

New Frame journalists win Nat Nakasa Award

The South African Editors' Forum (Sanef) has announced the Nat Nakasa Award for courageous journalism. Former *New Frame* journalists, Cebelihle Mbuyisa and Magnificent Mndebele, were honoured with the top prize at an event held in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal on Sunday. *New Frame* is now defunct.



Picture Supplied.

The awards, sponsored by Sanlam, are now in their sixth iteration since the sponsorship started in 2017.

Brave journalism

“The duo’s work at *New Frame* kept the story of the uprising in eSwatini alive for South African audiences,” said one of the judges, veteran journalist, Chrystal Orderson. She serves on the panel with two other journalists, former *The Star* editor-in-chief, Peter Sullivan, and former Press Ombudsman, Joe Thlooe.

The awards were addressed by retired Judge, Dr Navi Pillay, who serves on the International Commission on Information and Democracy, which affirms the principles of media freedom, the safety of journalists and media sustainability.

Pillay said all governments, including South Africa, must take action to promote a free and independent press which is instrumental to combat disinformation, building public trust and advancing the promotion and protection of human rights. “I would say that such action must also protect media sources and whistle-blowers,” she said.

She said the world honours courageous journalists and that Sanef's Nat Nakasa Awards fall into the spirit of celebration of brave journalists and expresses public gratitude for their work.



South Africa's Jacob Zuma is taking a top reporter to court. The verdict could affect journalists' rights

Anton Harber 9 Sep 2022



"This is what counts. The appreciation of the constituency to whom you are accountable. The silencing of journalists is a loss to society, honouring them is a gain," Pillay said.

Pillar of democracy

The Nat Nakasa Award for Community Media went to Shiraaz Mohammed for his body of work, which included spending time with health care workers during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Judges noted that Mohammed was working on his own and producing his work without the backup of a big media corporation and putting his own life at risk.

As part of the awards, Sanef's members get to nominate a fellow member for the Stephen Wrottesley Award, dedicated to honouring members whose commitment to the journalism field goes beyond the call of duty. This year it was awarded to media freedom activist, former editor, and former Sanef's management committee member, Angela Quintal. She is now in charge of the Africa programme at the Committee to Protect Journalists, based in New York.

Pearl Majola spoke on behalf of Sydney Mbhele, group executive: brand saying Sanlam considered these awards to be more than a celebration but an endorsement of media freedom. They were about integrity and the exceptional bravery of journalists who will stand for the truth even at the risk of threats to their very being.

"We believe in and support robust journalism as one of the strongest pillars of our democracy and so we continue to commit our support for these awards," said Majola.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>