



PRESS RELEASE

Announcing the official launch of the 2018 SADC Media Awards

20th October 2017 - Gaborone, Botswana: The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is pleased to announce the **launch** of the 2018 SADC Media Awards competition in the four categories namely; Photo, Print, Television and Radio Journalism.

The Secretariat is also pleased to announce that, following the approval of the SADC Council of Ministers at their meeting in August 2017 in Pretoria, South Africa, the prizes have been increased from **USD2000 to USD2500** for the first winners in each category. Council also approved the introduction of prizes for runners-up in each category at the total amount of **USD1000** per category.

The SADC Media Awards are open to journalists from the SADC Member States. The first prize winners will receive their prizes and certificates signed by the SADC Chairperson during the opening session of the 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in Republic of Namibia.

The SADC Media Awards were established in 1996 following the approval of the SADC Council of Ministers in 1995 to recognise best media work in disseminating information on SADC to support the process of regional co-operation and integration in the Region.

The 2017 SADC Media Awards were won by Mr Aristides Kito Alfonso Jorge from Angola in the Radio Category; Mr. Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo from Botswana in the Photo Category; Mr. Patson Phiri from Zambia in the Print Category and a collaboration of Mr. Msibi Nkosini Samuel and Mr. Dennis Tshelthane from South Africa in the Television Category.

The SADC Secretariat is therefore, encouraging journalists in all Member States to enter the competition to help in promoting the SADC agenda. As Patson Phiri, a journalist from Zambia and a three-time recipient of the SADC Media Award aptly put it; “beyond the prizes, certificates and the handshake with SADC Heads of State and Government, the awards help journalists to contribute to regional cooperation and integration, and, ultimately poverty eradication”.

The Secretariat is further advising interested journalists to obtain more information and entry forms from the SADC National Media Coordinators (SNMCs) in their Member States or SADC Website on this link (www.sadc.int) . The list of SNMCs can be found on <https://www.sadc.int/media-centre/media-contacts/>. Completed forms, with all required information typed-in must be submitted to the SNMCs within Member States by **27th February 2018**.

Enquiries

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About SADC

SADC is an organisation of 15 Member States established in 1980. The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy.