



Standard Bank
Sikuvile
Journalism
Awards 2026

Truth in the Age of AI

The Fight for Sustainable
Journalism



JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2026
SANDILE NDLOVU



Standard Bank

FOREWORD



REGGY MOALUSI
SANEF'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) Management Committee, we extend our sincere gratitude to Standard Bank for its unwavering partnership and extraordinary support in making the 2026 Standard Bank Sikuville Journalism Awards a resounding success.

The awards ceremony, held on Friday, 3 July 2026, was a fitting celebration of South Africa's finest journalists and storytellers. Through meticulous planning, attention to detail and a shared commitment to excellence, the partnership, which includes all media outlets' newsrooms, has delivered a prestigious event that honoured the outstanding achievements of journalists from across the country.

The elegant presentation of trophies and certificates to the winners and finalists reflected the prestige and significance of these awards, which continue to serve as the highest recognition of

journalistic excellence in South Africa. We are particularly honoured that the Standard Bank Group Chief Executive Officer, Sim Tshabalala, graced the occasion with his presence and delivered a thoughtful and inspiring keynote address.

His remarks on the enduring importance of credible journalism, the role of journalists in strengthening democratic institutions, and the opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence resonated deeply with all who attended. His message reinforced the central theme of this year's awards, "Truth in the Age of AI: The Fight for Sustainable Journalism," and underscored the vital partnership between journalism and institutions that value transparency, accountability and informed public discourse.

For 16 years, the Sikuville Awards have celebrated courageous, ethical and impactful journalism. Since SANEF assumed stewardship of the awards in partnership with Standard Bank four years ago, that commitment has only grown stronger.

From the judging panel, led by convenor Dr Dinesh Balliah of the Wits Centre of Journalism, to the strategic support provided throughout the planning process and to the flawless execution on the evening itself, the dedication of the joint organising committee ensured that the country's leading journalists were celebrated in a manner befitting their contribution to society.

We thank all media houses and journalists who help us identify and celebrate the very best of South African journalism, ensuring that excellence is recognised, rewarded and honoured with the dignity it deserves.

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WELCOMING REMARKS BY SANEF ACTING CHAIRPERSON



TSHAMANO MAKHADI
ACTING CHAIRPERSON

Tonight, we gather not only to celebrate excellence in journalism, but to reaffirm something far greater—our collective commitment to truth, accountability and the enduring promise of South Africa’s constitutional democracy.

In an age where algorithms can imitate human thought, where artificial intelligence can produce both remarkable innovation and sometimes dangerous deception, and where misinformation travels faster than facts, journalism has become more essential. Technology may transform the way stories are told, but it must never determine what is true. Truth remains a human responsibility. And so does courage.

This year’s theme, “Truth in the Age of AI: The Fight for Sustainable Journalism,” is not simply a theme for an awards ceremony. It is a defining challenge for our generation. It asks whether independent journalism can continue to serve democracy when

economic pressures, technological disruption and organised disinformation converge with unprecedented force.

AI is reshaping our world with extraordinary speed. It is changing how information is created, distributed and consumed. It presents immense opportunities for innovation, greater efficiency and wider access to knowledge. But it also confronts us with profound responsibilities.

For every technological breakthrough that advances society, there is an equal obligation to protect the integrity of information. For every new digital tool, there must remain an unwavering commitment to ethics. And for every machine capable of generating content, there must always be people committed to generating trust.

Journalism is not merely a profession. It is public trust. It is a quiet determination to verify before publishing. It is the discipline to pursue facts over popularity. It is the willingness to hold power accountable, even when doing so is inconvenient, unpopular or dangerous.

Only ethical journalism can distinguish fact from fiction, evidence from speculation, and truth from manipulation. That responsibility has never been more important than it is today.

This evening is particularly significant as SANEF marks 30 years of defending media freedom, promoting ethical journalism and giving practical meaning to the constitutional promise of freedom of expression. Three decades have taught us an enduring lesson—that institutions earn public confidence not through words, but through principle.

For thirty years, SANEF has spoken when

silence would have been easier. It has defended journalists when they were threatened. It has championed the constitutional freedoms upon which our democracy depends. And as we celebrate this milestone, we also look ahead.

The next thirty years will demand even greater courage. We will continue to stand for what is right, and to do what is right even when it is difficult. That is our responsibility to the South African public; hence we say SANEF is about South Africa.

The next 30 years will also require us to embrace innovation without surrendering integrity. To harness AI without abandoning human judgement. To move faster without compromising accuracy. To grow audiences without sacrificing credibility.

To our partners at Standard Bank, thank you for your enduring investment in journalism and in the values that sustain our democracy. Your continued support of these awards reflects a shared belief that a society informed by credible journalism is stronger, more accountable and more prosperous.

To every finalist here this evening, know that your work reaches far beyond the stories you publish or broadcast. Every carefully verified fact strengthens public trust. Every difficult question asked strengthens accountability. Every story told with fairness and integrity strengthens our democracy. That is the true significance of your work.

Long after today's technologies have evolved, long after today's platforms have changed, South Africa will still need men and women prepared to ask difficult questions, challenge comfortable assumptions and pursue the truth without fear or favour. May that always be the calling of our profession. And that will always be the promise of SANEF.

History teaches us that every generation is tested. Our generation is being tested by technology, by misinformation and all sorts of things.

But I remain optimistic because I see in this room men and women who understand that journalism is not merely about reporting events. It is about safeguarding the public interest. It is about protecting our democracy. It is about leaving South Africa stronger than we found it.

May future generations look back on this moment and say that when truth was challenged, South African journalism did not retreat. It rose, it adapted, it endured. And it remained worthy of the public's trust.

I wish you a wonderful evening, and congratulations to every nominee and every winner. Welcome to the 2026 Standard Bank Sikuville Journalism Awards.

I thank you.





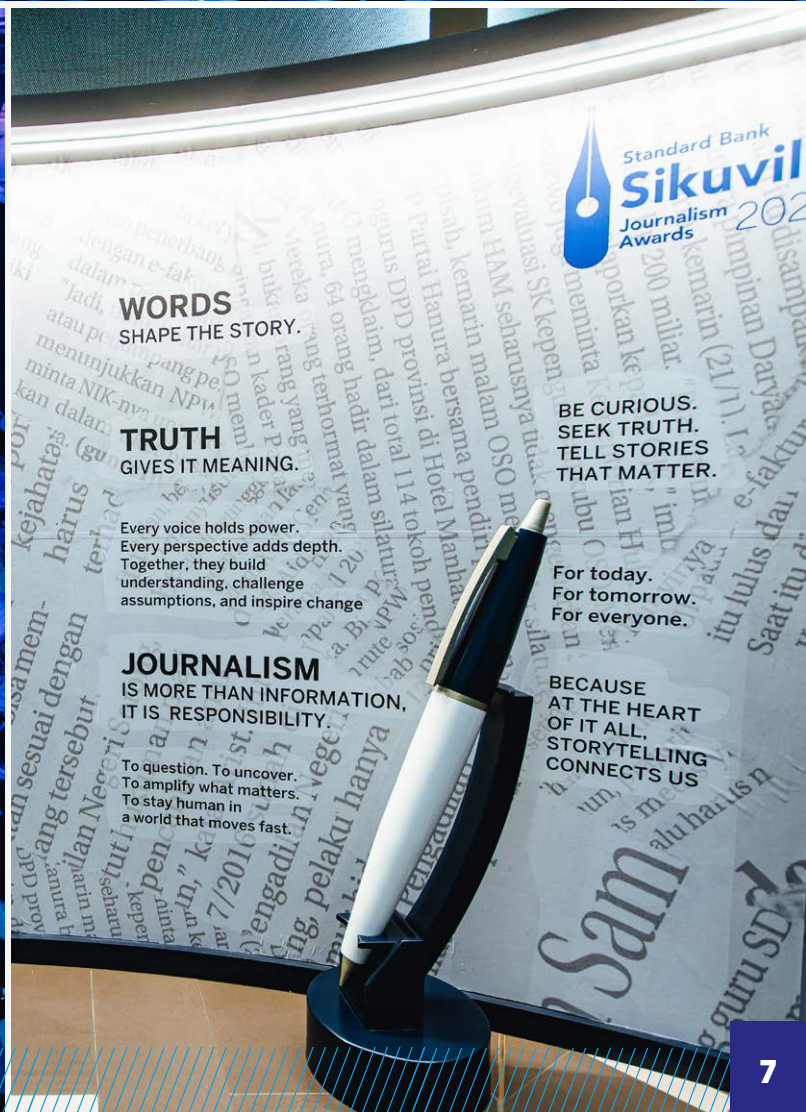
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TRUTH IN THE AGE OF AI

The Fight for Sustainable
Journalism



WORDS SHAPE THE STORY.

TRUTH GIVES IT MEANING.

Every voice holds power.
Every perspective adds depth.
Together, they build
understanding, challenge
assumptions, and inspire change

JOURNALISM IS MORE THAN INFORMATION, IT IS RESPONSIBILITY.

To question. To uncover.
To amplify what matters.
To stay human in
a world that moves fast.

BE CURIOUS.
SEEK TRUTH.
TELL STORIES
THAT MATTER.

For today.
For tomorrow.
For everyone.

BECAUSE
AT THE HEART
OF IT ALL,
STORYTELLING
CONNECTS US

MESSAGE FROM STANDARD BANK GROUP CEO

***“Truth in the Age of AI: The Fight
for Sustainable Journalism.”***

SIM TSHABALALA

Chief Executive, Standard
Bank Group

First and most importantly, congratulations to this evening’s finalists and winners. On behalf of all of us at Standard Bank, well done – and thank you.

Standard Bank’s support for the Sikuville Awards, now in its fifteenth year, is our way of saying how much we value the work of South Africa’s Fourth Estate.

Since I am talking to a gathering of South Africa’s best journalists, I assume that you are not going to take that assertion at face value. It is perfectly reasonable to ask why an entity like Standard Bank should have an interest in supporting and celebrating high-quality journalism. I have four answers.

The first answer is the most obvious – and there is no point in denying it. Banks are powerful. Banks sometimes make mistakes. Banks are often on the front line in the fight against fraud and other forms of crime. And, perhaps most importantly, banks are the only kind of business that regularly have to say ‘no’ to our clients. Everything else aside, that is not a recipe for popularity.

Banks, therefore, are often in the news – and not always in the best light. Let me be as clear as I can be. Support for the Sikuville Awards is



not an attempt to suborn you. If we have done something wrong, I actively and sincerely want you to put us on the front page. We will emerge better and stronger from your scrutiny. Having said that, in sponsoring these awards, what we are doing – obviously enough – is to remind people that our decisions are made by human beings, and that we are always open to scrutiny and to conversation. Our ask is just that you remember to give us a hearing.

Second, there is actually a very deep historical connection between Standard Bank and the South African media. Standard Bank was founded in 1863 by someone called John Paterson – a Scottish immigrant to South Africa. But before founding Standard Bank, Paterson founded another South African institution that this audience will know about – the Eastern Province Herald.

Standard Bank’s next important relationship

with South African journalism is even more distinguished. We are very proud that we banked Sol Plaatje, activist, novelist, founding Secretary General of the ANC, and founder of the first Setswana-language newspaper, Kuranta ya Becoana.

We are also proud to have banked the precursor of Independent Media from 1905; the newspapers now in the Arena stable from 1915; the ancestor of the Mail and Guardian also from 1915; and Naspers from 1917. In other words, supporting the media is in our DNA: it is something that Standard Bank has always done and will, I trust, always continue to do.

Our third reason for supporting the SikuVile awards moves from shared history to shared philosophy – and thereby to the deepest and strongest connection between journalism and finance.

At our best, journalists and bankers both want as much information as possible and are both very interested in getting to the truth.

Bankers seek accurate information and truthful analysis in order to safeguard our depositors' funds, to allocate capital accurately in the interests of our shareholders and, thereby, to promote economic growth.

Journalists are primarily interested in gathering information and finding the truth because you believe – correctly – that South Africa, and the world, are always better off when people have more information, when the truth emerges, when those in power are required to account for their actions, and when institutions function transparently and efficiently.

And this brings me to the crucial points. Yes, our motivations may differ to some extent. As I have said, bankers and journalists have strong common interests in ensuring a steady flow of useful information and in having the analytical

capacity to get to the truth. We have an equally strong common interest in the quality of institutions in general, and in the rule of law in particular. Both journalists and bankers know that these are the preconditions that matter most for economic and human development.

Let us put some numbers to this. According to the World Bank, crime and corruption now cost us 10% of GDP: that is around R800 billion a year. Conversely, according to the IMF, if South Africa were to improve our governance to the point where it was just half as good as the leading emerging markets, annual economic growth could increase by as much as 1.4 percentage points over the medium term. We would move from growing at our current 1.6 to 2% a year, to around 3 to 3.5% a year.

And, of course, your brave and determined investigations into corruption, maladministration and abuse of power are essential links in the feedback loop that strengthens institutions and, therefore, enables faster growth.

Unfortunately, as we gather this evening, we are in the middle of a particularly clear demonstration of why and how the rule of law and the quality of institutions matter.

Let me start by giving credit where it is due. The President and the Government of National Unity have been admirably clear that xenophobic violence is unacceptable, and equally clear that South Africans have a right to peaceful protest – with heavy emphasis on peaceful. This week, the security cluster has done a good job in keeping protests largely within acceptable parameters.

But it should never have come to this in the first place. If South Africa had had stronger institutions over the past twenty years, we would have had better control over our borders. We would have had a legal migration system that

was more rational, more humane, and more in line with the goal of African unity. We would have enjoyed significantly faster growth and much lower unemployment. We could have generated a lot more public goods, including the goods of better housing, better healthcare and better public safety.

And we would not be dealing with severe damage to our national and commercial reputations in many African countries. Our collective folly and ineptitude on migration have lost us the moral high ground in Africa, making it harder for South African businesses to trade in the rest of our continent.

Just as bad, xenophobia damages the South African economy directly, slowing growth and job creation here at home. It does this by reducing business and consumer confidence; by increasing the costs of doing business; by worsening country risk; and by increasing the cost of capital.

For all of these reasons, we need to get our act together regarding migration and our relationships with our fellow Africans.

The theme of this evening is, of course, 'Truth in the Age of AI: The Fight for Sustainable Journalism.' I've aimed to discuss truth. But I haven't yet said anything about sustainability and AI, so let me now try to draw AI and sustainability together.

My view is that AI will turn out to be another 'general purpose technology' like steam, or electricity or the internet. In all previous cases, the new technology caused significant changes in the capital and labour markets.

Let's start with labour. New technology has meant that some categories of work were no longer done by humans unaided. But, in all such cases, the net effect on human employment and human welfare has been positive. Since

I'm a rational optimist – and since I tend to be resistant to hype – I think that AI will follow this general pattern.

Yes, there will be some difficult occupational and sectoral transitions, and we should think hard about how to mitigate these. But many of these transitions will not be disastrous. Take carriage builders – one might imagine that they were all put out of work by the arrival of the internal combustion engine. Not at all – demand for vehicle interiors rose. There's a similar story with bank tellers and ATMs. As machines took over the most routine tasks, demand for human interaction with bank staff rose.

Both of these are examples of the Jevons Paradox that's been so much discussed lately. Basically, when the price of something falls because of a technological advance, demand for its complements rises – the cost of transport fell, demand for seats inside vehicles rose; the cost of dispensing cash fell, demand for other financial services rose.

Turning briefly to capital: again, dislocations are going to happen. The railroad boom – and bust – in the 19th century is a well-known case, when there was wild overinvestment in that new technology. More recently there was the Dot Com boom and crash of the 1990s. But this kind of hype cycle doesn't last – and says relatively little about the enduring uses or real worth of the underlying technology.

Further, if all previous general-purpose technologies are any guide, the pace of innovation in AI is likely to slow, and it will take a surprisingly long time for the new technology to show up in productivity statistics.

For all these reasons, I do not believe that any form of AI apocalypse is upon us

As well as observing these general patterns, I

also have a more personal reason for being relatively upbeat. I now use AI quite a lot, and I am equally sure that you do too.

You can tell, therefore, that this speech was written by a human. There's something about the slightly jagged structure and irregular tone which makes this clear. AI writing would be smoother. It would also contain the usual 'tells', such as a lot of 'not only... but also' constructions, and too many similes which sound marvellous at first, but don't actually mean anything. "AI is like a mighty ocean, not only vast, but also green."

Now, it is of course possible, even likely, that the next generation of LLMs will fix some of these problems.

But an AI-written speech would also be a lot vaguer than this one. LLMs can't be specific. They have no sense of the pride that I, Sim Tshabalala, feel about Standard Bank's association with Sol Plaatje. They can't know what I, Sim Tshabalala, think about the role of institutional quality in economic development – or how much I loathe xenophobia.

Even more importantly, LLMs are much better at 'what' than at 'why.' And they're particularly incapable of answering one very important why question – 'why should I care' – one of the central philosophical questions.

I think this pattern may generalise: as the price of 'what' falls, demand for 'why' is likely to rise. This is good news for journalists, and for everyone – like me – with a humanities or social sciences background, such as our MC Ayanda, who is an economist by training. As a philosophy major myself, I was particularly pleased to learn from the Economist (the magazine, not our MC) that the unemployment rate for philosophy graduates is now lower than for computer science graduates.

It is therefore my hope – and my expectation

– that serious, detailed, investigative, crusading South African journalism will be made easier by AI data-sifting and research assistance, freeing up your time for in-person reporting and analysis.

I therefore look forward, with confidence, to reading, seeing and hearing brilliant journalism from the people in this room – undoubtedly assisted by AI, but certainly not replaced by it.

Thank you all – and congratulations again.





CONVENOR JUDGE'S REMARKS

The Standard Bank Sikuville Awards, now in its 16th year, is committed to recognising excellence in journalism in South Africa. The awards shine a light on the winners but really serve as a platform for some of this country's best journalism. The awards continue to reshape itself to remain in tune with the industry it is linked to.

Entries were received in 16 categories from print, online and broadcast media.

The consistently high standard of each of the 440 entries to this year's awards paints a picture of a sound public interest journalism landscape committed to holding power to account in all aspects of life.

That these stories are produced under difficult circumstances including ongoing financial travails, decline in trust, and routinely reinvented narratives that seek to destabilise the industry and target its people, we recognise that journalists continue to hold the line for justice, for fairness and for the rights of all our communities to share in the fruits of our democracy.

Outside of the entries received, there is a large volume of work published or broadcast annually that never reaches us, and as a panel we would encourage everyone in this room and beyond it to help us encourage more journalists to enter their outstanding work.

Robust discussions about each category are undertaken by the judges to ensure that all entries are subject to scrutiny not only for quality in conceptualisation and execution but also for impact. The judges of the investigative journalism category captured this sentiment in saying, "Praise must go to publications that continue to shine the light in dark corners, and promote accountability in government,



DR DINESH BALLIAH
WITS CENTRE FOR JOURNALISM

business and society. Their invaluable work is fundamental to underpinning our constitutional democracy for the common good."

The Sikuville Awards continue to remind us that journalism is not a nice-to-have, it is an essential part of a healthy, functioning democracy. While news content producers and news influencers have started to outstrip the number of journalists in the world, it is the journalist who lays the groundwork for quality information grounded in fact and science.

Across most categories, the judges praised the high number of first-time entrants to the awards and in particular, entrants who are new to the industry. As newsrooms continue to shrink, it is encouraging to see that young people remain committed to the craft. The six journalists shortlisted for the Juby Mayet Rising Star award is testament to high standard of work produced by the younger generation.

Even in the columns category, where a small number of entries were received, the judges

commented that, “Many of the entrants rose to the challenge and displayed a determination to confront injustice whenever and wherever it rears its head. And they did so not by shouting and sloganeering, but by constructing well-reasoned arguments and through writing that commands the attention of the reader. This year’s entries show that this form of writing is still very much alive and kicking in South African journalism.”

Apart from commendations for the work received, judges also took time to reflect on ways in which work could be improved moving forward. For example, the judges of the features category felt that sub-titling used when African speakers speak English in TV entries, can come across as demeaning and detract from the piece itself.

In print features, the judges added that they again encourage feature writers to be exactly that - writers and not merely rapporteurs, repeating verbatim the words of an interviewee. These are not empty critiques but ways of encouraging a higher standard of work among all journalists.

The judges could not award two of the categories this year and have determined that more discussion about these categories will follow this year’s awards. The Manager/Publisher category was not awarded due to a lack of firm criteria while the Indigenous Language in Community Reporting attracted one entrant in English. The judges will ensure that the category descriptions are better communicated ahead of next year’s award to encourage suitable entries.

As convenor, I must point out that the entries received in the various photojournalism categories illustrate the crucial need of photojournalists to capture the story of South Africa in a way that other formats cannot. I point this out as AI generated visuals start to pollute

our journalism landscape and suggest that photojournalists are dispensable in newsrooms. They are not and the work of all the entrants in this category must serve to remind us that the photograph is as much the first draft of history as any other format.

It has been a pleasure to act as the convenor of the panel of judges consisting of members of the industry who have transitioned out of daily journalism, but who continue to contribute to shaping our industry in many ways. Thank you,

Andile Ntingi
Beauregard Tromp
Bulelwa Payi
Gus Silber
Kim Cloete
Portia Kobue
Ruth Motau
Ryland Fisher
Sue Olswang
Thabo Leshilo
Tyrone August
Ryland Fisher
Mary Papayya
Pippa Green
Robin Comley

My thanks to SANEF for hosting the awards once again and to the team at the office for facilitating all the administration under the hood of these awards. It’s been a tough year to be part of the SANEF managing committee, but I am grateful to the entire team for steadying the ship ethically and transparently. Standard Bank, I thank you for your commitment to supporting journalism in South Africa.

These awards signal the collaborative effort needed to move forward as a country, and as journalism struggles to sustain itself, we are grateful for all forms of support from willing and like-minded partners.

I thank you and wish you a lovely evening.



2026 STANDARD BANK SIKUVILE JOURNALISM AWARDS CONVENOR JUDGE



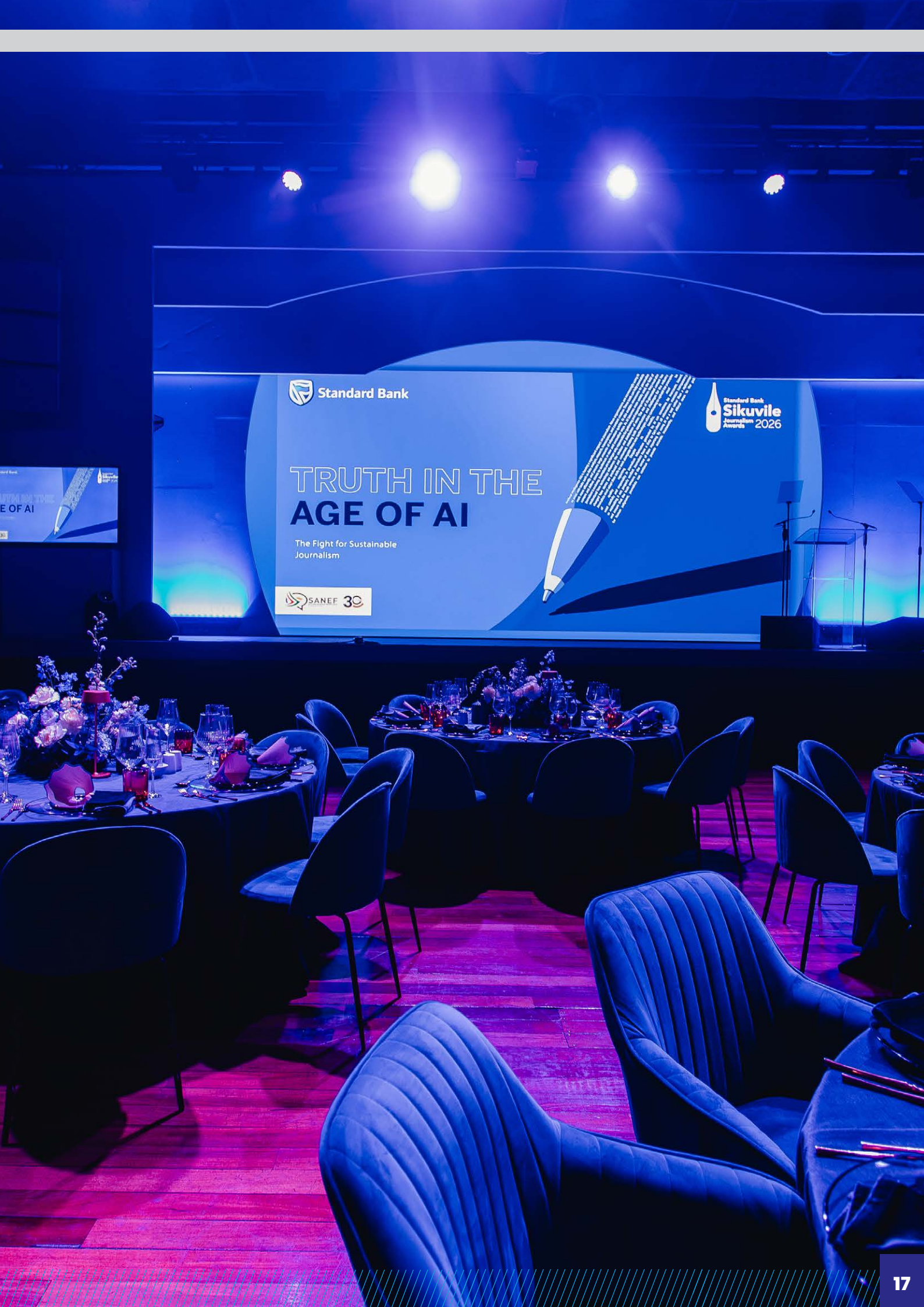
DR DINESH BALLIAH
WITS CENTRE FOR JOURNALISM

Dinesh Balliah is the director of the **Wits Centre for Journalism at Wits University** where she leads a team of academics, journalism practitioners and trainers focused on developing journalism in Africa.

Balliah is the former deputy public advocate of the Press Council of South Africa and has sat on a number of boards including at **Newzroom Afrika**, the **Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg** and the **South African Media Innovation Fund (SAMIP)**.

She oversees the annual African Investigative Journalism Conference, the world's largest gathering of African journalists now in its 22nd year.

She holds a PhD in Journalism and Media Studies from Wits University and is currently studying for her LLB at Unisa.



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2026 STANDARD BANK SIKUVILE JOURNALISM AWARDS JUDGES



KIM CLOETE

Kim Cloete is a journalist and media specialist with a wide range of national and international experience. She is currently writing and producing for two global public health organisations while maintaining a sharp interest in news and current affairs.

Cloete was a television journalist and parliamentary editor for the **SABC**. Over the years, she has covered a broad spectrum of issues, from economics and international affairs to energy, health and community affairs.

She has freelanced for leading print and online news outlets and has been a contributor to **Public Radio International's The World**, based in Boston.

Cloete was a **Nieman Fellow** in 2006 and has received several awards for her work in journalism.



TYRONE AUGUST

Tyrone August began his journalism career in 1981 and has since worked across a range of newspapers and magazines in various editorial and reporting roles. His experience includes serving as a general reporter at The Star, sub-editor and revise sub-editor at **City Press**, features writer and arts writer at **New Nation**, arts editor at **Tribute**, political reporter, features writer and features editor at **Sowetan**, and editor of **Learn & Teach**, **Leadership** and the **Cape Times**.

August is currently a freelance writer and editor. In addition, he serves as a board member of the news agency **GroundUp** and a part-time Deputy **Press Ombud** at the **Press Council of South Africa**.

He is also a research fellow in the **Department of English at Stellenbosch University**, where he is working on a second biography of the late South African poet and political activist Dennis Brutus.



ROBIN COMLEY

Robin Comley is an independent editor, picture editor, curator and media consultant based in South Africa.

She was visual director of *The Times newspaper*, and picture editor of *A Century of Sundays, a retrospective of 100 years of journalism in the Sunday Times*.

Prior to that, she was deputy chief sub-editor, then picture editor of The Star newspaper.

In recent years, she has project-managed the production of the coffee table book *[BR]OTHER, by James Oatway and Alon Skuy (Jacana)*; was project manager on the commemorative book *MARIKANA 2012-2022, by Alon Skuy (Maker)*; and was picture researcher on *The Plot to Save South Africa, by Justice Malala (Simon & Schuster)*.

Comley has worked as a writer, researcher and picture editor on special features such as *20 Years of Democracy for City Press*, and the *40th Anniversary of the Death of Steve Biko* for the *Sunday Times*. She has also curated exhibitions such as *Between States of Emergency* for the *Nelson Mandela Foundation*, *Legacy at the Wits Origins Centre*, and *Somalia at Museum Africa*.

Comley is editor and production manager of:

Women by Women, featuring 50 years of women's photography in South Africa, published by the *Department of Arts and Culture* to commemorate the 50th anniversary.



ANDILE NTINGI

Andile Ntingi is the founder of GetBiz Pty Ltd, which he established in 2014. He is a media practitioner and economic commentator with 25 years of professional experience, specialising in business journalism and corporate communications.

Ntingi has worked for a number of media organisations, including public broadcaster *SABC*, *Thomson Reuters*, *Independent Media Group*, and *Media24*. He has also written columns for South Africa's leading financial publications, such as *Finweek*, *Business Day*, and *Sunday Times*.

In 2016, Ntingi graduated from the African Leadership Initiative (ALI) Media Fellowship Programme in New York, USA. The programme, sponsored by *Bloomberg Media PL*, selected journalists and media practitioners from *Nigeria*, *South Africa*, and *Kenya*.

Andile holds an honours degree in Economics from Rhodes University.



SUE OLSWANG

Sue Olswang has worked in the media industry for 45 years, beginning her career as a cadet journalist with South African Associated Newspapers in 1981.

Over the decades, she has served as a news reporter, news editor and sub-editor for numerous publications, including the *Evening Post*, *Weekend Post*, *Rand Daily Mail*, *Sunday Times*, *Supermarket* and *Retailer magazine*, *The Star*, *Playboy magazine*, *Womyn magazine*, *Saturday Star*, *Star Tonight*, *Sowetan*, *The Times* and *TimesLIVE*.

She has also edited two books—one fiction and one non-fiction—and is currently writing a novel.

She now works as a freelance sub-editor.



RUTH SEOPEDI MOTAU

Ruth Seopedi Motau was born in Meadowlands, Soweto. She is a South African social documentary photographer with over 34 years' experience.

She is the first black female photo editor in South Africa for three publications.

Motau is a photojournalist and a social documentary photographer, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Currently she is an *independent photographic consultant, photographer, exhibitor, curator, photo editor, mentor and educator*.

She worked as a photographer and later as photo editor for *M&G*. During her tenure at the *MG*, she was given the opportunity to work for three international newspaper publications on an exchange programme.

She is the former photo editor for *Sowetan* and *City Press*. She has won numerous awards, just to mention a few, the *Freedom Forum Fellowship* from *Rhodes University* as well as the *SABC award for woman who made a difference in media*.

Her work has been exhibited locally and internationally, in countries including *Brazil, China, France, England, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands* and the *US* to mention a few.

She recently facilitated a talk with the *Market Photoworkshop* and *World Press Photo Foundation* on *Women Voices Through the Lens*.



BEAUREGARD TROMP

Beauregard Tromp is an investigative editor and convenor of the African Investigative Journalism Conference. He has won numerous awards for his reporting including being named **CNN/Multi-choice African Print Journalist of the Year** and South African Journalist of the Year.

Tromp is a former deputy editor at the **Mail & Guardian** and a **Nieman Fellow**. Most recently he was Africa editor for the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a cross-border investigative platform working globally.

He is also the co-author of **Hani, A Life too short**, a biography of South African freedom fighter **Chris Hani**.



BULELWA PAYI

Bulelwa Payi has been a print and broadcast journalist and corporate communicator in a career spanning over three decades. She has worked for and contributed to various publications such as the **Daily Dispatch, East Cape News Agencies (Ecna), SABC** and **Channel Africa**. Throughout her journalism career, Payi has had the privilege of engaging with different communities and those who wield influence and power.

This kind of exposure sharpened her understanding and knowledge of societal issues and fortified her courage to seek the truth in telling stories. She has written stories of human interest, social justice, bringing to the fore challenges of inequality that still confront our society.



GUS SILBER

Gus Silber is a journalist, author, scriptwriter, speech writer, and media trainer with over 40 years of experience. He holds a **Master's degree in Journalism and Media Studies** from Rhodes University, achieved with distinction. He has been a judge and chair of several journalism awards, including the **Mondi Awards** and the **Sikuvile Journalism Awards**.

He has crafted keynote addresses for senior executives and political leaders, including former **President Thabo Mbeki**. As a trainer and mentor, he has run workshops on journalism, social media, and feature writing. He currently runs workshops on the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT. He works as a scriptwriter and editor for companies in South Africa and abroad and is also working on two commissioned non-fiction books for commercial publishers.

**PORTIA KOBUE**

Portia Kobue is a broadcast journalist with a passion for women representation in the media and society. She started her career at **Radio Bop** in 1993 as a writer on the English news desk, she accumulated most of her radio news skills through on-the-job training.

She Joined the **SABC** in 1995, working as a reporter, current affairs producer and presenter in SeTswana. After 11 years as a news reporter and editor at two commercial radio stations – **Highveld Stereo** and **Kaya FM** – Kobue re-joined the SABC as executive producer for **Morning Live**.

She has worked as a broadcast news trainer for community radio stations and other organisations. Kobue is a **Catherine Fanning Fellow** at the **Kettering Foundation** in Dayton Ohio.

**RYLAND FISHER**

Ryland Fisher has more than 45 years of experience in the media industry as an **editor, journalist, columnist, author, senior manager** and **executive**. He is the former editor of the **Cape Times** and **The New Age** and was assistant editor of the **Sunday Times**.

His experience in the media industry extends across all media platforms, including broadcast, online, books and events. He works with several media companies, in South Africa and abroad: writing, editing, training and consulting.

Fisher is the author of four books and is executive producer of **The Arch**, a **four-part documentary series about Archbishop Desmond Tutu**. He is also the host of the **Crossing the Line** weekly podcast.

**THABO LSHILO**

Thabo Leshilo is a freelance editor and writer based in Johannesburg. He has over 30 years' experience in journalism. He spent the last decade working as the politics editor at **The Conversation Africa**. He is the former editor of **Pretoria News, Sowetan, Sunday World, and Business Times**. He was previously a night editor and news editor at **Business Report**. His main areas of interest are social justice, human rights, politics, economy, labour, transport and small business development. He is a past **winner of the Sanlam Business Journalist of the Year Award (small business section)**.

He was a **2008/2009 Nieman Fellow (Harvard University)**. **Leshilo** holds a Bachelor of Administration from the University of Limpopo and a master's in Philosophy (Applied Ethics) from Wits University.



MARY PAPAYYA

Mary Papayya is an awarding winning journalist and editor. She is a certified media trainer and coach. She is a **founder editor of SANEF** and currently serves as a director of the **SA Press Council** and is a patron on various media bodies.

She has served in senior editorial positions in both the print and broadcast media for over three decades. She has served on many boards including the **SABC Board**, the **GBVF Board** and is a patron of several community-based foundations working with women and children.

She is a mentor for young journalists and media workers. Mary currently works in the space of strategic communications and media/stakeholder relations.

She has an MPhil in Journalism from Stellenbosch University.



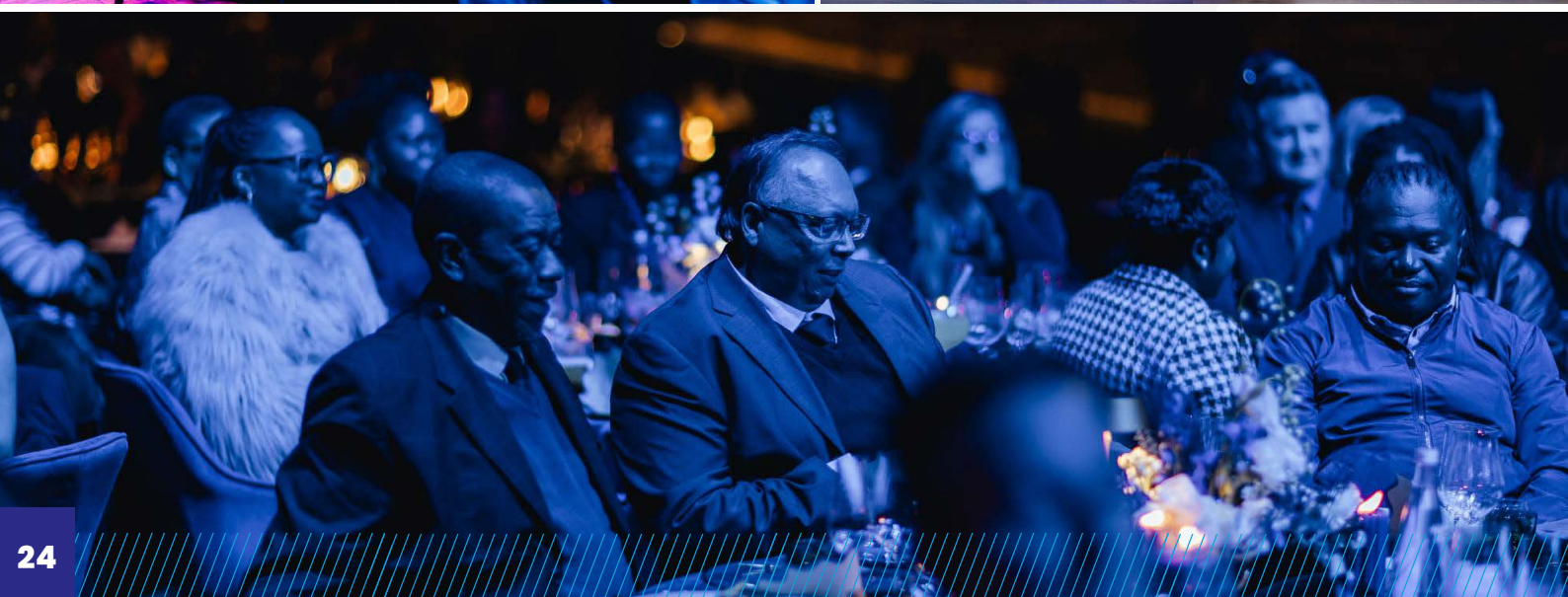
PIPPA GREEN

Pippa Green has been a journalist, writer, researcher and journalism teacher for more than three decades, working on newspapers, magazines, in radio, and at academic institutions. She is currently managing editor of **Econ3x3** and is working on a book.

She spent two years as the national **Press Ombudsman**, the first woman to hold the position. Green holds an honours degree in Economic History from UCT and an MSc from the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in New York City.

She has been deputy editor of the **Sunday Independent** and **Pretoria News**, and political editor and head of **Radio News at the SABC**.

She was a **Nieman Fellow (1998-1999)** and a visiting Ferris professor at Princeton University (2006). She is author of **Choice not Fate: The Life and Times of Trevor Manuel**.





JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



SANDILE NDLOVU
TIMESLIVE

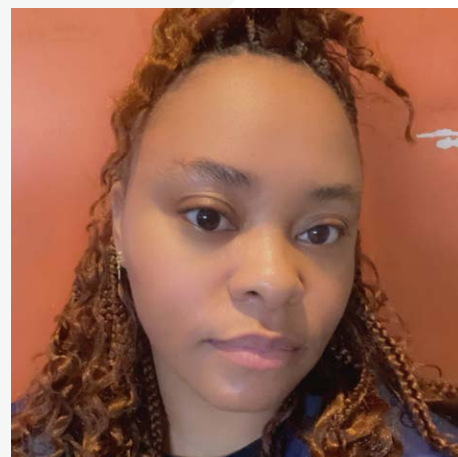
FINALISTS



JEFF WICKS
News24



SIKONATHI MANSHANTSHA
News24



CLEOPATRA JONES
SABC, Cutting Edge



WORDS SHAPE THE STORY.

IN A TIME
OF NOISE
CLARITY IS POWER.

In a time
of division,
empathy is courage.

In a time
of uncertainty,
truth is hope.

...wer.
...depth.
...ng, challenge
...and inspire change

REALISM IN INFORMATION, POSSIBILITY.

To uncover.
what matters.
man in
t moves fast.

HARD NEWS CATEGORY

WINNER

MERVYN NAIDOO

IOL

Story: Durban pharmacist's desperate SOS to husband as her vehicle sank in a river.



FINALISTS



TAMMY PETERSEN
News24

Story: They came to kill all of us': Naudé's co-accused tells how he survived AK-47 gunfire



NANDI NTINI
Sowetan

Story: Sole survivor of fire recalls last moments with family.



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IN INFORMATION,
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uncover.
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COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING



WINNER

CLEOPATRA JONES

SABC, Cutting Edge

Story: Struggling for dignity

FINALISTS



MFUNDO PILISO
Go! & Express

Body of work:
"Dereliction and
danger"



MATTHEW HIRSCH
GroundUp

Body of work:
"on homelessness in
Cape Town"



SHIRLEY GOVENDER
Globe Post, Orange
Farm News,
Walkerville and
Savanna City Times

**Body of work - "Early
childhood education
and a preschool in
the heart of
Lenasia south"**



TARA PENNY
Hot 1027

Body of work:
"Saving the Baby
Savers"

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OR THAN INFORM
RESPONSIBILITY

To question. To uncover.
To amplify what matters.
To stay human in
a world that moves fast.

IN A TIME
OF NOISE
CLARITY IS PO

In a time
of divis
empath

In a time
of uncertainty
truth is hard

TRUTH
GIVES IT MEANING.

Every voice holds power.
Every perspective adds depth.
Together, they build understanding, challenge assumptions, and inspire change.

JOURNALISM
FOR MORE THAN INFORMATION
RESPONSIBILITY

To question. To uncover.
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To stay human in
a world that moves fast.

LIFESTYLE CATEGORY



WINNER

ZIKHONA TSHONA

Newzroom Afrika

Story: "100 Not Out"

FINALISTS



PALESA DLAMINI
City Press

Story:
"Desperate South Africans
gamble away R1.5-trillion"



LUNGA SIMELANE
City Press

Story:
"A threat to vultures is a
threat to people: Inside
Kruger's vulture poisoning
crisis"



LUKE FELTHAM
Mail & Guardian

Story:
"Bassem Youssef on the
comedy of resistance — and
its limits"



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BUSINESS JOURNALISM CATEGORY



WINNER

**SIKONATHI
MANSHANTSHA**

News24

Story: "Ghost Contract"

FINALISTS



MPHO LEKAJE
eNCA

STORY:
"From Runway to
Revenue"



LISA STEYN
News24

STORY:
"Body of work: The
record commodity
prices behind gold
and platinum, the
forces driving them,
and their inherent
volatility."



**DEWALD VAN
RENSBURG**
Amabhungane

STORY:
Two-part piece:
SA's gambling
crisis: "Facilitators,
criminals and
money-launderers"
and "SA's bad bet"



GARTH THEUNISSEN
News24

STORY:
"Another VBS?
Ithala's allegedly
rotten loan book and
its R1.63bn balance
sheet hole"



SUSAN COMRIE
Amabhungane

STORY:

"Two-part series: Dirty Fuels: Inside PetroSA's shambolic diesel trading empire"



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GIVES

Every voice
Every person
Together
Understand
Empower

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FEATURES - PRINT CATEGORY

WINNER

DON PINNOCK

Daily Maverick

Story: "Becoming a river"



FINALISTS



JESSE COPLYN
GroundUp

STORY:
"Mozambique: These
are the children the
US left to die"



SEAN CHRISTIE
Bhekisisa

STORY:
"Anatomy of a
hospital - Groote
Schoor in a time of
budget and staffing
cuts"



**WILLEMEN
BRUMMER**
Netwerk24

STORY:
The "psychedelic
revolution"



JANET HEARD
Spotlight/Daily
Maverick

STORY:
"Waiting is not an
option in the first
1000 days sheet
hole"

FEATURES - BROADCAST CATEGORY



WINNER

**AISHA ABDOOL
KARIM AND SUSAN
COMRIE**

AmaBhungane

Story: "Series on
the deadly water
outbreak"

FINALISTS



LUKE DANIEL
News24

STORY:

"The Wheels of Lawlessness & Order on
the Streets of Langa"



TARRA PENNY
Heart 102.7

STORY:

Childhood matter



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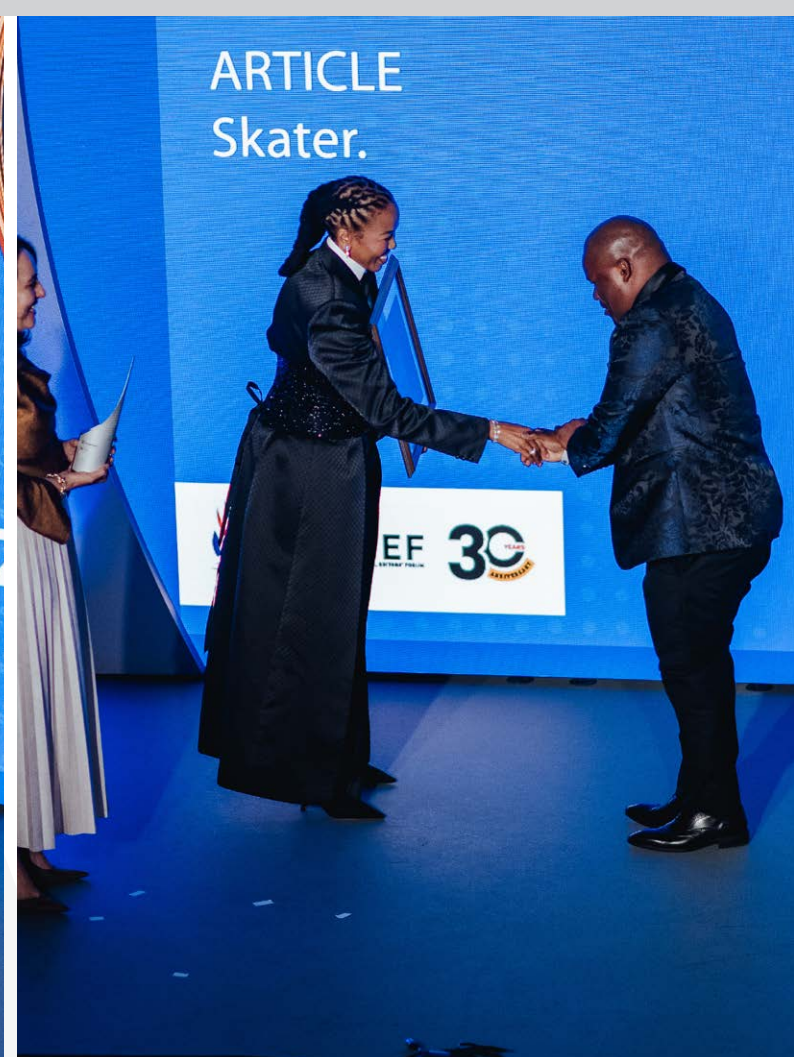
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JOURNALIS
MORE THAN INFORMATION
RESPONSIBILITY

Question. To uncover
... simplify what matter
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... world that moves fast



COLUMNS / EDITORIAL CATEGORY



WINNER

CAROL PATON

News24

Story: "ANC looks into the abyss as turnaround flounders"

FINALISTS



GARTH THEUNISSEN

News24

STORY:

"Is the market drunk on Capitec Kool-Aid again?"



MARIANNE MERTEN

Business Day

STORY:

"Will the Madlanga commission and parliamentary proceedings finally fix policing?"

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM CATEGORY



WINNER

**JEFF WICKS AND
SIKONATHI
MANSHANTSHA**

News24

Story: "HUNTED: Inside
the Mpho Mafole
assassination"

FINALISTS



LUNGA SIMELANE
City Press

STORY:

"Three-part series on the
alleged hijacking of a
R350 billion-rand airport
development project in
Welkom, Free State"



NORMAN MASUNGWINI
City Press

STORY:

"Three-part series on the
alleged hijacking of a
R350 billion-rand airport
development project in
Welkom, Free State"



CATHERINE RICE
Carte Blanche

STORY:

"Pervasive use of
fraudulent licences in the
e-hailing transport sector,
endangering passengers."



GOVAN WHITTLES
Carte Blanche

STORY:

"Pervasive use of fraudulent licences in the e-hailing transport sector, endangering passengers."



GREG NELSON
Carte Blanche

STORY:

"Pervasive use of fraudulent licences in the e-hailing transport sector, endangering passengers."



DAN CLAYTON
Carte Blanche

STORY:

"Pervasive use of fraudulent licences in the e-hailing transport sector, endangering passengers."



DEVI GOVENDER
The Devi Show

STORY:

"Three-part series: Serenity Haven Frail Care"



PIETER-LOUIS MYBURGH
Daily Maverick

STORY:

"Series of articles exposing alleged corruption at the Independent Development Trust"



ANDREW THOMPSON
News24

STORY:

"Tracing a fake news factory"



winner

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

ARTICLE

HUNTED: Inside the Mpho
Mafole assassination.



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NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS CATEGORY



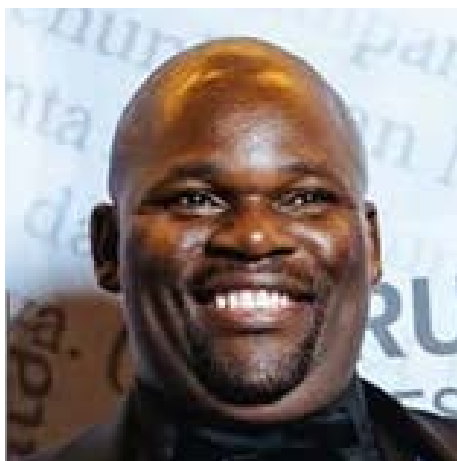
WINNER

AYANDA NDAMANE

*IOL & INDEPENDENT
NEWSPAPERS*

Story: "Hanover Park"

FINALISTS



SANDILE NDLOVU
TimesLive

Story:
"Floods in KZN"



ELIZABETH SEJAKE
City Press

Story:
"Chrome Miners"



DEAAN VIVIER
Netwerk24

Story:
"Polisie omgekrap
oor Louis en Dezzi
'voorkeurbehandeling' kry"



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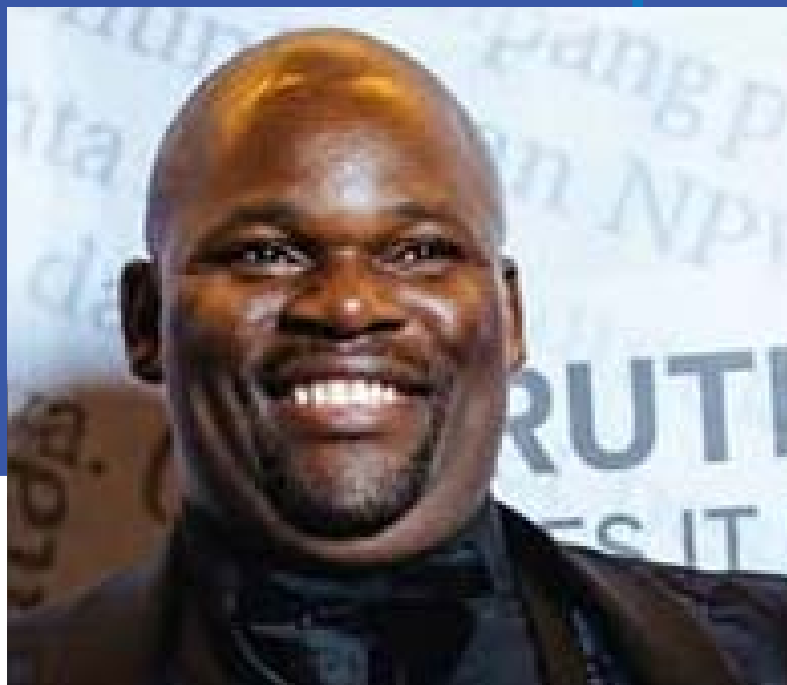
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RESPONSIBILITY.

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Amplify what matters.
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FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHS CATEGORY



WINNER

SANDILE NDLOVU

TimesLive

Story: "Skater"

FINALISTS



JAMES OATWAY
Our City News

STORY:
"Johannesburg Waste
Crisis" and "Diepsloot
Graves"



WILLEM VAN DER BERG
Weg/Go Platteland

STORY:
"Following the rain and the
sheep"



JAMES OATWAY
Our City News

STORY:
"Diepsloot Graves"



SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHS CATEGORY

WINNER

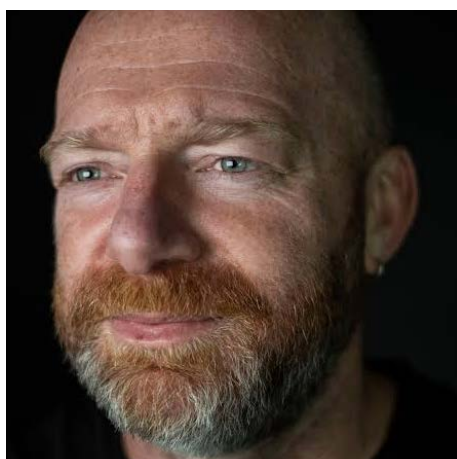
DARREN STEWART

*Gallo Images/Daily Maverick,
Kickoff, SA Rugby Mag*

Story: "Betway Premiership
Match; Mamelodi Sundowns
vs Golden Arrows"



FINALISTS



JAMES OATWAY
Our City News

Story:
"Aiming High"



ASHLEY VLOTMAN
Gallo Images/
Sport South Africa/ Daily
Maverick

Story:
"Boks vs Black Ferns"
and "SA vs Pakistan Test"



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VISUAL JOURNALISM CATEGORY



WINNER

VISUAL JOURNALISM

The Citizen

Story: "The Circus"

FINALISTS



NATHI NGUBANE

Maverick Citizen

Story:

"Youth Day Nightmare"



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JUBY MAYET/RISING STAR



WINNER

KARABELO PHAKOE

Our City News

FINALISTS



ROBIN SCHUTTE
Netwerk24



INNOCENTIA NKADIMENG
TimesLive



KOFI ZWANE
Our City News



CWENGA KOTU RAMMOPO
Our City News



ALLAN SOGA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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LATIEFA MOBARA





APPRECIATION FOR OUR INCREDIBLE SANEF TEAM

To each and every staff member who contributed to the success of the 2025 Standard Bank Sikuville Journalism Awards — thank you.

From pre-event planning to the final spotlight moment, your hard work behind the scenes made the vision come alive. Whether you were coordinating logistics, curating content, managing media, designing visuals, or directing production — your efforts were seen, felt, and deeply appreciated.



REGGY MOALUSI



HOPEWELL RADEBE



DZUDZIE FAITH