



Press Statement on the Launch of the MISA John Manyarara Investigative Journalism Award

The Media Institute of Southern Africa recognises the importance of investigative journalism as a field of journalism which is essential to the consolidation of democracy in southern Africa. To further encourage the practice of investigative journalism in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), on World Press Freedom Day 2001, MISA inaugurate the John Manyarara Investigative Journalism Award. Named after the MISA Trust Fund Board (TFB) founding chairperson Judge John Olivier Manyarara, the award seeks to recognise and reward excellence in investigative journalism in the SADC region.

7 years later, today April 16 2007 we mark the official launch of the John Manyarara Investigative Journalism Awards 2007.

At the time of its inauguration, the award carried a cash prize of 2000 Euros and a scholarship to the tune of 10 000 Euros. Beginning this year, the award will be split into two; the John Manyarara Investigative Journalist of the Year Award and John Manyarara Upcoming Investigative Journalist of the year award.

The Investigative Journalist of the Year will receive a cash prize of 4000 Euros. The Upcoming Investigative Journalist of the Year will receive a cash prize of 2000 euros and a scholarship of 6000 euros to further develop his or her investigative journalism skills. The scholarship will be exercised through attendance of one or other of the training projects at universities or media training institutions in the SADC region

Among other things the judges will be looking for work which:

- Demonstrates investigative journalistic skill and methodologies like source building, data searching as well as depth and insight
- Is newsworthy
- Concerns an issue of interest to the African public in all its diversity
- Required perseverance or bravery to realise
- Is the product of the journalist's own initiative and effort
- Was broadcast between 1 January and 31 December 2006.

MISA and the judges of these awards do not maintain a narrow focus on investigative journalism to mean 'corruption stories' but include those stories that investigate SADC in the interest of the public in all its diversity.

As part of the awards, 11 journalists from each of the MISA represented countries will be sponsored to attend a 3 day Power Reporting workshop on investigative journalism organised by University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. They will also have an opportunity to attend a pan African summit on investigative journalism organised by the Forum for African Investigative Reporters which will be running alongside the Wits investigative journalism workshop.

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These journalists will be chosen from those who entered the award but did not win. The 11 journalists and the winners of the awards will have a chance to further develop their investigative journalism skills as well as network with other investigative journalists from the continent and abroad.

Judges will sit at the beginning of August 2007 to choose the winners. The awards will be presented at a gala dinner to be held at the end of August in Johannesburg, South Africa during the Power Reporting Workshop and the Pan African Investigative Journalism Conference.

2007 also marks the first time in which finalists to the local investigative journalism awards and journalist of the year awards will automatically enter the John Manyarara Investigative Journalism Awards. This however does not mean that individual entries will not be accepted. All practicing investigative journalists are encouraged to enter.

Entries should be sent to Werani Chirambo, by courier to 21 Johann Albrecht Street, Windhoek West, Namibia or by airmail to Private Bag 13386, Windhoek, Namibia. Entries may also be faxed to her on +264 61 248016 or emailed to communications@misa.org. Journalists can also hand in their entries at their local MISA Chapter.

Entries should reach MISA by 7 July 2007.

The John Manyarara Investigative Journalism awards are brought to you in conjunction with our donor , the Netherlands institute for Southern Africa (NiZA), and the Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR) which provides support to the judging process and investigative journalism best practice standards on which the judging criteria is based.

For more information contact:

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