

Entrepreneur of the Year competition selects finalists

The 2016 Entrepreneur of the Year competition, sponsored by Sanlam and business/partners has selected 15 finalists for the final round of the competition, with the winners being announced on 1 September 2016 at the official awards breakfast in Johannesburg.

Finalists

- Barry Nigel Gould – CAPCO
- Cara Nortman – SSQ Exhibitions
- Carl and Peter Pretorius – Just Trees
- Chanette Goosen – Rush Extreme Sports
- Corrie Van Der Wath and Nelisiwe Magubane – Matleng Energy Solutions
- Dillon Jearey – Kilowatt Audio Visual
- Gali Gaon Segall – Yemaya Group
- Johan Eksteen – Pelleting Machinery T/A Agricon
- Lucas Frederick Van Wyk – Advance Fenestration
- Meisie Nkosi – Scarper Traders T/A Bella Bonni Guest House
- Michael Roberts – Robhur Management T/A Future Talent
- Mishje Cooper – ZooZoo Land Daycare
- Nerina Smith – Smithland Guest Apartments
- Stacey Brewer – Spark Schools T/A eAdvance
- Vanessa Jacobs – Sow Delicious

Increase in entrants, female entrants

According to Gugu Mjadu, spokesperson for the competition, there was a steep increase in the number of entries received this year in comparison to the 2015 competition. “We received 213 entries this year, which is one of the highest number recorded to date and an increase of 40% compared to last year.



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“The large number of entries has certainly raised the overall standard of the competition and is testament to the thriving level of entrepreneurial talent and success present in the country. We would like to congratulate and commend all entrants, as these are the individuals who bring about positive change and fuel job growth – helping the South African economy and communities to grow.

“We are delighted at the consistent growth in the number of entries from female entrepreneurs which reached a new high, growing to more than 38% of the total participant pool, up from 29% of entries in 2015. Female entrepreneurs are also particularly well represented in the group of finalists, making up 60% of the entries that are through to the final round.”

Western Cape, Gauteng stand out

“The 15 finalists operate in various sectors throughout South Africa, with the majority originating from the Western Cape (47%) and Gauteng (33%), and include a strong representation from the manufacturing and services sectors. The manufacturing sector is vital to job-creation, so it is always encouraging to see driven entrepreneurs occupying this space, as unemployment in South Africa continues to be a major challenge.

“The services sector with entrants operating in the health, beauty, education and training industries was also well represented this year, following by entrants in the hospitality industry.

“The next step in the judging process is the selection of the overall 2016 winner, as well as winners for each of the five categories of small business, medium business, job creator and innovator. The judging process is completely independent. The evaluation process runs through three different filtering stages, which ensures that everything is checked multiple times to remove any human error or preference which may have otherwise crept in.”

The 2016 finalists stand the chance to win prizes worth R2m, which include cash prizes to the value of R425,000. “Beyond monetary prizes, previous finalists have benefitted greatly from the various networking opportunities and associated media exposure that the competition offers. Past winners have also gone on to win international awards and form valuable partnerships as a result of their success in the competition,” concludes Mjadu.

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