



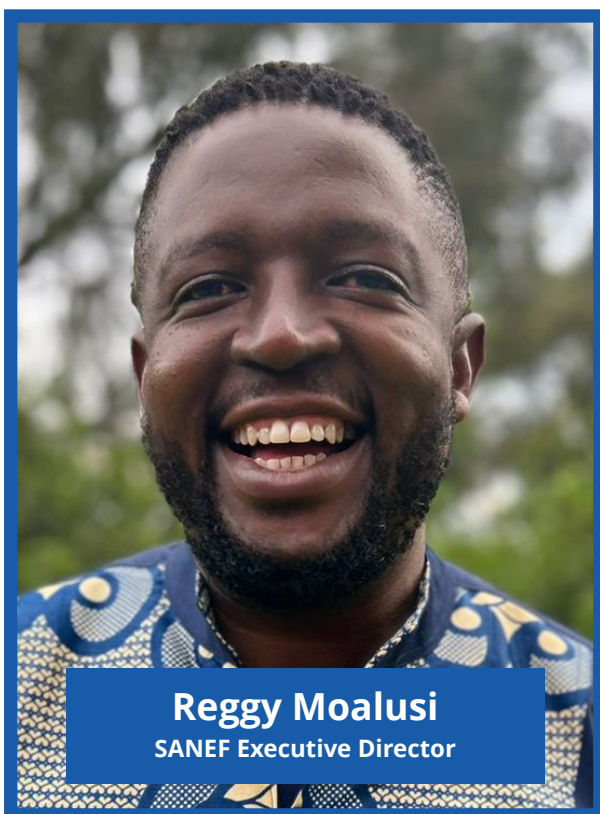
Standard Bank
Sikuvile
Journalism Awards 2024



Standard Bank



Prestigious Awards that honour the best in journalism, brought to you by SANEF



Reggy Moalusi
SANEF Executive Director

As the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF), we are thrilled to present our third prestigious and impactful Standard Bank Sikuville Journalism Awards (SBSJA) this year.

We proudly announce the winners of various categories of the Sikuville Awards in the pages below capturing the spirit, enthusiasm, and excitement at the Melrose Arch Precinct in Johannesburg.

In an era where disinformation and misinformation threaten societal stability, SANEF views these awards as a crucial tool for raising public awareness about journalistic ethics. By celebrating outstanding work, the awards help build public trust and credibility in the media, reinforcing the indispensable role of journalists in providing reliable information to the public.

The SBSJA proudly carry forward the legacy of these awards, originally established by the media industry association Publisher Support Services (PSS), formerly the PDMSA, in 2012.

With steadfast support from our sponsor, Standard Bank, SANEF shares a mutual commitment to a free, fair, and independent media landscape. The bank's enduring sponsorship underscores this commitment, rewarding journalists for their

courageous truth-telling in challenging and often difficult circumstances.

Journalists around the country now know that achieving an SBSJA is a significant milestone in the South African journalism industry. It not only brings prestige to journalists and media organisations but also elevates their reputation and credibility. The awards inspire aspiring journalists, garnering national recognition and respect from peers and future employers. By highlighting the industry's best work, the SBSJA motivates young journalists to pursue excellence in their careers.

The recognition attached to these awards emphasises the crucial need for high-quality journalism in our country. The SBSJA continues to set a benchmark for journalistic standards in South Africa, promoting a culture of ethical, accurate, and impactful reporting. They encourage journalists to uphold the highest standards, delivering unbiased and compelling news stories.

The awards ceremony also serves as a vital networking and collaboration opportunity. SANEF leverages this event to bring together journalists, media professionals, and industry stakeholders, fostering an environment of collaboration and idea-sharing among the brightest minds in journalism.

Finally, SANEF believes that the SBSJA celebrates the rich diversity of South African journalism. Encompassing categories such as print, online, radio, television, and photography, the awards symbolise the recognition of our diverse storytelling forms.

They highlight the significance of various mediums and approaches, making the SBSJA uniquely South African and unparalleled globally. Through these awards, we honour the resilience, progress, and spirit of South African journalism, committed to fostering a brighter and more informed future.

We believe these awards will be around for decades more and we do not doubt that the founding sponsors of the awards, Standard Bank have every intention to see them stand the test of time alongside their name.

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Nwabisa Makunga
SANEF Chairperson

The 2024 Standard Bank SikuVile Journalism Awards hold profound significance as they unfold amidst South Africa's celebration of 30 years of democracy. This milestone not only marks the end of an era defined by apartheid but also highlights the strides made towards a more inclusive and free society.

The awards, themed "Celebrating 30 years of media freedom," underscore the critical role of journalism in this journey, particularly in safeguarding the principles of democracy and free expression.

As South Africa commemorates three decades of democratic governance, the recent smooth political elections symbolise a significant shift in the nation's political landscape. The introduction of new parties and the peaceful transition of power reflect a matured democracy, where the will of the people is respected and upheld. Notably, the reduction in physical harassment incidents against journalists during the elections is a promising development.

However, this progress is tempered by a rise in online and social media harassment, highlighting a new frontier in the battle for media freedom and journalist safety.

The theme of this year's SikuVile Awards is particularly poignant. It calls attention to the enduring importance of media freedom, a pillar of any thriving democracy.

During the apartheid era, journalists faced immense challenges, including brutal repression by state forces.

Progressive journalists, however, found strength and encouragement from the oppressed majority, who saw them as voices of truth and justice. This relationship underscored the critical role of the press in advocating for social justice and challenging oppressive regimes.

The rise of online and social media harassment is a disturbing trend that undermines the credibility of journalists and their work. Disinformation campaigns, often orchestrated to discredit journalists, create an environment where the public struggles to distinguish between genuine news and falsehoods. This erosion of trust in the media is detrimental to the fabric of society, as it hampers the public's ability to make informed decisions.

The SikuVile Awards, therefore, are not just a celebration of excellence in journalism; they are a clarion call to defend and uphold media freedom. By honouring the diligent work of journalists, these awards shine a spotlight on the essential role of the press in a democratic society.

They also serve as a reminder that the fight for media freedom is far from over and that continuous vigilance and advocacy are necessary to protect journalists from harassment and disinformation.

As we look forward to a future where journalists can work without fear, it is imperative that both the public and authorities recognise and respect the vital role of the press. Journalists should not be the first targets of attacks when they identify themselves as reporters.

They should not face intimidation, harassment, or torment on social media platforms. Instead, they should be supported and defended, especially when covering critical issues such as protests, elections, and other sociopolitical and economic matters.

The 2024 Standard Bank SikuVile Journalism Awards, with their theme of celebrating 30 years of media freedom, challenge us all to take a stand against disinformation and to support those who strive to report the truth.

By calling out those who spread falsehoods and honouring journalistic excellence, we can foster a media environment where truth prevails, and democracy thrives. As South Africa reflects on its democratic journey, it must also commit to protecting the freedoms that have been hard-won, ensuring that the next 30 years build on the foundation of truth, justice, and free expression.



Lungisa Fuzile
Chief Executive Officer, SBSA

As we stand at the intersection of excellence and history, the Standard Bank SikuVile Excellence in Media Awards not only celebrates the achievements of today but also honours the enduring spirit of South Africa's democracy. This year, as we commemorate 30 years of democracy, we reflect on a journey marked by the valour of those who wielded the pen and camera in the quest for truth.

Our media professionals, the sentinels of our society, have played a pivotal role in shaping our nation's narrative. They have been the architects of accountability, the chroniclers of our collective memory, and the guardians of our hard-won freedoms. Their unwavering commitment to the principles of fair and independent journalism has fortified our democracy and safeguarded our heritage.

The path to press freedom in South Africa has been strenuous, stretching back to the promulgation of the Press Ordinance on April 29, 1829. This year, we mark 195 years since those initial battle lines were drawn—a testament to the resilience and tenacity of those who fought for the right to inform and be informed.

The dark era of apartheid, beginning in 1948, saw the media's struggle intensify. Laws enacted to stifle dissent, the harrowing events of Black Wednesday in 1977, and

the relentless pursuit of justice by media are indelible chapters in our history. Yet, the dawn of democracy in 1994 heralded a new era, enshrining press freedom within our constitution and honouring the sacrifices of those who came before.

Today, we stand vigilant, nurturing the freedoms we cherish. The media continues to evolve, facing new challenges and opportunities in a digital age. But the essence remains unchanged: a commitment to excellence, a dedication to democracy, and a resolve to report without fear or favour.

To all the nominees and recipients of the SikuVile Awards, your work embodies the highest ideals of your profession. To those who submitted their work for consideration, your courage is the foundation upon which our future is built. And to every media professional who contributes daily to the tapestry of our nation's story, your efforts are the threads that bind us together in our quest for a more informed, just, and equitable South Africa.

Congratulations, and may we continue to excel in our pursuit of truth.





Lizeka Mda
Convenor Judge

This year, we initiated the call for entries as early as January, giving journalists a generous two-month window until March 29 to submit their work. This deadline was later extended to April 3. We received 573 entries, amounting to 655 individual items, which is 55 more than last year. The growth was particularly notable in the Indigenous, Community, and Investigative Journalism categories, reflecting strong support for the Sikuville Awards and the ease of the online entry process.

However, challenges arose, particularly with entries not being properly linked, requiring judges to search for titles online. Some entries were locked behind subscription barriers, and many URLs were missing from entry forms. Additionally, entries were sometimes submitted in incorrect categories. Editors should ideally oversee the submission process to ensure accurate categorisation, as judges should not bear the burden of reallocating miscategorised entries. Nonetheless, all entries were judged fairly and comprehensively. Judges appreciated having a full month to adjudicate, allowing ample time for reading, discussing, and re-reading entries. The quality and diversity of submissions in many categories were commendable, with notable improvements in the Visual Journalism category. This improvement suggests the awards motivate journalists to enhance their work continually.

There was a pleasing quality and range of entries in

many categories. It was particularly heartening to see the number of entrants who keep entering the Sikuville Awards, with the quality of their work improving notably over the years, until they deservedly become winners. Despite this, judges were concerned about the reluctance of many photographers to enter their work, especially sports photography. While there was a slight increase in News and Feature photography entries, many submissions suffered from poor quality and incomplete editing. Consequently, several promising entries did not meet the submission criteria. Judges recommend photographers seek editorial assistance before submitting their work.

A significant challenge was the surprisingly low number of entries about the Thabo Bester and Nandipha Magudumana story, one of the year's most prominent news events. It was particularly puzzling that the media outlet that broke the story did not submit the article that exposed the Bester scam. This serves as a reminder that participation is crucial for recognition.

But awards are like the lottery – “you must be in it to win it”. At any rate, we had a lot to work with from the entries that were submitted.

An early issue in judging the Features category was the difficulty of evaluating print and broadcast entries together, especially since the criteria primarily cater to written submissions. Judges reiterate their request to split the Features category to separate print and broadcast entries, ensuring fairer assessment criteria.

We extend our gratitude to Standard Bank for their steadfast commitment to quality journalism and to Sanef for organising the awards and tonight's ceremony. Special thanks go to the judges for their dedication and expertise: Tyrone August, Kim Cloete, Ryland Fisher, Pippa Green, Portia Kobue, Thabo Leshilo, Mapi Mhlangu, Lesley Mofokeng, Ruth Motau, Andile Ntingi, Neo Ntsoma, Sue Olswang, Mary Papayya, Gus Silber, and Beauregard Tromp.

Once again, it has been my honour to convene the judging of the Standard Bank Sikuville Journalism Awards.

Lizeka Mda
Convenor of Judges

**Andile Ntingi**

Andile Ntingi is the founder of GetBiz Pty Ltd, a media practitioner, and an economic commentator with over 20 years of experience in business journalism and corporate communications.

He began his career at SABC in 2000 as an Online Content Editor after earning an economics honors degree from Rhodes University.

He later worked as an Equities Reporter for Thomson Reuters, covering the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Andile has also contributed to major publications like Finweek and Business Day. In 2016, he completed the ALI Media Fellowship Programme in New York, sponsored by Bloomberg Media.

Beauregard Tromp is the Africa Editor at the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, where he manages cross-border investigations.

He is the former deputy editor of the Mail & Guardian and a previous Mondi Shanduka SA Journalist of the Year, Vodacom Journalist of the Year, and CNN/ Multichoice African Print Journalist of the Year.

He was also a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in 2013.

**Beauregard Tromp**



Kim Cloete

Kim Cloete is a journalist and media specialist with a wide range of national and international experience. She has worked as a radio and television journalist and editor, as well as in print and online news. Kim was a Nieman Fellow in 2006 and has received several awards for her work in journalism. In recent years, she has been involved in communications for two global public health organisations.



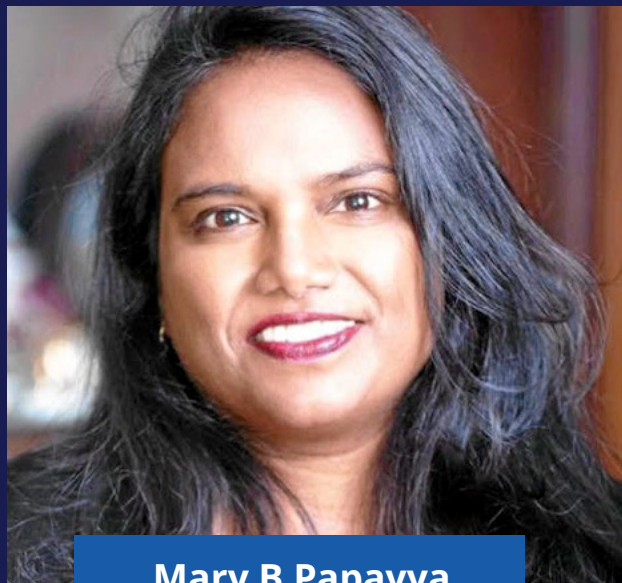
Lesley Mofokeng

Lesley Mofokeng is a former journalist who worked for the titles Sunday Times, City Press, and Sowetan. He is the author of a few celebrity biographies, and his latest book, titled "The Man Who Shook Mountains", was published by Jonathan Ball in March 2023. Mofokeng, a scholar of journalism, holds a Master's degree from Wits University, where he is an Associate Lecturer in the journalism department.



Gus Silber

Gus Silber is a journalist, author, scriptwriter, speechwriter, media trainer, and mentor. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Journalism and Media Studies from Rhodes University, achieved with distinction.



Mary B Papayya

Mary B Papayya is an award-winning journalist and a media and communications strategist. She currently serves as a Director on the SA Press Council and is a trainer, coach, and mentor. She has worked in the media industry in South Africa and across the continent for over three decades, across broadcast, print, and online platforms. She has served in a range of positions including Journalist, Bureau Chief, Editor, News Manager, and Director. She is a founding editor of the SA National Editors' Forum (SANEF) and is a former Director of the SABC Board.



Mapi Mhlangu

Mapi Mhlangu is a seasoned journalist with over two decades of experience in the industry. She has worked for various media organisations in South Africa, including eNCA, where she served as the editor-in-chief.

Mhlangu is also the founder of a content creation company called MInsight Content Creation, which has produced journalism research work for organisations like United for News, Internews, and Joe Public. As a judge for various awards, including the Emmys and Vodacom Journalist of the Year awards, Mhlangu brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table.

She is known for her unwavering commitment to journalistic ethics and integrity, and for her ability to tell stories that matter to South Africans from all walks of life. Mhlangu is also a mentor and advocate for storytellers. She is passionate about creating opportunities for aspiring journalists, especially women, and helping them to develop their skills and build successful careers in the industry.



Neo Ntsoma

Neo Ntsoma is an award-winning photographer and educator with work featured in international newspapers, magazines, and exhibitions. She was the first female recipient of the Mohamed Amin Award and has won the National Geographic All Roads Photography Award. Ntsoma co-authored "Women by Women," a book on South African women's photography.

She founded Neo Ntsoma Productions in 2007, working with clients like Facebook and NGOs like UNAIDS. Ntsoma also mentors photographers globally and lectures on visual storytelling. She has judged numerous photography contests and serves on several prestigious award juries.

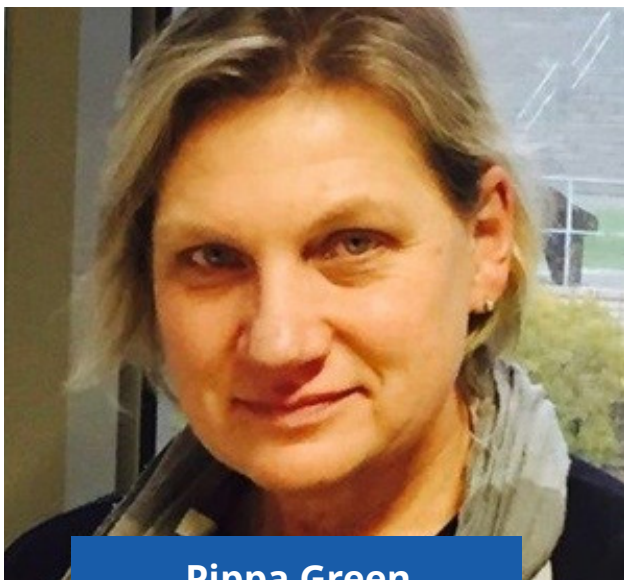
Ntsoma was named in the Mail & Guardian's Top 100 Women Changing South Africa.



Melanie-Ann Feris

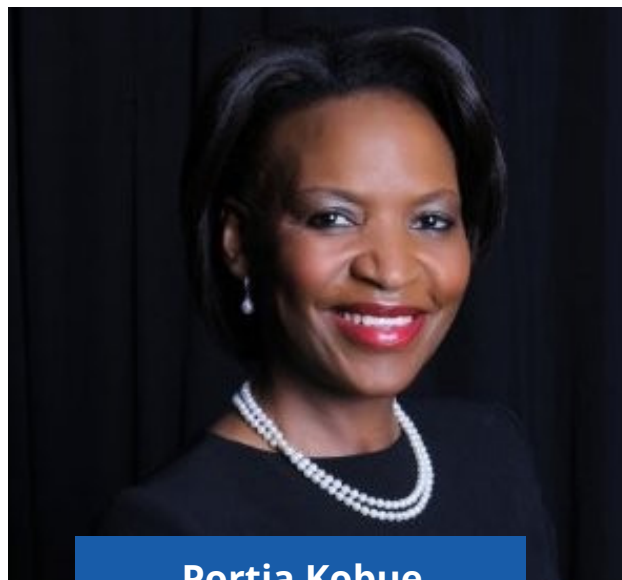
Melanie-Ann Feris is a senior content producer, strategist, and social media content manager, as well as a media and social media trainer with over 30 years of experience in the media and communications industries.

She is a trained journalist specialising in social development issues, specifically environmental issues. Melanie-Ann began her journalism career with Independent Media and later moved on to Media24, working on the City Press newspaper, where she was managing editor and the newspaper's internal ombud.



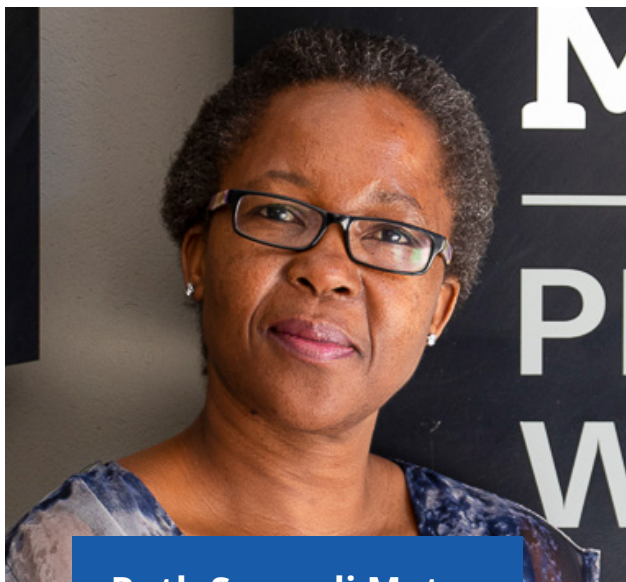
Pippa Green

Pippa Green has been a journalist, writer, researcher, and journalism teacher for over two decades, working in newspapers, magazines, radio, and academia. She is the editor of Econ3x3, an online publication by SALDRU, focusing on research about unemployment, inequality, and poverty. Previously, she served as the national Press Ombudsman, the first woman to hold this role. She holds degrees from UCT and Columbia University and has held notable positions such as deputy editor of the Sunday Independent, political editor at SABC, and Nieman Fellow at Harvard. She authored "Choice not Fate" and compiled several podcast series.



Portia Kobue

Portia Kobue is a passionate broadcast journalist advocating for women's representation in media. With an Honours degree in Journalism and Media Studies from Wits University, she focuses on social justice issues, including poverty and gender-based violence. Kobue began her career at Radio Bop in 1993 and later joined the SABC, Highveld Stereo, and Kaya FM in various roles. She is a Catherine Fanning Fellow at the Kettering Foundation, researching media's role in democracy. Kobue has also lectured at the University of Johannesburg and worked as an external examiner for Wits University's Radio Journalism Course.

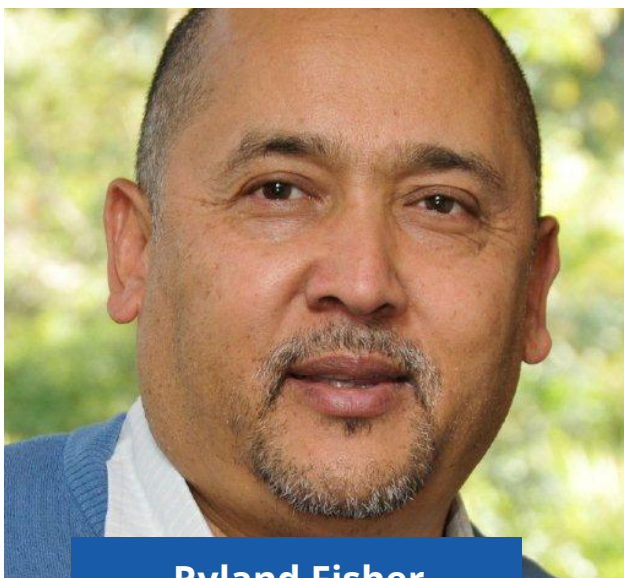


Ruth Seopedi Motau

Ruth Seopedi Motau, born in Meadowlands, Soweto, in 1968, is a prominent social documentary photographer based in Johannesburg, South Africa. With a foundation in photojournalism from the Market Photo Workshop under David Goldblatt, she has excelled as an independent photographic consultant, exhibiting widely and curating extensively.

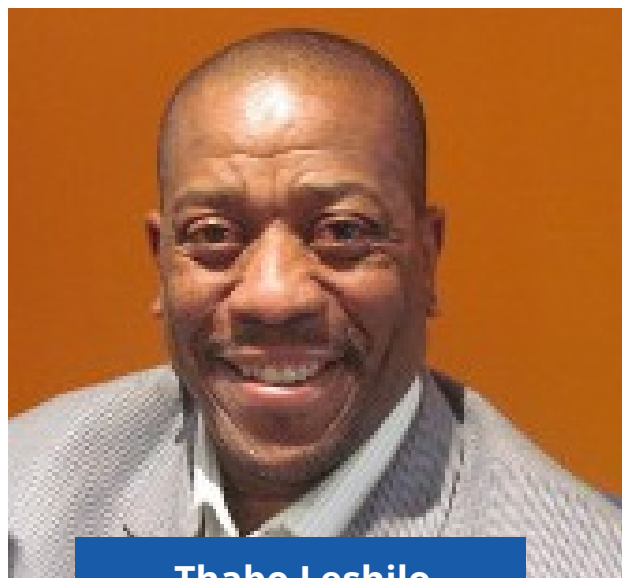
Motau made history as South Africa's first black female photo editor at Mail & Guardian, where she collaborated internationally with Klassekampen, Dagens Nyheter, and Newsday.

Her impactful work, featured in global publications and exhibitions across Brazil, China, France, and the US, includes notable series like Shebeens and Women and Municipal Service Delivery.



Ryland Fisher

Ryland Fisher brings over 40 years of diverse media experience, encompassing roles such as editor, journalist, columnist, author, and senior executive. Formerly Editor of the Cape Times and The New Age, with a stint as assistant editor at the Sunday Times, his expertise spans broadcast, online, books, and events globally. A pioneer in South African community journalism, Fisher's recent work includes editing "The South Africa We Want To Live In" and authoring insightful books like "Making the Media Work for You" (2002) and "Race" (2007). He continues to contribute to social justice and empowerment through editing and writing for various publications at home and abroad.



Thabo Leshilo

Thabo Leshilo is the politics editor at The Conversation Africa. He is a journalist and editor with 30 years of experience. He is the former editor of the Pretoria News, Sowetan, Sunday World, and Business Times. His main areas of interest are human rights, politics, labour, transport, and small business development. He is a past winner of the Sanlam Business Journalist of the Year Award (small business section) and was a 2008/2009 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. Thabo holds a Master's in Philosophy (Applied Ethics).



Tyrone August

Tyrone August has over 30 years' experience as a journalist, including roles as editor at Cape Times and Leadership magazine. He co-founded the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) and held executive positions in media organisations like the Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI) and Black Editors' Forum (BEF). He served as general secretary of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (MWASA) and the Association of Democratic Journalists (ADJ). August holds an MA from the University of London and a PhD from the University of the Western Cape.

Currently a Research Fellow at Stellenbosch University, he also serves as Deputy Press Ombudsman at the Press Council of South Africa. His biography, Dennis Brutus: The South African Years, was a 2021 National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences awards finalist in Best Non-Fiction – Biographies category.



JOINT WINNERS

Name: Zikhona Tshona

Organisation: Newzroom Afrika

Story: "Ofentse"

Name: Slindelo Masikane

Organisation: eNCA

Story: "Best Escape"

FINALIST

Name: Norman Masungwini

Organisation: City Press

Story: "R38 million ramshackle call centre" and "Hawks arrest for R134 million corruption"

This was a highly contested category. The submissions were compelling, handled with sensitivity and displayed excellence, with the pursuit of truth and the public's right to know being the objective.

The joint winners shone a light on the importance of critical and insightful content in our country, and showed just how good journalism in South Africa can be. These were significant news developments, that had timely and consequential impacts for the audience. The winners displayed a concise and impartial presentation of the facts, despite the deadline of live television.

Zikhona Tshona told a story of immense human pain and suffering about the agony of a 25-year-old mother whose newborn baby died soon after birth amid serious allegations that Sebokeng Regional Hospital staff behaved in a cruel, unprofessional and uncompassionate manner, in a report that shocked and horrified viewers. A video the mother captured on her phone recounted her harrowing cries for help and a most painful and chilling ordeal. Her story is exceptionally captured to hold those in power accountable.

The second story featuring the tactics of two criminal masterminds, by Slindelo Masikane, is also of public interest, focusing on the great escape of convicted rapist and murderer Thabo Bester and his partner Nandipha Magudumana. When news broke that Bester had not died in a prison cell fire but was alive and well and on the run with his fugitive partner Magudumana, the journalist was given a few hours to come up with a fresh angle on the story. With the deadline looming, it was innovative thinking that led the journalist to track down the couple's last known address in Johannesburg, and with creative use of details from an estate agent, traced how the two lived a luxurious life on the run in South Africa eventually escaping the country. Included were first ever interviews with Magudumana's father and brother. The journalist produced riveting and insightful journalism that delved into the duplicitous life of the convict and his partner.

COMMENDATION: Norman Masungwini – City Press:

"R38 million ramshackle call centre" and "Hawks arrest for R134 million corruption"

The judges award a commendation to Norman Masungwini, from City Press, for his body of work that uncovers massive corruption through a series of stories, including a ramshackle structure that is a R38-million call centre plus the arrest of a North West municipal manager and a businessperson, arrested by the Hawks on charges of corruption involving more than R134 million.



WINNER

Name: Hlengiwe Ngwenya
Organisation: SABC, Cutting Edge
Story: "Amabhodlo"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Zinhle Mugabe
Organisation: SABC's Cutting Edge
Story: "Crunchers"

COMMENDATION

Name: Annie Mokoena
Organisation: SABC Leihlo La Sechaba
Story: "Development of learning material in indigenous languages: a hope to decolonize education"

The Indigenous category in the Standard Bank SikuVile Awards exists to encourage reporting in indigenous languages, with the aim to celebrate and promote storytelling in South Africa's indigenous languages to preserve cultural heritage and foster inclusivity in media representation.

In 2023, the Indigenous category received only six entries, reflecting a limited participation in showcasing stories in indigenous languages. However, a year later the category has seen a significant increase with entries increasing to 14. The submissions included pieces in five different indigenous languages, highlighting the growing interest and commitment to sharing narratives in these languages. The category showcased a diverse range of stories that not only entertained and informed but also served as a platform for cultural exchange and linguistic preservation. However, the judges believe more can be done by newsrooms to improve the editorial quality of these entries.

The winning entry for the Indigenous category was "Amabhodlo" by Hlengiwe Ngwenya of SABC's Cutting Edge. This 24-minute documentary offers a poignant glimpse into the lives of individuals residing in condemned buildings in Johannesburg. The production features courageous characters who share their stories openly, shedding light on their living conditions and struggles. The narrative weaves together accounts of those renting out these buildings and those living amid the urban landscape without basic amenities such as water and electricity. Notably, the piece delves into the tragic incident at Usindiso, a five-storey building in Marshalltown where more than 70 people lost their lives in a fire, highlighting the tragic neglect of such spaces by the City and the plight of residents left without proper care and alternative housing options.

The **runner-up** for the Indigenous category is **Zinhle Mugabe**, also of SABC's Cutting Edge, for the documentary "Crunchers" which explores the practice of eating soil and clay. The piece offers insights into the clay-eating business, uncovering the sellers, the composition of the soil/clay, the people addicted, and the associated medical implications. It provides a comprehensive view of this unique phenomenon.

Annie Mokoena of SABC's Leihlo La Sechaba receives a special commendation for her story emphasising the importance of developing learning materials in indigenous languages. In a ground-breaking effort to bridge the knowledge gap in South Africa's marginalised communities, a dedicated group of academics is pioneering the development of learning materials and theory books in indigenous languages. Annie's narrative underscores the significance of education and knowledge dissemination in preserving and promoting indigenous languages within the broader context of cultural heritage and identity.



WINNER

Hazel Friedman

Organisation: SABC 2, Fokus

Story: "Oukloof"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Matthew Hirsch

Organisation: Groundup

Story: "Having withstood apartheid removals, D6 families fight eviction by new owner" and "One less hurdle for Bishopscourt land claimants"

COMMENDATIONS

1. Name: Zikhona Tshona

Organisation: Newzroom Afrika

Story: "13th Avenue"

2. Names: Sune Payne and Samane Junior Marks

Organisation: Daily Maverick

Story: "Divided and riven with discontent — a deep dive into Swellendam"

The Community Service Journalism category, more than any other category, looks for entries that reflect the views of what are often called "ordinary South Africans". This category rewards stories from the perspective of communities and not necessarily from the perspective of officialdom, which is often the case with journalism. We had a record number of 67 entries in this category and we are proud many of them were excellent entrants, which made the judges' work harder when we had to decide on winners

Our winner told the painful story of the forgotten forced removals in one of the Western Cape's and South Africa's oldest and most popular small towns, Riebeeck Kasteel, which happened long before the evictions from District Six and other areas. The descendants of the residents who were removed from Oukloof, which is now a rich person's paradise, are determined their story will not be airbrushed from history. The story was handled with great sensitivity and provided a voice for the victims. The winner for her story called "Oukloof" is Hazel Friedman of Fokus on SABC2.

Our **runner-up** in this category is Matthew Hirsch of GroundUp for his two stories on land dispossession. The first story, "Having withstood apartheid removals, D6 families fight eviction by new owner", tells of the families that remained on church property at the time most residents were forcibly removed, but who now face eviction by private owners since their block has been sold by the church. The second story, "One less hurdle for Bishopscourt land claimants", talks about the struggle people who were forcibly removed from the area faced to return amid objections from the white people who have settled on what used to be their land.

Commendation goes to Zikhona Tshona of Newzroom Afrika for her beautiful piece on "13th Avenue", Alexandra, which residents are turning into one of the cleanest and nicest streets in the township. At a time when most news coming out of townships such as Alexandra is of a negative nature, this story was positive and inspirational.

Another commendation goes to Sune Payne and Samane Junior Marks of Daily Maverick for their article "Divided and riven with discontent — a deep dive into Swellendam". This article points out the different conditions under which white and black residents live in this rural town.



WINNER

Names: Kyle Cowan, Azarrah Karim and Siphon Masondo

Organisation: News24

Story: "Mashatile unmasked"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Nicky Troll

Organisation: Carte Blanche

Story: "Liquid Gold" and "Springbok Codeine Pharmacist"

COMMENDATIONS

Name: Joy Summers

Organisation: Carte Blanche

Story: "Helen Botes, the CEO of the Johannesburg Property Company"

Name: Caryn Dolley

Organisation: Daily Maverick

Story: "Deadly syndicates and the illicit diamond deals"

This year's winning entry by the News24 team of Kyle Cowan, Azarrah Karim and Siphon Masondo, exemplifies all the best qualities of investigative journalism: it displays a combination of initiative, careful research and, not least, a considerable degree of courage. The team's three-part entry examines how friends and family members of Deputy President Paul Mashatile enable him to live a lifestyle of almost unimaginable luxury. The investigation draws on a wide range of sources, including people in close proximity to Mashatile, deeds office records, political party funding donation reports, annual reports and information obtained through the Promotion of Access to Information Act. The end result is a wealth of detailed information on how those with access to political power derive enormous financial benefit. What makes this entry more noteworthy is its unrelenting gaze on a man who may become South Africa's president one day. It skilfully and fearlessly exposes the disturbing connections between politics and self-enrichment.

Runner-up Nicky Troll's Carte Blanche insert "Liquid Gold" about the black market in the fuel industry was a revelatory piece – both shocking and vitally important in raising the alarm on this trend of tax fraud at an industrial level. Nicky's months of research, undercover investigations and all-night stake outs showed a tremendous level of commitment. Similarly, her "Springbok Codeine Pharmacist", about widespread illegal codeine sales by a pharmacy chain owned by a former prominent Springbok rugby player, is a courageous and meticulously researched piece. She also handled the reaction to the broadcast, which prompted a big fall-out, with grit, bravery and hard facts. Nicky is a credit to South African journalism in the courageous way she tackles controversial issues which have a direct impact on the lives of many people. She does this with a potential risk to her safety at times in the interests of truth and social justice.

Commendation was awarded to Joy Summers's meticulous work exposing how Helen Botes, the CEO of the Johannesburg Property Company, allegedly runs a self-enrichment racket from her office. It includes leasing buildings the company doesn't need and falsifying documents to facilitate these and other illegal transactions. She channels public money to ANC and EFF politicians who then protect her, going as far as collapsing the DA administration under Mayor Mpho Phalatse. The administration that replaced hers stopped the company board's disciplinary action against Botes. She continues in her job. An insightful piece into how the allegedly corrupt network of politicians in coalitions serves personal interests, not those of the residents, who have to suffer the effects of collapsed infrastructure and services.

Another commendation went to Caryn Dolley for her three stories that shed light on the operations of little-known aspects of a deadly syndicate's activities in Israel and South Africa, going back decades. The tenacious work exposes cross-country killings, including using bombs, by rival gangs and their illicit activities, and suggests the deaths of Hazel Crane and her husband, alleged Israeli mafia bosses, were possibly linked to illicit diamond deals.



WINNER

Name: Nick Wilson

Organisation: News24 Business

Story: "Convicted Health & Racquet fraudsters sub-let lucrative site to Virgin Active"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Jan Cronje

Organisation: News24 Business

Story: "The end Steinhoff: From a small town in Germany to SA's biggest corporate fraud"

COMMENDATION

1. **Name: Lulamile Feni**
Organisation: Daily Dispatch
Story: "We won't allow nut project to fail"
2. **Name: Lisa Steyn**
Organisation: News24 Business
Story: "SA roads are vanishing as trucks run riot"
3. **Name: Na'ilah Ebrahim**
Organisation – News24 Business
Story: "Chaos at Durban port with an estimated 71 000 containers stuck at sea"

The winner in this category is News24 business journalist Nick Wilson for his outstanding article "Convicted Health & Racquet fraudsters sub-let lucrative site to Virgin Active". In this entry, Nick broke the story of convicted fraudsters Rodney Mitchell and Peter Gardener, the two directors who were at the centre of the Health & Racquet Club collapse in the early 2000s. It turns out the two men have been profiting from Virgin Active leases.

Mitchell and Gardener were jailed between 2011 and 2013 after they were found guilty of fraud at Leisurennet, which owned gym business Health & Racquet Club. Health & Racquet was later acquired by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Active group. That Mitchell and Gardener were still doing business with a company they once defrauded is peculiar. Nick did a brilliant job in shining a spotlight on white-collar criminals in the private sector, some of whom appear to go on to thrive relatively easily after their transgressions.

The **runner-up** in this category is News24 journalist Jan Cronje for his excellent article "The end of Steinhoff: From a small town in Germany to SA's biggest corporate fraud". The article, written almost a year before the sudden death by suicide of former Steinhoff CEO Mark Jooste, the man at the centre of SA's biggest corporate fraud, takes a deep dive into the rise and fall of Steinhoff. It was once one of SA's most successful business empires. Jan neatly pulls together different strands of a complex corporate fraud case and concludes the article by plainly explaining how the company settled a string of claims from defrauded investors to stave off liquidation.

The **first commendation** goes to Lulamile Feni of Daily Dispatch for his article "We won't allow nut project to fail". It is rare to read about agricultural projects undertaken in rural areas, where investment has been made on land owned by communities. Lulamile's article is about the multimillion-rand Amajingqi Macadamia Farming project in rural Willowvale in one of the most impoverished parts of the Eastern Cape. Lulamile writes sharply about the financial calamity facing the project and potential loss of 130 jobs.

The **second commendation** goes to Lisa Steyn of News24 Business for her outstanding article "SA roads are vanishing as trucks run riot". In this entry, Lisa delves into the complex dichotomy of the global coal boom sparked by the Russia-Ukraine war, which has increased the demand for SA's coal exports and, on the other hand, the damage that this boom is causing on SA's roads due to increased trucking volumes. This story also highlights the decline in our country's rail capacity, which forces exporters to move their heavy cargo through roads.



WINNER

Name: Lucas Ledwaba

Organisation: Daily Maverick

Story: "On a quest for healing justice" "Gold mining widows battle with trauma and poverty"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Sean Christie

Organisation: Bhekisisa

Story: "Meet Andy Gray, the insider's insider of SA drug policy", "The importance of being Brimey" AND "What ChatGPT won't tell you about Tlaleng Mofokeng"

COMMENDATION

Name: Hazel Friedman

Organisation: Fokus (SABC2):

Story: "Jonno se Ark"

Name: Xanderleigh Dookey Makhaza

Organisation: Eyewitness News:

Story: "Umhlabuyalingana – South Africa's least electrified municipality" AND "The Bosveld Mines Story – Transforming lives of former Zama Zamas by working with them"

Lucas Ledwaba emerged as the unanimous winner of the Features category. It is his intensely poignant writing from his two submissions that won over the judges. His entries "On a quest for healing justice" and "Gold mining widows battle with trauma and poverty" presented an unrivalled and solid body of work that showed off his enterprising spirit and the leg work he put in producing them. The former piece is on two silicosis widows, a heart-breaking story of the breakdown of the family unit and generational poverty as fathers are sent home to die after decades of committed service in the mines. The latter article is a gripping quest for healing and justice for families in a North West village that lost loved ones at the hands of the apartheid security forces.

The **runner-up** is Sean Christie, whose eye for detail shone through in the three profiles he submitted. With magnificent writing and observations into specialist areas of health, Sean draws in the reader as he shares the stories of Andrew Gray on drug policy, Ebrahim Varavia on public health and Tlaleng Mofokeng on history and public health.

For the **finalist**, the panel picked Hazel Friedman, who submitted an important story on animal welfare. It is the heart-warming tale about saving donkeys from being exploited for their skins and subjected to cruel treatment. A moving piece that is well reported and has great visuals.

The judges agreed on two special commendations. First for Don Pinnock for his fascinating slice of history on tea. The article carried a strong message, reminding the readers of the brutality of imperialism and the theft it came with. Pinnock masterfully tells of the travels of a beverage that is consumed so easily these days but was a precious commodity as recently at the 19th century. The sidebars were educational and informative.

The second commendation is for Xanderleigh Dookey Makhaza who delivered a powerful multimedia portrait of Umhlabuyalingana, a rural village in KwaZulu-Natal, that has no electricity supply nor running water, and how people cope. Her other submission was on Bosveld mines and about formalising the illegal miners known as Zama Zamas. The interviews were excellent and offered interesting perspectives on policy.



WINNER

Name: Nomvuyo Ntanjana
 Organisation: SABC, Cutting Edge
 Story: "Buru The Snake Guru"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Luke Feltham
 Organisation: Mail & Guardian
 Story: "The witty words of the 20th century's dirty magazines laid bare".

COMMENDATION

Name: Jonathan Ancer
 Organisation- News24
 Story: "My colonoscopy experience: A pain in the butt, yet not as scary as you think".

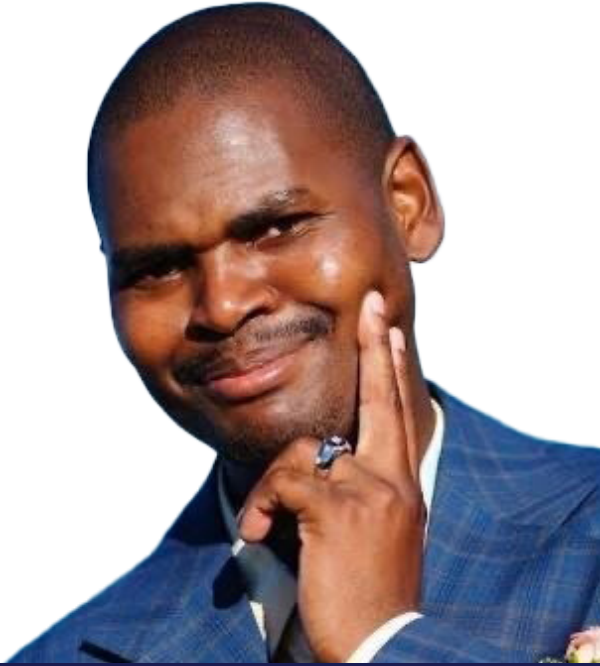
Name: Don Pinnock
 Organisation: Daily Maverick
 Story: "Magic season in Cederberg's high valleys"

The winner Nomvuyo Ntanjana of SABC's Cutting Edge delivered a powerful portrait of a snake keeper in a rural village in Northern Cape. Bokamoso "Buru" Ntehelang turned his house into a snake sanctuary, collecting harmless and non-venomous species from the wild and from homes in his campaign to stop community members killing them. What impressed the judges is Buru's initiative, flying in the face of stereotypes and superstitions regarding snakes. Ntanjana told the story with the lightness that characterises a good lifestyle piece and without losing the significance and seriousness of the subject matter. It is also commendable that the story brings to the foretales of the often neglected and forgotten people in rural areas.

The **runner-up** Luke Feltham of Mail & Guardian entered a well-written and researched article about the rise and fall of two adult magazines. The reader learns that US civil rights activist Malcolm X credited Playboy for the rise of his popularity on college campuses, and the writer tracks how the prestige once held by Playboy and Penthouse, with top writers contributing to both publications, was eroded by the entry of Hustler and online media consumption in the 21st century.

The **first finalist**, Jonathan Ancer of News 24, submitted a very funny article about preparing for and undergoing a colonoscopy and gastroscopy. A well-written piece in which he points out with humour that one needs a colonoscopy every five years, or the same amount of time as a government's term of office. He stresses the importance of regular medical procedures that hold fear for many people.

The **second finalist** Don Pinnock of Daily Maverick entered a very well-written and informative article about the annual spectacle of the wild flowers in the Cederberg region of the Western Cape, with colourful descriptions of his journey to the area, the flora and the Xam rock art to be found there. His words painted pictures for the reader.



WINNER

Name: Bhekisisa Mncube
 Organisation: LitNet
 Story: "The contested legacy of Mangosuthu Buthelezi"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Lucas Ledwaba
 Organisation: Daily Maverick
 Story: "ANC cadres couldn't tolerate the competent load-shedding man"

COMMENDATION

Name: Carol Paton
 Organisation: News24
 Story: "Transnet's iron ladies lose their political cover"

Name: Ozayr Patel
 Organisation: Mail & Guardian
 Story: "Why don't we support the Proteas like we do the Springboks?"

The winner in this category is Bhekisisa Mncube whose entry, "The contested legacy of Mangosuthu Buthelezi", was published on LitNet. This article, written just days after the death of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, stands out for many reasons. It is a brave departure from the usual obituary, which overly focuses on the positive and glosses over the negative. While Bhekisisa does acknowledge the Inkatha leader's intellectual astuteness, he does not hesitate to confront the violence which underpinned some of his organisation's political tactics.

He draws on his own experiences – he grew up in a household where his father idolised Buthelezi and he attended a primary school where Inkatha's policies were unscrupulously advanced – to give a unique glimpse of life in what was then KwaZulu during the 1980s and early 1990s. It is a forthright piece, but relies on evidence to convey its viewpoint, not emotion – a distinguishing feature of the most accomplished column-writing.

The **runner-up** in this category is Lucas Ledwaba for his column, "ANC cadres couldn't tolerate the competent load-shedding man", in Daily Maverick. Writing satire requires a sophisticated sense of humour and a highly skilful use of language. Lucas' entry, about the mythical man who previously operated the loadshedding switch at Eskom, meets these requirements in abundance. He laments the loss of the punctuality and professionalism this man once brought to the job; his replacement is inept and performs his duties haphazardly, without any discernible work ethic. With the lightest of touches, Lucas powerfully mocks the decline in standards – both moral and professional – in current South Africa.

The **first commendation** went to News24's Carol Paton for her article, "Transnet's iron ladies lose their political cover". In this entry, she addresses the sudden call to review the skills of Transnet's leadership. Paton suggests the main reason is that Portia Derby and Sizakele Mzimela lost their political protection from Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan. The writer is clearly an authority in her field, as indicated by her political insight and writing skills. This could have been yet another dreary piece on the plight of our state-owned enterprises. On the contrary, it is an engaging and most informative read.

The **second commendation** was for Ozayr Patel's article "Why don't we support the Proteas like we do the Springboks?" in Mail & Guardian. This entry is a captivating attempt to understand why the Proteas do not enjoy the same degree of support from South African sports fans as the Springboks. Among the reasons Ozayr explores are the disappointing performances of the national cricket team – especially in World Cup tournaments – and the demands of representivity in a changing South African society. It is a thoughtful contribution to an ongoing and often emotive debate.



WINNER

Name: Thulani Ntsong

Organisation: Maverick Citizen

Body of work includes:

- "Lesufi"
- "Elections"
- "CR Zondo"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Design Team

Organisation: Daily Maverick 168

Body of work, including: "Moegoe from Moscow: SA takes a stand against global tsotsis", "Here today, gone this evening - fickle politics in Land of Oz" AND "Is Mbalula searching for a crane to lift him higher than Juju?"

Name: Carlos Amato

Organisation: News24

Body of work, including: "Cyril in Blunderland", "Winnie angry in heaven" AND "The rise and fall (and the rise and fall) of Jacob Zuma"

1.

The Winner: The judges unanimously chose Thulani Ntsong, cartoonist on Maverick Citizen, as the overall winner, from a small but varied selection of entries, ranging from print layouts to editorial cartoons to intricate infographics for major sporting events. Signing himself "2LANI", he submitted a body of work that was technically accomplished, bold in line and vivid in colour, and punchy in message as well as punchline.

We particularly relished his recasting of President Ramaphosa as a blissfully dozing Caped Crusader, in an action-packed tableau from a mock-Batman movie based on the recommendations of the Zondo Commission into state capture, corruption and fraud in the public sector.

Our **first runner-up** award in this category goes to the design team of Daily Maverick, for a body of work published in the weekly Daily Maverick 168 print edition. Their crisp and clean tabloid layouts are pleasing to the eye, combining elegant typography with witty and inventive collages of stock imagery and visual flourishes. The layouts are fine examples of design that engages the reader at first glance, gives them space and reason to linger, and draws them naturally into the text.

Our **second runner-up** award goes to Carlos Amato, who continues to produce outstanding work as the editorial cartoonist for News24. A standout in his body of work was "The Rise & Fall (& Rise & Fall) of Jacob G. Zuma" using the shape of the former President's head as a provocative visual metaphor for a rollercoaster journey in the public realm.

The judges highlight Jocelyn Adamson from the Daily Maverick design team for her innovative deployment of Artificial Intelligence as an illustrative tool. While debate continues to swirl around the use of AI technologies by media workers, Jocelyn shows us how embracing AI can expand an illustrator's horizons and add context and value to a story. We were particularly impressed by her illustration for a story about Africa's legacy of global debt, in which she used MidJourney AI and a stock image to striking effect.



WINNER

Name: Ayanda Ndamane
 Organisation: Cape Times
 Story: "Pro-Palestine crowd clash with police"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Sandile Ndlovu
 Organisation: Sunday Times/TimesLive
 Story: "Flooding, flying debris and heartache in Inanda after heavy rains and tornado"

COMMENDATION

Name: Alaister Russell
 Organisation: TimesLive
 Story: "Hlabangwane confesses"

Name: Jeremiah Thapelo Morebudi
 Organisation: Sunday Times
 Story: "Explosion of joy"

The winning entry by African News Agency photographer Ayanda Ndamane, titled "Pro-Palestine crowd clash with Police" published in Cape Times, not only captures the news event itself and reflects the incredible closeness and courage of the photographer, but also shows that even in situations that might feel life-threatening, the main function of press photographers is to present a fair and accurate representation of events, to tell the story without prejudice or preference around issues of race and religion.

Close behind is another brilliantly composed image by Sunday Times photographer Sandile Ndlovu titled "Take my Hand", published in TimesLive under the headline "IN PICS | Flooding, flying debris and heartache in Inanda after heavy rains and tornado". It may seem the floods story repeats year after year, but it remains as shocking as ever.

This entry's distinguishing factor is the manner in which the photographer chose to capture the quietness of the moment to illuminate the intensity of the impact and effects of these floods – once again adding an extra dimension to a breaking news story.



WINNER

Name: Theodore Jephtha

Organisation: Daily Dispatch

Story: "We walked a mile in their shoes...
And it was terrifying"

RUNNER-UP

Name: Sandile Ndlovu

Organisation: Sunday Times/TimesLive

Story: "IN PICS | Bizarre places homeless
people sleep in include graveyards, under
bridges and inside dilapidated buildings"

1.

There were 25 entries for this category this year, a slight improvement on last year's 20 entries. The judges chose as winner Theodore Jephtha of Daily Dispatch for photography under the title "We walked a mile in their shoes...And it was terrifying".

The entry is about children from Xesi village near East London in Eastern Cape who have to wake up at the crack of dawn and walk for almost two hours to attend Jowweni Zweliyandila High School, risking falling victim to criminals or being run over by vehicles in the process.

On the morning that the Daily Dispatch team was walking to school with the pupils they were held up at gunpoint by a man who then broke into their car and stole equipment worth R165 000. As storytellers we are always at risk going out with our cameras to document and tell stories that matter to our communities.

Theodore's images are sensitively taken in the early morning light and convey the dangers faced by children in many communities around the country in their quest for education and a better life. Two months after the story about this ordeal was published, the Eastern Cape government eventually provided scholar transport for the pupils, proving yet again the importance of journalism.

Sandile Ndlovu of Sunday Times / TimesLive is the runner-up for his work titled "Bizarre places homeless people sleep in including graveyards, under bridges and inside dilapidated buildings".

**WINNER****Name: Bertram Malgas**

Organisation: News24

Body of work, including: "Springboks demolish Romania in Bordeaux try-fest" "Springboks stumble against still-unbeaten Irish outfit Paris"

RUNNER-UP**Name: Jaco Marais**

Organisation: Netwerk24 / Die Burger

Story: "Bokke bring die gees!"

The Sports category received only nine entries, and for a country as sports mad as South Africa this did not convince the judges that these entries covered all that had been published on sports pages over 12 months.

The judges would like to appeal to sports photographers to enter the awards to showcase their work that covers an important aspect of South African life. The judges selected Bertram Malgas from News24 as the winner for his package titled "Springboks stumble against still-unbeaten Irish outfit in Paris" about the South Africa vs Ireland game at the Rugby World Cup.

He managed to capture very well the action on the field and the fans celebrating after the Bokke won, which was a proud moment for the nation.

Jaco Marais from Die Burger is the runner-up for "Bokke bring die gees!". These pictures of the Springbok's triumphant trophy tour of Cape Town in November exemplify the essence of storytelling through imagery.

The images convey the exhilaration and unity felt by the people of Cape Town as they celebrated the team's historic achievement. Each photograph tells a compelling story, portraying the excitement of the crowds, the pride of the players, and the electric atmosphere of the event. From the dramatic angles to vibrant colours, every aspect of the composition, lighting and action ensure the viewer is fully immersed in the moment.

The photographer provided a fresh perspective of the event and delivered a comprehensive powerful visual narrative of the Springbok's triumph leaving a lasting impression of that special occasion.

13 JUBY MAYET RISING STAR OF THE YEAR



WINNER

Name: Julia Evans

Organisation: Daily Maverick

Story: "Taxi industry public transport pollution"

Writing for the Daily Maverick and with under three years' experience, Julia Evans did an excellent piece based on research from the University of Stellenbosch on whether – and how – it is possible to use electric vehicles in the minibus taxi industry. She detailed the key challenges – that taxi drivers drive an average of 250km a day, while a charge from an electric battery holds only for about 130km, and that the numerous times taxis start and stop add considerably to their energy consumption. SA's transport industry is the second biggest polluter after the power industry, and taxis are the key mode of transport for the poor.

This was a very good example of reporting on scientific research in an accessible and readable way to outline policy options that could help the mass transit sector, find new paths for local manufacturing, and combat climate change by reducing emissions. Julia has proven to be a strong and enterprising journalist in a beat that requires her to translate academic research into accessible journalism. She will go far in the field.

**WINNER****Name: Lucas Ledwaba****Organisation: Daily Maverick****Stories: "On a quest for healing justice" "Gold mining widows battle with trauma and poverty"**

Lucas Ledwaba displayed dogged resilience and tenacity with the submissions he entered for the Standard Bank SikuVile Journalism Awards.

In his two stories titled "On a quest for healing justice" and "Gold mining widows battle with trauma and poverty", he tells the story of a section of South Africans who have been relegated to the margins of society – forgotten, overlooked and undermined. The former piece is on two silicosis widows, a heart-breaking story of the breakdown of the family unit and generational poverty as fathers are sent home to die after decades of committed service in the mines.

The latter article is a gripping quest for healing and justice for families in a North West village that lost loved ones at the hands of the apartheid security forces. It has been Lucas' crusade as a freelancer to breathe life into the stories of South Africans outside the urban centres. Without the backing of a news organisation, he finances his own travels, takes his own pictures and mostly edits his own work. He is among the best to do so. He uses his intensely poignant writing on these timeous issues confronting South Africa and challenges the authorities to act on behalf of the voiceless and unseen – and that is commendable journalism.

**WINNER****James Clarke**
28 March 1934 - 17 May 2024

This award recognises a sustained and extraordinary contribution to newspaper journalism on the part of an individual. The winner will have demonstrated impeccable ethics and craft excellence.

It is difficult to believe there was only one James Clarke. Like Russian Matryoshka dolls, each time you open one there is another James Clarke inside. Then there is James Clarke the journalist.

Under that umbrella there are indeed extraordinary achievements, some less noticed, like the extraordinary achievement of being a well-liked, caring, warm and inspiring News Editor.

How rare it is, for a news editor to be kindly, inspiring, a motivator, loved – and efficient. They are usually crusty old cynics. There is James the activist journalist, rallying the public behind The Star's campaign to stop the National Party Government from mining the Kruger Park, or putting a pipeline through, or a railway. He initiated, inspired and led the campaign to victory, a victory that has lasted to this day, no small feat.

There is James Clarke the successful author, of funny books, of bestsellers such as *Man is the Prey*, his first book about lions, and a runaway success in the US, author too of highly scientific books, one of which earned a gold medal, although one doubts it was for the much pored over humorous book *Sex for the Extremely Shy*.

Are books material to this award? Yes, they show "an extraordinary contribution to newspaper journalism" in that they highlighted both the humour in newspapers and the valuable science. But even if they are ignored, it doesn't matter, he did so much more.

There is James Clark, the passionate conservationist. He was an environmentalist before most readers had ever heard of that term. He popularised it, and bred many more conservationists, influential ones, who have acknowledged his was the leading light in turning them on. They in turn have bred more and more conservationists. There are more James's – the palaeontologist, who informed readers about the great finds in Africa and at the Cradle of Humankind, who insisted The Star's reporters cover that beat when other newspapers scoffed at it. There is James Clarke the birdwatcher, lover of geology, of all things natural, he conveyed to readers, writers, editors.

Hundreds of thousands of people only know yet another James Clarke, he who wrote Stoep Talk, a daily humorous column for The Star. Readers would say he was the only reason they bought the paper. All of us would enjoy that bit of unique 'Jamesian' humour injected daily into our oh-so-busy lives.

There is James the cyclist, his columns and books about cycling spawned many committed cyclists, fanatical even, and they have inspired dozens of others to cycle. James's little ripple caused a massive wave. There is no doubt James Clarke made "a sustained and extraordinary contribution to newspaper journalism on the part of an individual." More than any of us, James "demonstrated impeccable ethics and craft excellence."



The guests attending received symbolic gift bags depicting the art work of renowned artist and activist Mbongeni Buthelezi who uses a unique technique of melting plastic pieces onto a surface, creating a mosaic of shapes, textures, and shades that reflect the diversity and vibrancy of our city. Buthelezi creates pieces that talk to the devastation caused by the waste we create, and also point to reimagining how we could repurpose and recycle materials.

Buthelezi's work was exhibited as the Trash to Art exhibition which was co-created by over 500 Standard Bank employees. Bankers, cleaners, security personnel, finance specialists, investment practitioners, and other professionals participated in a street clean-up campaign around central Joburg to collect plastic and other waste as part of the JoziMyJozi initiative - a coalition of business, civil society organisations and public sector stakeholders who want to see a revitalisation of the Johannesburg inner city.



Hopewell Radebe
Programme Manager

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you, esteemed Journalists, who participated in the 2024 Standard Bank SikuVile Journalism Awards. Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to the truth have made this event a resounding success. As we celebrated 30 years of media freedom in South Africa, your stories have highlighted the vital role journalism plays in our democracy and the ongoing fight for truth and justice.

The 2024 awards saw an impressive 573 entries, with a total of 655 items read, viewed, and listened to—55 more than last year. This increase reflects not only the high calibre of journalism in our country but also your relentless pursuit of excellence. Each entry demonstrated the power of journalism to inform, inspire, and impact our society positively.

As we look forward to the 2025 Standard Bank SikuVile Journalism Awards, we challenge you to raise the bar even higher. Select the best story you have produced and work closely with your editors and peers to ensure that only the most well-crafted and compelling narratives are submitted. Excellence in journalism requires collaboration, critical assessment, and a commitment to the highest standards of reporting.

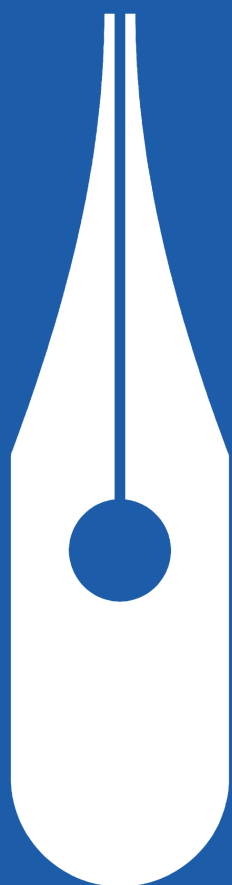
The South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) will release the call for entries in January next year, with a submission deadline two months later. This timeline is designed to give you ample opportunity to prepare and polish your entries, ensuring that they truly represent the pinnacle of your work.

We also encourage journalists working for community media platforms to participate and submit their entries in indigenous languages. The richness of our linguistic diversity is a testament to the strength of our democracy, and stories told in indigenous languages are vital in reaching and resonating with broader audiences. Your voices are crucial in shaping our national narrative and reflecting the diverse experiences of all South Africans.

Once again, thank you for your participation and for the extraordinary work you do every day. We look forward to witnessing the continued excellence of South African journalism and celebrating your achievements at the 2025 Standard Bank SikuVile Journalism Awards.

With sincere appreciation,

Standard Bank SikuVile Journalism Awards
Committee



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