



Media Advisory
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Namibian Minister to launch the 2009 Drivers of Change Awards

The Minister of Information and Communications Technology of Namibia, Joel Kaapanda is expected to launch the 2009 Drivers of Change Awards on 1 April 2009 at Kalahari Sands Hotel in Windhoek, Namibia.

The prestigious non-monetary awards recognise outstanding new ways of working to overcome poverty in southern Africa.

Neville Gabriel, Executive Director of the Southern Africa Trust says, "the awards recognise ways that change the way we think and act to end poverty, especially ways that make a lasting rather than a temporary difference."

Gabriel pointed out that by identifying fresh approaches that work to drive down poverty, the awards promote changes in attitudes, policies and practices amongst the different social sectors so that efforts to overcome poverty are more effective.

The Drivers of Change Awards have four categories: civil society, business, government and individuals. The judges will, among other things, look for outstanding examples of different sectors working together, particularly government, business, and civil society. In the business category, the awards encourage working with others to do responsible business. The current economic climate, says Gabriel, "makes this not only a moral but a business imperative."

Since the debut of the awards in 2006, 118 nominations have been received from 12 southern African countries.

In 2008, the winner in the business category was the Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight AIDS (ALAFSA) for its innovative sector wide public-private-community partnership that is showing how possible it is to protect key productive economic sectors as a whole in poor countries from the ravages of HIV and AIDS.

In the civil society category, the award went to the Lusaka based Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection for its simply powerful basic needs basket survey. The basic needs basket is an innovative monthly survey of how much it costs a family of six for its basic food and other essentials compared against the income of an average household. It's become a major tool for ordinary people to talk to policy makers about national priorities to overcome poverty.

A joint special award went to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of Mauritius and the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) for driving a major change to how regional priorities to overcome poverty are set in the region, by involving business, civic groups, and governments together.

In the individual category, the visionary Richard Mkandawire was recognised for his outstanding leadership in convincing African leaders and the international community that Africa can muster the ability and political will to overcome hunger and poverty through a green revolution for food security.

This year's winners will be honoured along with the Mail & Guardian's Investing in the Future Awards on 29 October 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nominations for the 2009 Drivers of Change Award close on 10 July 2009 and are accepted in English, French and Portuguese. The Drivers of Change Awards and the Investing in the Future Awards are presented through a partnership between the Southern Africa Trust and the Mail & Guardian newspaper.

Entry forms and guidelines are available by contacting Sudley Adams at +27 11 250 7300/7425 or +27 82 900 0776.
Please [click here](#) to submit online
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The Southern Africa Trust is an independent non-profit agency that supports deeper and wider regional engagement to overcome poverty in southern Africa.

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