



# Standard Bank **Sikuvile** Journalism Awards 2026

## Entry Information Pack





## PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded:

- Winners will be awarded **R15 000**, the Sikuvile Journalism Awards trophy and a certificate.
- Finalists will receive certificates.
- Commendation certificates may be awarded at the judges' discretion. Competition
- Entry submissions open on **1 February 2026**.
- Entry fee: R100 per entry.
- Closing Date for Entries is **Monday 31 March 2026**. | NO EXTENSION PERMITTED.
- Submission Process Journalists and media professionals are encouraged to download declaration forms from the website <https://sikuvileawards.co.za>.
- We kindly request that all forms be digitally completed or typed to assist with legibility and accurate record-keeping. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Then submit the entries via email, together with the forms and samples of the stories, to [entries@sikuvileawards.co.za](mailto:entries@sikuvileawards.co.za).
- Detailed submission guidelines and category requirements are available at the official website: <https://sikuvileawards.co.za>.
- Judging will take place on the **April/May 2026**.
- The judging panel consists of respected journalists, with deep expertise in the various categories of the competition.
- The Standard Bank Sikuvile Journalism Awards will be presented live in June 2026 – the Venue to be confirmed- in Johannesburg.

## BANKING DETAILS

Account Name: **South African National Editors Forum**

Account Number: **1958531235**

Branch Code: **197705 (Rosebank)**

Account Type: **Current**

SWIFT Code: **NEDSZAJJ**



## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Entries are to be submitted via email to : [entries@sikuvileawards.co.za](mailto:entries@sikuvileawards.co.za)

There must be an entry form you submit for each category you plan to contest. You will need to send the following documents, so have them ready before you enter:

- A declaration signed by both you and your Editor declaring your work is legitimate and qualifies. This document is available for download at [www.sikuvileawards.co.za](http://www.sikuvileawards.co.za)
- A profile photograph of yourself. If you are part of a team, please have profile photos of every member who contributed and has a byline added on a story, and name them appropriately so we know who they are.
- Proof of payment. (R100 per entry, paid upfront before entering).
- Samples of your work for entering. ALL ENTRIES in ALL CATEGORIES published in languages other than English, must include subtitles or a transcript in English. To avoid transcription errors and ensure clarity, please submit typed forms only; handwritten submissions will not be accepted.
- If you cannot attach to your email your sample, you may provide a URL to it and or attach a screenshot instead, however, you must make sure the video/ audio you are linking to is accessible by the public and not hidden behind a paywall (Don't assume the judges have paid subscriptions to your publications).
- We advise that you talk to your organisation to make the article available to the adjudication panel of judges somehow.
- Acceptable file formats
- Static content (e.g.: Photos, Layouts) .PDF .PNG .JPG
- Motion content (e.g: Videos, Podcasts) .MP3 .MP4 .M4V .WMV .AVI .MOV
- There is a file size limit. Please ensure all files you upload are less than 200MB.



## CATEGORIES

- All categories are open to Print, Online/Digital Media, Broadcast (Radio and TV) reporters.
- Entrants must please check category for specified maximum entries.
- Entrants are discouraged from submitting the same entry in multiple categories.
- Broadcast and digital entries should contain links to publicly accessible web, video, or audio platforms where the judges can view or listen to the material.
- Alternatively upload the original video files or embed into a PowerPoint presentation.



## 1. HARD NEWS

- Journalism that is urgent, breaking news, typically put together for any media platform while on tight deadlines and under pressure. The writing for print or online as well as broadcast setup should be fresh, comprehensive, accurate and have high quality graphic description and pointed news salience.
- Max number of samples per entry: 1

## 2. INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE REPORTING IN COMMUNITY MEDIA

- This category entails news articles/broadcasting clips that are the result of proactive reporter enterprise. It is distinct from breaking news and represents stories initiated by the newsroom. Entrants should submit journalistic work that was produced using any of South Africa's indigenous languages across media segments, particularly meant to speak to the community the journalists work.

Required documentation to enter this category:

- Your signed declaration document
- Profile photographs of you/team
- Samples of the work you are submitting
- Samples in indigenous languages must be accompanied by an English-translated transcript of the story.
- Proof of payment for R100
- You may enter this category a maximum of 3 times.



### 3. COMMUNITY REPORTING

- This category highlights hyper-local issues crafted from a community interest perspective, to inform, educate, and build resilient communities by amplifying grassroots narratives that matter.
- These are general community feature and creative journalism stories initiated to capture the depth of community sentiments and concerns in all languages. Focused on grassroots narratives published by members of the Association of Independent Publishers (AIP), or similar organisations.

Required documentation to enter this category:

- Your signed declaration document
- Profile photographs of you/team
- Samples of the work you are submitting
- Samples in indigenous languages must be accompanied by an English-translated transcript of the story
- Proof of payment for R100
- You may enter this category a maximum of 3 times



## 4. INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

- This is in-depth work resulting in well-researched journalism. Consideration will be given to the writing, presentation, research, perseverance, courage, and innovation.
- Max number of samples per entry: 3 (These samples must be related and part of a body of work.)

## 5. BUSINESS JOURNALISM

- This category seeks to promote business, companies, economy, financial markets, and consumer journalism that covers the critical issues and makes an impact. Entries are across print, radio, television and online platforms.
- It will focus on original reporting, proficient writing and, where appropriate, visual storytelling. It could be one entry or a body of work covering a particular story.
- Max number of samples per entry: 1

## 6. FEATURES

- This category recognises journalism that has entailed enterprise, investigation, and persistence in gathering the information and shows skill in telling the story. Quality of language, narrative skill, story structure, descriptive power, analysis, and background will also be considered in the judging.
- A series of articles (published or broadcast as such) will count as one entry.
- Max number of samples per entry: 3 (These 3 samples must be related and be part of a body of work.)



## 7. LIFESTYLE

- Lifestyle will be considered as some of the best writing/broadcast packaging around soft or magazine type issues such as travel, reviews, trends, and related topics. These are stories that cannot compete fairly in the Features category.
- Max number of samples per entry: 3 (These samples must be related and part of a body of work.)

## 8. COLUMNS/EDITORIALS

- This category seeks to recognise distinguished editorial and column writing & broadcasting with a specific focus on clarity, consistent editorial style, factual accuracy, sound reasoning, persuasive argument, and the ability to engage and influence public opinion using ethical journalistic methods. Columns can include creative and humorous pieces which should be entertaining without becoming pure fiction. Attention will be given to the use of language, wit, and cross-cultural sensitivity.
- Max number of samples per entry: 1



## 9. VISUAL JOURNALISM (EDITORIAL CARTOONS GRAPHIC LAYOUT)

- Cartoons in all media platforms will be assessed for graphic imagery, originality, cleverness and political or social punch. Simplicity, topicality, and humour will be considered. Entrants should motivate why their work scores on these criteria.
- Infographics and illustrations are eligible for graphic journalism on all media platforms. They should add value to a story on all platforms including broadcasting, conveying meaning in a way that photos text, and words alone do not. Creativity and originality in concept and the quality of execution will be considered. Clarity, vividness, and communicative power are also factors.
- Max number of samples per entry: 3 (These samples must be related and part of a published body of work.)

## 10. NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS

- Published or broadcast pictures of fast-breaking or spot-news comprise this category. Excellence in composition, lighting, action, and other photographic qualities will be considered.
- The judges will assess both the original image and how it lent itself to being presented and will therefore require a copy of both the original and the page on which it appeared and/or digital or broadcast clip.
- Max number of samples per entry: 1



## 11. FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHS

- Published or broadcast feature photographs that tell a story and demonstrate reporting initiative are assessed under this category.
- Excellence in composition, lighting, action, and other photographic qualities will be considered.
- Judges will assess both the original images and how they were presented; therefore, entrants must submit copies of the original images as well as the published page and/or the digital or broadcast clip.
- A series of photographs (published or broadcast as a series) will count as one entry.
- Maximum number of samples per entry: 10 (samples must be related and form part of a published body of work).

## 12. SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHS

- Published or broadcast pictures taken at sports events constitute the distinctive subject matter here. The winning entries should show excellence in producing images that convey human drama and achievement through techniques such as composition, the use of available lighting and the capturing of moments of action.
- The judges will assess both the original image and how it lent itself to being presented and therefore require a copy of both the original and the page on which it appeared and/or digital or broadcast clip.
- Max number of samples per entry: 1



## 13. MANAGER/PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR

- The Publisher of the Year award is given to the publisher/manager that has shown the most innovation, creativity, and success in the media industry over the past year across the media platforms. The candidate must demonstrate ability and acumen to weather the storm and propel journalism and the media sector amid challenging circumstances.
- Motivation of how their intervention saved or benefited the sector is required, e.g.: testimonials, press cuttings, radio/TV clips and other proof of activities. Self-nominations will be accepted.
- An entry fee and entry form are required for this award.

## 14. JUBY MAYET RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

- **No entries are accepted for this category.**
- Instead, judges will select a winner from among entries submitted in all other categories.
- Eligible candidates must have less than three years' professional experience in journalism.
- Judges will consider the potential shown for excellence, accuracy, story development, and storytelling.

The Juby Mayet Rising Star of the Year category recognises an outstanding emerging journalist selected from across all award categories. The award celebrates early-career journalists who, despite limited time in the profession, demonstrate the talent, courage, and dedication to shape the future of journalism. In selecting the winner, judges will assess:

- Evidence of excellence and professionalism
- Commitment to accuracy and ethical reporting
- Strength in story development
- Quality, creativity, and impact of storytelling



## 15. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

**No entries are accepted for this category.**

The Journalist of the Year category honours the most outstanding overall journalist of the year. Evidence of real-world impact, such as policy changes, reforms, institutional action, or social change resulting from the work. It will significantly strengthen a candidate's case for this award.

The judges will select the winner from among all entrants across the other award categories. In making their decision, judges will assess the body of work submitted in other categories, with particular focus on:

- Overall quality and consistency of work
- Originality and innovation
- Accuracy and ethical reporting
- Strength of storytelling and narrative craft

The award recognises journalism that sets the public agenda and advances original thinking. Special consideration will be given to work that has:

- Provided new insight into the changing character of South Africa.
- Shaped public debate or understanding
- Contributed meaningfully to society



## 16. ALLAN SOGA / STANDARD BANK CHAIRMAN'S

- Lifetime achievement
- This honour recognises a sustained and extraordinary contribution to newspaper journalism on the part of an individual.
- The recipient will have demonstrated impeccable ethics and craft excellence. The results will have enriched South African public life. Where the person's accomplishment has been achieved in the face of obstacles; this will add to the nominee's ratings.

### HISTORY OF THE AWARD:

- This award used to be dedicated to the historical journalistic figure, Allan Kirkland Soga, born in the early 1860's and served as editor of Izwi Labantu (Voice of the People) between 1898 – 1908. Soga also helped found the South African Native Press Association in 1902 – the first African news service on the African continent. He also wrote a regular column in Umteteli wa Bantu in the early 1920's. Historian, Les Switzer, describes the man as "Undoubtedly, one of the leading intellectuals of his generation."
- Soga is remembered for the journalistic credo which he promoted: "Against the wrong that needs resistance; for the good that lacks assistance."

Individuals can submit nominations with thorough motivations about the person they have nominated and may include samples of work done in print, online or broadcasting (radio & TV).

- The individual's accomplishment should have been over a career of a minimum of 20 years in journalism.
- The nomination should be in the form of a written letter (or letters) of recommendation.



- The information should address the reasons why the nominee is deserving of this recognition.
- Additional supporting materials such as testimonials, press cuttings and TV or radio clip are welcomed.
- No entry fee or entry form is required for this award.
- Judges are not eligible for nomination. Previous winners of this category are also not eligible.
- The winner will receive the Standard Bank Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Trophy and Certificate.
- This award has no prize money.