

MDDA-Sanlam Local Media Awards will announce new categories

When the MDDA-Sanlam Local Media Awards open for journalists in November 2013, there will be new categories to encourage more broadcast entries.

Co-sponsored and organised by the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) and Sanlam, the 2013 Awards, which will be presented in May 2014, cover the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013. Entries will open earlier to allow entrants more time to collate and submit their work.



Encouraging participation

The Awards celebrate and promote excellence in local and community media and they bring together more than 20 years of Sanlam Community Newspaper Awards and four years of SABC News/MDDA Community Media Awards into one big event.

Encouraging journalists to participate, CEO of the MDDA, Lumko Mtimde said, "We are excited about the upcoming competition and anticipate that entries will grow, particularly in the broadcast section for which we will be introducing new categories."

There are over 200 community newspapers, about 130 community radio stations and seven licensed community television stations, all eligible to enter the awards.

"We urge journalists to enter and continue to support these awards, which we believe promote quality and healthy competition that results in quality news and programming for the readers, listeners and the growing number of community television viewers."



Promoting journalism

Sanlam group head of communications, Ainsley Moos, adds, "We believe this competition and the awards play an important role in promoting excellence among community journalists and therefore we continue to invest in these awards. Despite the current challenging media environment, we believe community media is a critical source of information and news for communities that would otherwise have very limited access to media and information."

The awards are run in partnership with various stakeholders in the sector, including the Print and Digital Media South Africa, the Association of Independent Publishers, the Forum of Community Journalists, the National Community Radio Forum, the National Association of Broadcasters, the Association of Christian Media and the Independent Forum of Religious Broadcasters.

"We have enjoyed a mutually beneficial and fruitful partnership with our stakeholders and value their participation in supporting us to organise these awards and assist us with communicating to all the potential participants. We look forward to working with them again this year," Mtimde concluded.

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