

Taco Kuiper Award winners announced

Sipho Masondo and Paddy Harper, of City Press, have won the ninth Taco Kuiper Award for outstanding investigative journalism by South African media and R200,000 in prize money for their story that exposed how members of the teachers' union sell jobs, *'How SADTU decimates our education system, one school at a time'*.



Paddy Harper and Sipho Masondo

The convenor of the judging panel, Caxton Professor of Journalism and Media Studies at Wits University, Anton Harber, described the winning entry as, "A national scandal of great importance to our education system, giving a detailed account and examples from all over the country, of how members of the teachers' union sells key posts in schools.

"It is important work, brilliantly executed and carried through to the full. We can only hope that the story and this award will help the Minister of Education to take strong action."

The runner up was *'Miners Shot Down'*, a feature length, documentary film about Marikana from Rehad Desai and Anita Khanna, who won R100,000 in prize money.

"This film pieces together a view of what happened on that fateful August day, presenting a narrative, which challenges the official view and makes for riveting viewing," said Harber.

He added that the shortlist of entries were all examples of excellence in investigative reporting. "At a time when all the institutions of accountability are taking the strain, it is more important than ever that we have reporters who probe, question, expose, uncover and rake the muck that flows beneath the surface of our complex and rich society."

Nick Davies, author of *Hack Attack* and *Flat Earth News*, and an investigative journalist for the *Guardian*, London, delivered the keynote address at the event, held at Wits on Friday, 27 March 2015.

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