have blue blood but Prince Harry is as down to earth as the boy next door.

In fact His Majesty’s humble manner sometimes makes you forget he’s a member of the world’s most renowned royal family.

The dashing redhead is as at ease here at the elegant Summer Place function venue in Johannesburg’s upmarket suburb of Hyde Park as he was last night when he danced with ailing children in Lesotho and made them *vetkoek*.

The prince has spent two days in the mountain kingdom but tonight he’s partying in style with the rich and glamorous to raise funds for Sentebale, his charity project in Lesotho – and YOU is joining in the fun.

The guests of honour include Prince Seeiso of Lesotho and his family. But the cream of South African celebrities has also turned up – from socialite Edith Venter to singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka.

Moments ago the Johannesburg metro police blocked off the street for the arrival of the prince and at least 10 bodyguards in three Range Rovers. He’s ushered into the building so fast the crowd of local and international photographers hardly manages to grab a decent picture.

Once inside Prince Harry (28) is his characteristic, easy-going self. He’s tall, charming and sexy in his tuxedo and bow tie, and mingles with the guests, glass of water in hand.

He effortlessly starts conversations with celebs and leading business figures. The guests, on the other hand, are visibly aware of his royal status and buzz about the young man who returned from duty in Afghanistan at the end of January where he’d fought against the Taliban as a helicopter pilot in the British army for almost five months (YOU, 7 February).

His new girlfriend, Cressida Bonas (24), a friend of his cousins princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, isn’t at his side tonight. She stayed behind in England.

Not that we’re complaining – more of the prince for us.

WITH his bashful smile Harry reminds one of his late mom, Princess Diana. “So what would you have been doing on a Wednesday evening if you weren’t here tonight?” he jokingly asks one of his guests.

Female guests, including Top Billing presenter Bonang Matheba who’s MC tonight, nervously flirt with the prince. Yvonne Chaka Chaka, who later performs, shares a hug with the British royal and is in stitches when she and her husband, Tiny Mhinga, chat with him. Later she tells us she asked Harry if he was ready to dance with her. “He’s lovely, so cool!” she purrs.

“He was very amused when I told him I’d met his grandma, Queen Elizabeth, on two occasions,” Yvonne adds. “The last time was in 1999 when I sang to her in Alexandra township [Gauteng]. She came to thank me afterwards.”

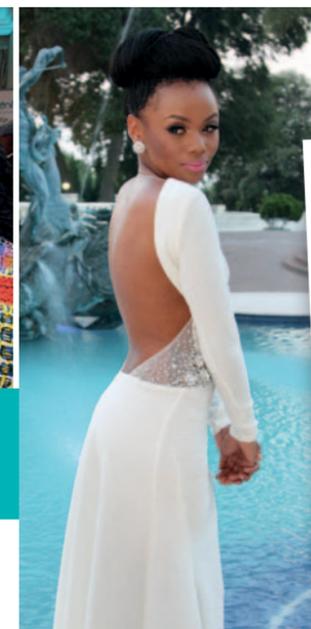
Nicola Brewer, the British high commissioner to South Africa, is wearing a grey-and-black creation and a wrap, one of two gowns Gavin Rajah created for the occasion – the other is Bonang’s gown.

She says the last time Harry was in South Africa he stayed with her at the commissioner’s residences in Cape Town and Johannesburg. “He’s a dedicated young man who’s very passionate about his charity work.”

The high commissioner says Harry and



Prince Harry and songbird Yvonne Chaka Chaka greet each other. With them are actress Terry Pheto (second from left) and Top Billing’s Bonang Matheba.



LEFT: Bonang Matheba shows off her Gavin Rajah creation.



LEFT: Prince Seeiso of Lesotho. He’s also Lesotho’s high commissioner to Britain. ABOVE: Prince Harry chats to Nicola Brewer, the British high commissioner to South Africa.

PRINCE OF CARING

Fresh from Lesotho, Prince Harry shone at a glittering gala dinner in Jozi in aid of his charity

By GLORIA EDWARDS and GILDA NARSIMDAS

