

# ICT Achievers Awards provides platform to celebrate industry

Contributing as much as 10% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and Broadcast industries occupy a pivotal position within the greater South African economy.



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"Not only does ICT inject a much-needed R95 billion into the local economy annually, the fact that the sector is a very visible one means it has the capacity to change perceptions and to advance South Africa's transformation goals," said Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize.

## ICT as an inclusive enabler

Mkhize who will be one of the speakers at the Awards Gala Dinner on 2 October at Vodacom World Dome applauded the country's only awards aimed at rewarding the twin ideals of innovation and transformation that also seek to recognise progressive individuals who have changed the game when it comes to ICT in both the public and private sectors.

SACF chairperson, Lucky Masilela said that by providing a platform for identifying worthy ICT personalities who have spearheaded innovative and transformational initiatives in the sector, the Forum was staying true to its empowerment agenda. "The SACF aims to reduce inequality by broadening participation in the ICT sector for the ultimate benefit of every single South African," explained Masilela.

According to Themba Kinana, government relations executive for lead ICT Awards project sponsor and platinum SACF member, Vodacom, the awards will help to position ICT as an inclusive enabler of greater social cohesiveness.

"Communication brings us all closer and nothing enables more communication, more often, than ICT. As a SACF member, we are committed to the vision to democratise communications and our sponsorship of these awards takes us a step closer towards that goal," added Kinana

## The appointed judges will consider:

- The contribution, benefit and positive impact on society and identified societies that the nominee has made,
- Challenges faced and how these challenges were overcome in order for the nominee to be recognised as a leader in the sector,
- The nominee's length of service in the ICT sector and other important projects which the nominee has contributed towards in order to advance the local ICT sector.

The awards are unique in that both the public as well as the ICT and Broadcast industry can **nominate individuals within the categories of:**

- Entrepreneurship and SMME
- Community development
- Local content production
- Innovation
- Future leader
- Women in ICT
- Disabled Enabled Award
- Localisation of ICT
- Honorary Lifetime Achievers Award
- Innovation for Africa Award

Nominations are not limited to members of the SACF and are open to members of the South African Information Communication Technology (ICT) industry.

Members of SACF include industry leaders such as Vodacom, MTN, Telkom, SABC, Broadband Infraco, Cell C, SA Post Office Sentech, Dimension Data, Neotel, eTv, Ericsson and Huawei, amongst others. As a Platinum SACF Member, Vodacom was assigned the lead role in managing the SACF ICT Achievers Awards.

For more information on the nomination process for the SACF ICT Achievers Award, contact [info@sacomforum.org.za](mailto:info@sacomforum.org.za) or contact the Awards Organisers for sponsorship opportunities at [info@azukagroup.co.za](mailto:info@azukagroup.co.za).

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