



2014 STANDARD BANK SIKUVILE AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

23 April 2014, Johannesburg – The Print and Digital Media South Africa (PDMSA) is pleased to announce its selection of 70 finalists to progress to the final round of the 2014 Standard Bank SikuVile Awards, an annual recognition of excellence in South African journalism.

The finalists were drawn from 683 submissions across 14 award categories. A large portion of the submissions received were from the 'Feature Writing' category with 120 entries, followed by 82 entries in the 'Hard News' category, and 78 entries in the 'News Photography' category.

The awards also saw an increase in 'Digital and Multiplatform' entries, mirroring the shift in the industry towards the increased use of the digital medium. Although the submissions in the 'Digital and Multiplatform' are lower than the other categories, PDMSA is confident that the award entries in these categories will increase as these platforms continue to gain relevance over the coming years.

Ingrid Louw, PDMSA Chief Executive, said with the change in the criteria of submissions this year, they were pleased with the number of entries received. The increase in submissions confirms that the industry is starting to recognise the value carried by the awards and their impact on the journalists' careers.

"All finalists are remarkable reporters who have displayed their passion and substantial editorial experience in their work. Their entries have positioned them as assets to the journalism industry, and on behalf of the PDMSA, I would like to congratulate them in getting this far in the competition," added Louw.

Paula Fray, convening judge added, "The judges were impressed with the range of stories and themes received this year - many spreading across both print and digital. In fact, the entries

signalled a growing recognition of the multiplatform nature of the news. We also found that there were many contenders for the Young journalist of the year award, which is encouraging for the future of print and digital media as we're trying to promote diversified multiplatform reporters.”

“This year’s selection was tougher for both entrants and judges – however the tighter entry rules meant that the overall quality of entries improved. On behalf of the PDMSA, I would like to extend our gratitude to the judges for ensuring that the judging process was fair and ran smoothly,” concluded Louw.

The awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 21 May 2014 at the Soweto Theatre.

-ENDS-

Note to Editor – List of judges and finalists attached.