



EDITOR'S NOTE

**ADVOCATE NYARADZO NYARI
MASHAYAMOMBE**

Founder and Convener, The List Awards & Editor, The List Awards Magazine
Golden Conifer, Harare, Friday, 7 November 2025

When I first dreamt of The List Awards, I imagined a moment that would restore dignity to how we celebrate greatness. I dreamt of a night where ordinary people doing extraordinary things would be seen and honoured, not for their fame, but for their courage, service, and impact. A night where no one would have to pay to be appreciated, but instead would be celebrated and rewarded in the presence of their people, their nation, and their continent.

That dream has now come alive, not only through this unforgettable second edition but through this, our first ever magazine, a living record of what it means to believe in people.

My journey here has been shaped by purpose, pain, perseverance, and prayer. Through Identities Media Holdings and Tag a Life International (TaLI), I have come to understand that storytelling and social justice walk hand in hand, that visibility can heal, empower, and transform. The List Awards were born from that truth, that every person who gives of themselves for others deserves to be seen, valued, and loved.

To our Board, led by Pastor Philani Nyatsanza, our Steering and Selection Committees,

adjudicators, jury, voters, and partners, thank you for standing strong even in a season when civil society and corporates alike have struggled to stay afloat. Your faith in this vision has made this celebration possible.

To my mentor and mother, Hon. Senator Monica Mutsvangwa, whose guidance under the UN Women Mentorship Programme in 2014 changed my path, thank you for being here tonight as our Guest of Honour and for your steadfast belief in me through the years. To my family, my church, my team, and every single person who worked behind the scenes, your sacrifice is written into every page of this story.

And to every nominee, finalist, and winner, you are The List. You have embodied the Spirit of Ubuntu, hunhu, and today, you are no longer unsung heroes. We say to you, we see you. Your light shines for all of us.

May this magazine remind us that greatness is not measured by wealth or status, but by the light we bring to others.

*With gratitude and love,
Adv, Nyaradzo*

HONOURING INTEGRITY, CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

BY PASTOR PHILANI NYATSANZA,
CHAIRPERSON, THE LIST AWARDS BOARD



As I reflect on this year's journey of The List Awards, I am filled with immense pride in what this platform has come to represent, integrity, authenticity, and the restoration of dignity in how we celebrate excellence. The List Awards were created to honour women

and men who quietly transform lives and communities, often without recognition, yet whose work embodies the true spirit of service, leadership, and ubuntu.

As Board Chairperson, my role, together with our dedicated Board members, is to safeguard the integrity and independence of the process, ensuring that every recognition is earned through merit, fairness, and transparency. I am profoundly grateful to the Selection Committee, adjudicators, jury, and voters whose collective efforts defined the credibility of this year's results, as well as to our sponsors, partners, and organising team for their unwavering belief in this vision.

From our inaugural edition to this second, The List Awards continue to evolve into a regional platform of excellence and inspiration. Together, we celebrate Africa's unsung heroes and reaffirm our commitment to sustaining this legacy of honour.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE;

ADVOCATE CHINGA GOVHATI

I am deeply honoured to represent the seven members of our Selection Committee, a team drawn from diverse professional backgrounds, united by a shared commitment to fairness, excellence, and integrity. Together, we have presided over The List Awards 2025 process with diligence, transparency, and care from beginning

to end.

Our journey began on 8 July when nominations officially opened for the second edition, guided by a clear framework set by the Steering Committee to ensure credibility. Our work was made easier as we built on the strong foundations laid by the inaugural Selection Committee, whose powerful work in the first edition set high standards for independence and quality. As we monitored performance during the nomination period, we observed limited participation in the three Pan-African categories targeting Southern and East Africa. To promote diversity and wider access, we extended the closing date from 17 to 24 August, working with partners to mobilise more entries.

Once adjudicators were trained on 4 September and completed their first selection on 7 September, determining the Top 5 or 6 nominees per category, two distinct tracks followed. Categories such as Youth Impact and Entertainment Impact proceeded to public voting from 17 September to 5 October, while others including Humanitarian Business Impact, Social Impact, Climate, Environment, and Human Rights were assessed by an independent jury on 27 September. This ensured that the awards were not based solely on popularity but also reflected inclusion and recognition of those doing remarkable work in hard-to-reach communities with limited online presence.

The voting system was simplified yet highly secure, using an IP-based verification mechanism that detected repeat votes within a 12-hour window to ensure fairness and prevent duplication. Every stage honoured professionalism, fairness, and respect for all nominees. I am proud that this Year's winners and runners-up reflect a process grounded in integrity, diversity, and genuine celebration of Zimbabwe and Africa's unsung heroes.

CHAIRPERSON, THE LIST AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE





THE **L***ST* AWARDS 2025

WHY THE LIST AWARDS?

1. NO FEES:

Winners don't pay to attend.

2. PRIZE MONEY:

Monetary rewards for winners.

3. RECOGNITION:

Honors Unsung Heroes driving change
in our communities.

4. NETWORKING:

Connect with influential leaders.

5. VISIBILITY:

Increased exposure for nominees.

6. INSPIRATION:

Motivates Community action

Celebrating Africa's Unsung Heroes!

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TOP 2 FINALISTS



Chanazi Drums Washaya:
Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship
- Winner of the Business Impact Award

Chanazi Washaya is a seasoned entrepreneur and mentor from Southview Park, Zimbabwe, dedicated to empowering communities through business and social impact. As the Founder & Managing Director of Sweet Quip Food Equipment, she supplies affordable commercial food equipment to various sectors. Chanazi also established the Women Entrepreneurs Lounge, providing mentorship and training for women to achieve financial independence. Certified by ILO, Microsoft, and ITCILO, she designs capacity-building programs that tackle challenges faced by women and youth in business, reflecting her commitment to community upliftment and generational change.

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BUSINESS IMPACT AWARD

Mark Tawana Kumwenda is a young man and self-taught web developer from Cowdray Park, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, with a passion for exploring new technologies. Committed to uplifting underserved communities, he founded Online Musika, an inclusive e-commerce platform that empowers informal traders. Mark is also developing an AI-powered learning platform that provides students with access to past exam papers and personalized study tools. Despite lacking formal tertiary education, he uses his skills to create scalable solutions for local problems, embodying a new generation of young African innovators focused on meaningful impact.

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Mark Tawana Kumwenda
Bridging Gaps Through Technology
- First Runner-up For the Business Impact Award



Thina Mpofu:

A Beacon of Hope and Humanity

- Winner For The Humanitarian Impact Award

Thina Mpofu is a dedicated educator and entrepreneur from Zimbabwe committed to empowering others. With over 23 years of experience, she has significantly contributed to the education sector, particularly for women and girls. She established Rehoboth in 2016 to promote educational success and founded The Doing Good Projects Trust and Rehoboth Books Publishers in 2017, providing essential support and resources for primary school learners. Recently appointed Secretary General for the Global Association for Equalisation and Development, she facilitates free training for marginalized groups. Thina's vision is to ensure that every individual in Zimbabwe has access to quality education, fostering positive change in communities.

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HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AWARD



Shepherd Gudyani is a dedicated humanitarian professional from Zimbabwe with over 12 years of experience in humanitarian response and development programming. Passionate about transforming lives, he has led complex operations across Africa and Eastern Europe, working with UN agencies and international NGOs. As a Humanitarian Affairs Officer at UNOCHA, he coordinated regional emergency responses and facilitated donor engagement. His leadership in food assistance and urban resilience programming has directly supported vulnerable communities. Shepherd's commitment to restoring dignity and resilience among those in crisis exemplifies his vision for a more equitable world.

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Shepherd Gudyani:

A Lifelong Commitment to Humanitarian Service
- First Runner-up for the Humanitarian Impact Award

TOP 2 FINALISTS



Bishop Albert Chikuni:
Building Strong Families for Lasting Peace
Winner of the Social Impact Award

Bishop Albert Chikuni, winner of the Social Impact Award, is a visionary leader dedicated to building strong families as the foundation for peaceful societies. Through the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, which unites diverse faiths, he promotes unity, moral leadership, and collaboration for social harmony. His work extends to anti-corruption efforts and community healing initiatives, empowering families to become agents of peace. Bishop Chikuni's mission embodies compassion, faith, and the belief that lasting peace begins within the home.



SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

Tadziripa "Tadzie" Madzima, first runner-up for the Social Impact Award, is the founder of Ignite Youth Organisation, a movement empowering over 30,000 young people in underserved communities. Through mentorship, leadership training, and the Purpose Curriculum, she helps youth discover their "why" and build meaningful futures. With over 20 years in marketing and communications, Tadzie champions purpose-driven development, creating safe spaces for young people to dream, lead, and transform their communities through confidence, creativity, and collective action

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Tadzie Madzima:
Empowering Youth for a Purposeful Future
- First Runner-up for the Social Impact Award




DENTITIES
with **Nyari**
Mashayamombe

The Empowerment Podcast



At the heart of Africa's most inspiring stories lies Identities Media Holdings, the creative powerhouse behind The List Awards and Identities Magazine. Through film, digital storytelling, and live experiences, Identities Media continues to give voice to the people and ideas shaping the continent's progress.

Among its flagship productions is the 'Identities with Nyari Mashayamombe: The Empowerment Podcast' — a platform that connects voices across the

community, corporate world, civil society, academia, government, and people of all walks of life. The podcast celebrates authentic African narratives told with dignity and warmth, honouring both the storyteller and the listener.

Each episode explores the human side of leadership, resilience, and purpose. It is a safe space where visionaries, innovators, and everyday heroes share their journeys, from the boardroom to the grassroots-weaving together stories that inspire

reflection, courage, and collective growth. Through respectful dialogue and shared humanity, The Empowerment Podcast invites us all to listen, learn, and re-imagine what empowerment truly means in today's Africa.

Listen to Identities with Nyaradzo Mashayamombe:

[The Empowerment Podcast on Facebook, Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Podcasts](#)

TOP 2 FINALISTS



David Kanduna:
Transforming Stories into Social Impact
- Winner of the Entertainment Impact Award

David Kanduna is a Zimbabwean actor, writer, director, and content creator from Harare, Zimbabwe. He trained in performance at the Zimbabwe Theatre Academy and holds qualifications from Chinhoyi University of Technology. David's screen credits include national TV dramas like "Muzita raBaba" and award-winning films. He focuses on civic storytelling, creating short digital content around mental health, gender-based violence awareness, and youth empowerment, supported by local civic arts networks. A former national kabaddi player, David infuses the discipline he learned in sports into his artistic endeavors, showcasing his commitment to both the arts and social causes

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ENTERTAINMENT IMPACT AWARD

Takura Kachambwa, known as Tunga, first runnerup for the Entertainment Impact Award, uses storytelling as a catalyst for social change. Rising from humble beginnings, he has produced over 30 films addressing youth struggles, drug abuse, and cultural identity. Through his work with Impact Africa and mentorship of young creators, Takura empowers over 10,000 youths to find purpose and voice through film. His dedication to transforming lives through art defines why he stands out as a true change-maker in entertainment

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Takura Kachambwa (Tunga):
Championing Change Through Storytelling
- First Runner-up for the Entertainment Impact Award.



Yeukai Ottilia Munetsi:
Amplifying Grassroots Voices for Change
- Winner of the Youth Impact Award

Yeukai Ottilia Munetsi is a dedicated journalist, podcaster, and youth activist from Zimbabwe, committed to exposing human rights violations and promoting civic engagement in communities across Gweru and surrounding areas. Operating on limited resources, she relies on her phone and personal finances to produce impactful work voluntarily. Through her "Know Your Rights" podcast, she has engaged over 200 rural young women and created content that highlights systemic challenges in areas like mining and community inequalities. Yeukai also connects young people with leadership through initiatives like the Every Youth to Their Councillor campaign, fostering accountability and empowerment.

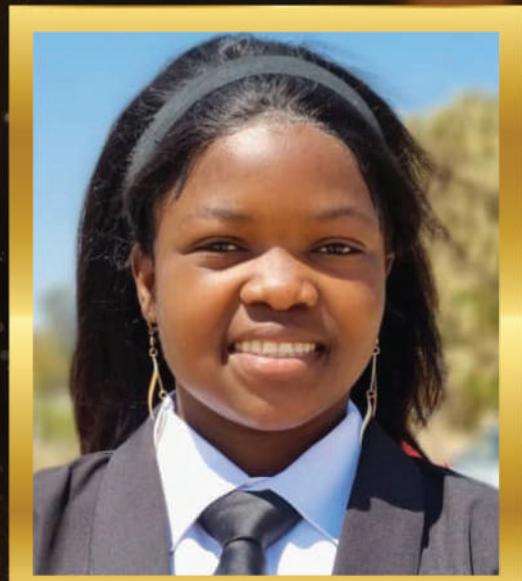
THE LIST AWARDS
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YOUTH IMPACT AWARD



Wadzanai Gracious Nyakabau, first runner-up for the Youth Impact Award, is a passionate youth leader and founder of Youth Dreams Zimbabwe, empowering young people through civic education, life skills, and digital literacy training. Her initiatives have reached thousands, fostering leadership and social responsibility. As National President of the Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe and Youth Arm Coordinator for Climate Action Network, she champions youth inclusion, climate justice, and girls' dignity. Wadzanai embodies hope, inspiring a generation to lead transformative change across Zimbabwe.

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Wadzanai Gracious Nyakabau:
A Champion for Youth Empowerment
- First Runner-up for the Youth Impact Award

TOP 2 FINALISTS



Muziwandile Dube:
Championing Education and Humanitarian Efforts
- Winner of the Poverty Alleviation Impact Award

Muziwandile Dube, winner of the Poverty Alleviation Impact Award, is an inspiring educator and humanitarian whose life's work is rooted in compassion and community upliftment. From his early teaching days to leading Samahuru Adventist High School to a 100% A-level pass rate, he has transformed education in rural Zimbabwe. Beyond his school, he mobilises resources to improve learning conditions across communities. Muziwandile's legacy celebrates education as a powerful tool for breaking poverty and building sustainable, inclusive futures.

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POVERTY ALLEVIATION IMPACT AWARD

John Muchenje is a dedicated Development Practitioner and Peacebuilder from Zimbabwe, passionate about empowering youth and promoting sustainable agriculture. As the Founder and Executive Director of 4-H Zimbabwe Foundation, he has significantly improved the livelihoods of marginalized rural communities. With degrees in Accountancy and Development Studies, he is currently pursuing two Master's degrees. Under his leadership, 4-H Zimbabwe has trained over 8,000 youth and women, established solar-powered nutrition gardens, and reached over a million through peace-building initiatives, enhancing food security and resilience. Recognized nationally for his contributions, John continues to champion youth-led development across Africa, drawing from his personal experiences growing up in rural Zimbabwe.

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John Muchenje:
Empowering Rural Communities through
Sustainable Development
- First Runner-up for the Poverty
Alleviation Impact Award



 IDENTITIES MEDIA
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AWARDS
2025

A Luxurious Celebration of Impact

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Celebrating Africa's Unsung Heroes!

TOP 2 FINALISTS



Mathias Begede:
Championing Climate Resilience and Community Empowerment

- Winner of the Climate and Environment Impact Award.

Mathias Begede, winner of the Climate and Environment Impact Award, is celebrated not only for his successful career in disaster management but for his deep investment in youth empowerment. Through mentoring over 200 young environmental advocates and leading climate education initiatives, he has inspired a generation to champion community-led resilience and sustainable environmental action across Zimbabwe.



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CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT IMPACT AWARD

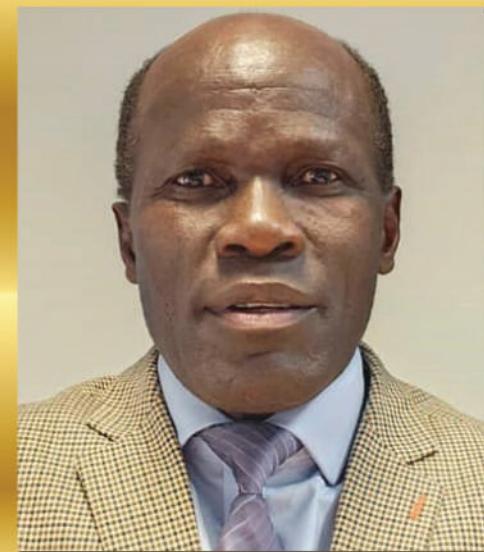
Tendai Jack, first runner-up for the Climate and Environment Impact Award, is a passionate climate innovator and youth leader empowering girls to use technology for environmental solutions. Through her initiatives, including WomenTech Zimbabwe, BioLumina, and WetLens, she champions clean energy, wetland protection, and sustainable innovation. Her projects have powered rural clinics, restored ecosystems, and created green jobs. Guided by the belief that "Africa is not waiting for solutions; we are creating them," Tendai continues to inspire young people to lead in climate action and build resilient, thriving communities across Zimbabwe and beyond.

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Tendai Jack:
Pioneering Climate Innovation and Empowering Youth

- First Runner-up for the Climate and Environment Impact Award



HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT AWARD

Henry Chitsenga, winner of the Human Rights Impact Award, has transformed countless lives through education and philanthropy. Inspired by his own journey from poverty, he founded Mwana Trust and the Sub-Saharan Children's Hope Trust, building schools, donating resources, and sponsoring over 800 students and 60 university scholars. His projects, including the solar-powered Nyanga North Secondary School, empower disadvantaged children with opportunity and dignity. Guided by faith and compassion, Henry's lifelong mission is to restore hope and advance human rights through education and service

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Henry Chitsenga:

*A Beacon of Hope in Philanthropy and Education
- Winner of the Human Rights Impact Award*

Sitabile Dewa is a distinguished women's rights advocate from Zimbabwe with over a decade of experience in conflict transformation. As the founder and Executive Director of the Women's Academy for Leadership and Political Excellence (WALPE), she empowers women leaders and promotes gender equality in governance. Passionate about elevating women into leadership roles, Sitabile drives capacity-building initiatives and mentorship programs that prepare women for public office. She also equips aspiring women leaders and policymakers with the skills to advocate for climate justice and protect women and girls from its negative impacts.

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Sitabile Dewa:

*Championing Women's Leadership and Gender Equality
- First Runner-up for the Human Rights Impact Award*



Alice Diana Kuvheyaa:

*Advocating for Empowerment and Community Well-Being
- First Runner-up for the Human Rights Impact Award*

Alice Diana Kuvheyaa is a dedicated human rights defender and the director of the Chitungwiza Residents Trust (CHITREST) in Zimbabwe. She prioritizes her community's needs and is passionate about protecting Chitungwiza from harmful policies. Alice fights for residents' rights, particularly advocating for access to clean water and improved service delivery. Through CHITREST, she ensures local authorities uphold residents' rights, promote transparency, and provide legal support against unjust practices. Her commitment to empowering the community and challenging unapproved projects exemplifies her dedication to responsible governance and human rights.

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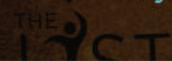


SPORTS IMPACT AWARD

Wilfred Mashaya, known as the "Zim Ninja," is a renowned martial artist and humanitarian from Harare, Zimbabwe. As the founder of the Zim Ninja Academy, he is a black belt master in Ninjutsu and Kobudo, using martial arts to empower youth, women, and people with disabilities. He holds leadership roles in the International Combat Organisation and the Zimbabwe Karate Union. Beyond his championship titles, Mashaya promotes discipline, gender equality, and community development through innovative self-defense programs. He leads workshops for mothers and women, including those with disabilities, addressing societal challenges like substance abuse and violence prevention.

Wilfred M. Mashaya a.k.a Zim Ninja:
Championing Martial Arts and Inspiring Youth
- Winner of the Sport Impact Award

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE JURY

BY WILLS WATAFI JURY MEMBER,
THE LIST AWARDS 2025



Serving on the jury for The List Awards 2025 has been both a privilege and a profound experience. This year we received truly remarkable applications — the quality, depth, and diversity of the submissions have improved significantly, and we were deeply moved by the incredible work people are doing across different communities.

Reviewing the entries for categories such as Business Impact, Humanitarian Impact, Social Impact, and Poverty Alleviation was both inspiring and challenging. It is never easy to choose a winner when confronted with such excellence. The initial selection work by the adjudicators, who narrowed each category down to five or six nominees, made our task clearer, yet also more difficult, because the calibre of candidates was exceptionally high.

What touched us most was the diversity — not only between urban and rural contexts, but also across the regions of our nation and continent. From Harare to Bulawayo, from

Matabeleland to Masvingo, and beyond Zimbabwe's borders into Africa, the representation was rich and humbling. The stories of those who are building communities, businesses, and a spirit of Pan-Africanism reaffirmed our belief in the goodness and resilience of our people. It has been a joy to serve as part of this process. On behalf of my fellow jury members, I wish to express deep gratitude to the Board, the Convener, and the entire List Awards team for creating such a credible and meaningful platform of recognition. We are privileged to play a small part in this celebration of integrity, service, and humanity.



Calvin Manika is a passionate journalist from Zimbabwe and the Managing Director of The Besana Mail, known for his in-depth reporting on human rights and development issues in Hwange and Matabeleland North. His work highlights marginalized communities often overlooked in mainstream narratives, focusing on environmental justice and indigenous rights. Calvin has exposed the human cost of unregulated coal mining, documenting its impacts on local communities and wildlife. His articles, featured in Al Jazeera and The Africa Report, amplify neglected voices and drive recognition of regional challenges. When he's not reporting, Calvin enjoys engaging with community initiatives that foster dialogue and empowerment.



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Calvin Manika:

Championing Marginalized Voices through Journalism
- Winner of the Storytelling/Journalism Impact Award.

STORYTELLING JOURNALISM IMPACT AWARD

Tafadzwa Mwanengureni is a dedicated freelance journalist from Zimbabwe, passionate about amplifying the voices of marginalized women. With five years of experience, she reports on critical issues affecting women, such as maternal health and gender-based violence. Her work appears in prominent publications like Minority Africa, She Corresponds Africa, El País, News Hawks, and Newsday. Tafadzwa engages with underrepresented communities to uncover their untold stories, bringing attention to neglected issues and celebrating unsung heroines. Through her storytelling, she inspires social change and empowerment, making a meaningful impact in her community.

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Tafadzwa Mwanengureni:

Amplifying Voices through Journalism

- First Runner-up for the Storytelling/Journalism Impact Award

TOP 2 FINALISTS



Zwelihle Banks Nsiiwa:
Championing African Education through Literature
- Winner of the Artist Pan African Impact Award

Zwelihle Banks Nsiiwa, winner of the Artist Pan African Impact Award, embodies resilience and purpose. Rising from humble beginnings, where she once worked as a maid to support her family, she defied the odds to earn advanced degrees and build a legacy in education. Through Smart Thinking Publishers, she promotes early childhood literacy and cultural pride across Africa, publishing books in seven local languages. Her initiative, A Book in Every Hand, empowers children to dream boldly and learn in their mother tongues.

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ARTIST PAN AFRICAN IMPACT AWARD

Abdul Lutungu is the founder of Arise Tanzania, a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing menstrual stigma and gender-based violence in Tanzania. Using art, music, and advocacy, he leads impactful community programs like "Let's Talk Period," reaching over 13,000 people and providing essential menstrual products to schools. He also launched the award-winning "Me Against GenderBased Violence" campaign and empowers widows through "Land Belongs to Us Too." As a young male champion for menstrual health, Abdul challenges stereotypes, proving men can be allies in promoting equity and inclusion while actively creating art that inspires change.

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Abdul Said Lutungu:
Advocating for Safe Menstruation and Gender Equality
- First Runner-up for the Artist Pan African Impact Award.

BOARD MEMBERS



PASTOR PHILANI NYATSANZA – DEVELOPMENT LEADER AND THE LIST AWARDS BOARD CHAIR

Philani Nyatsanza has 25 years of experience in cross-cultural youth development within the church and social transformation organizations, holding degrees in theology, leadership, and an MBA. As the Country Director for Higherlife Foundation Zimbabwe, he oversees administrative operations, program execution, and community development. He aims to empower young people to become change-makers and transformers in their communities.

AVOCATE ARTHUR MARARA – LEGAL ADVISOR

Arthur Marara is an award-winning attorney, author, and motivational speaker known for his impactful messages on personal and professional development. He combines his legal expertise with financial literacy coaching, reaching millions on radio and social media with practical advice. Arthur is a devout Christian committed to serving humanity and inspiring positive change in people's lives.



MS. SIMBISO GUMBO – SENIOR FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

Simbisai Gumbo has over 20 years of experience in corporate finance and business management, particularly in the Food and Beverages Manufacturing Industries. She has successfully implemented numerous financial transactions as a Finance Manager over the past decade. Simbisai holds an MBA and DME from the University of Zimbabwe.

MS. MELLANY MSENGEZI – MARKETING CONSULTANT

Mellany Msengezi is a seasoned marketing professional with over 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, holding key roles at organizations like Gomycode Kenya and Airtel Networks. Known for her innovative strategies, she has driven significant growth in brand development and digital marketing. Mellany is the recipient of the Top Marketer of the Year 2018 award and holds an MBA from Nottingham Trent University.



TOP 2 FINALISTS



Susan Lubambe Mwape:
Championing Governance and Citizen Empowerment
- winner of the *Role Model Pan African Impact Award*

Susan Mwape is a distinguished advocate for good governance and women's empowerment from Zambia. With over 15 years of experience in civil society, she serves as the Executive Director of Common Cause Zambia, promoting transparency and democratic institutions. As a leading Southern Africa communications champion for the African Union's African Peer Review Mechanism, Susan has played a pivotal role in amplifying strategic messaging across the continent. Additionally, as Country Director of Commonwealth Business Women Zambia, she champions African women in business, reflecting her commitment to a more equitable and sustainable Africa while inspiring future leaders and change-makers.

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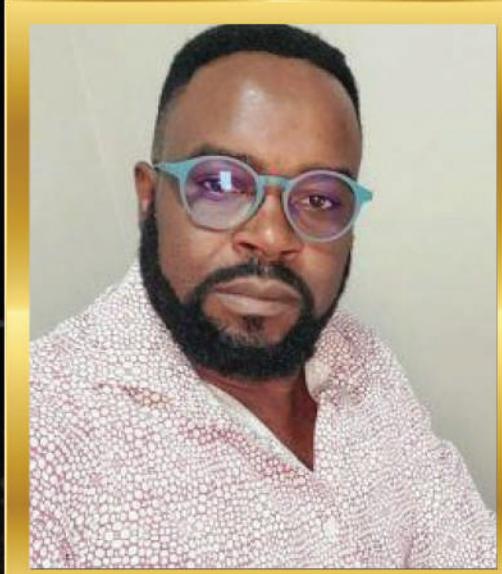
ROLE MODEL PAN AFRICAN IMPACT AWARD

Collins Okeyo Attito, known as Ja Afrika, is a creative ambassador for unity and love from Kenya. With a passion for fashion, music, and cooking, he works to connect people and cultures across Africa through initiatives like FruitfulNATIONS, which plants fruit trees as symbols of growth and sustainability, and FAMUFO (Fashion, Music and Food), a course promoting collaboration in the creative industry. As the Creative Director of Ja Afrika Images, he tells powerful stories through photography. Through his initiative TuWaPi, he mentors and celebrates community officers, fostering a positive and empowered police community across nations.

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Collins Okeyo Attito:
Championing Police-Friendly Communities through Art
- First Runner-up for the *Role Model PaN African Impact Award*

**John Arufandika:**

Pioneering AI-Driven Transformation in Africa
- Winner of the Emerging Technologies Impact Award

John Arufandika, winner of the Emerging Technologies Impact Award, is a visionary AI Engineer driving Africa's digital transformation. He pioneered inclusive AI innovations such as Southern Africa's first Large Language Model and Private GPT for Law and Finance, integrating African languages and secure generative AI solutions. Through Aptiva AI, he mentors young professionals, expanding access to ethical, data-driven technologies. John's groundbreaking work demonstrates how African-built AI can advance sustainable development and digital inclusion across the continent.

THE LIST AWARDS
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EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IMPACT AWARD

Mmoloki is the Founder and Director of Story at Lowapi Drone Light Shows, a Pan-African company from Botswana that blends storytelling with technology to create immersive cultural experiences. He has developed a flagship light show called "The Portal," featuring 1,000 illuminated drones that choreograph African myths and legends. Mmoloki's community-driven initiative promotes heritage tourism and conservation, generating revenue while preserving cultural sites. Passionate about sustainability, he aims to amplify his work globally, highlighting the importance of creating ventures that benefit both communities and future generations.

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**Mmoloki Pitse:**

Innovating Heritage Tourism through Technology
- First Runner-up for the Emerging Technology Impact Award

The Integrity Pillars of The List Awards 2025

Every great institution stands on its pillars. Behind the glamour of The List Awards are the men and women who guard its soul, ensuring that celebration is built on fairness, integrity, and love for community. This is the story of the unseen architecture that holds The List Awards together. Integrity is not an act; it is our architecture, the invisible thread that binds fairness, excellence, and humanity in every step of The List Awards journey. Behind every beautiful celebration of excellence lies a story of structure, diligence, and shared purpose. The List Awards is more than a ceremony; it is a journey of integrity, inclusion, and collaboration. Each body within its framework plays a distinct yet connected role, ensuring that every recognition stands on the foundation of fairness, authenticity, and the spirit of hunhu/ubuntu.

1. THE BOARD

The Board of The List Awards has been the cornerstone of this vision since its inauguration in 2024. Comprising leaders, innovators, and thinkers from diverse sectors, the Board stands as the moral compass of the Awards. Beyond governance, its members mentor, advise, and mobilise support to ensure sustainability and credibility. Their guidance goes beyond policy; it is a lived commitment to protecting the heart of The List Awards. Through their wisdom and hands-on leadership, the Board safeguards the dream, nurturing a platform that continues to shine as a symbol of integrity, excellence, and community celebration.

2. THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee, established by the Board, is the guardian of integrity, ensuring that every process aligns with best practice and fairness. It defines the categories, frameworks, and criteria that uphold the Awards' credibility. Working closely with the Secretariat, the Committee ensures that every step, from nominations to adjudication and public voting, reflects transparency and equity. Within this structure, the Committee also supervises two key arms, the Jury and the Adjudicators, maintaining oversight to ensure accountability and quality control. Some members participate in select processes, but their primary duty is to uphold authenticity and excellence.

THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS

The Adjudicators are the first point of contact in the Awards process. Trained by experts and guided by a shared ethos of fairness, they meticulously assess nominations using a clear scorecard rooted in evidence and impact. Their review goes beyond paperwork as they conduct verification and independent research to ensure that every claim is credible. From hundreds of submissions, the Adjudicators identify the Top Five Finalists in each category, those whose work truly embodies innovation, community impact, and The List Awards values. Their diligence ensures that those who advance to the next stage have genuinely earned their place.

3. THE JURY

After adjudication, the Jury assumes its role as the second lens of evaluation. This team of distinguished leaders and experts reviews the Adjudicators' recommendations with careful deliberation. Focusing on categories not subject to public voting, the Jury's task is to ensure that winners are chosen not by popularity but by the depth of their contribution, integrity, and measurable impact.

The Jury's process is both analytical and compassionate. They go beyond visibility to examine the heart of each nominee's work, verifying outcomes and assessing how each initiative uplifts even the most marginalised. They are deliberate about diversity, representation, and inclusion, ensuring that even those without digital presence or media recognition are seen and valued. Their verdict reflects balance and fairness, recognising both the celebrated and the unseen, united by their shared commitment to transformation, community, and the spirit of hunhu/ubuntu.

4. THE VOTER

The voters are the heartbeat of The List Awards. Through their participation, they breathe life into its democratic spirit, celebrating the individuals and initiatives that inspire them. Public voting takes place in categories such as Entertainment Impact, Influencer Impact, and Role Model of the Year, giving communities a direct voice in honouring those who move them. This year, The List Awards achieved an impressive balance between accessibility and integrity within its digital voting platform. The system was designed for ease of participation while maintaining the highest security standards, with measures such as IP tracking, time-based limits, and a twelve-hour voting interval per device. These safeguards protected fairness and credibility while ensuring the process remained open, inclusive, and user friendly. Through this transparent process, the public confidently selected their favourite unsung heroes and impact makers, those whose influence, compassion, and innovation continue to shape communities for the better.

TOGETHER, THEY UPHOLD THE SPIRIT OF THE LIST

Each pillar, the Board, the Selection Committee, the Adjudicators, the Jury, and the Voters, forms part of a greater ecosystem of trust and excellence. Together, they ensure that The List Awards remains transparent, credible, inclusive, and deeply human. It is through this collaboration that the Awards continue to stand as a symbol of leadership, authenticity, and celebration across Zimbabwe and Africa. The List Awards honours not just the seen, but the unseen, the dreamers, builders, and believers who quietly shape a better world — guided always by the spirit of hunhu/ubuntu.



BETTER FUTURES: BUILDING HOPE BEYOND THE MOMENT

RUTENDO MAGORIMBO,
Managing Director of
Old Mutual Life Assurance



OLDMUTUAL

At The List Awards, we honour the everyday heroes, the teachers, health workers, social innovators, entrepreneurs, and visionaries, who quietly and consistently move Zimbabwe forward, often in the face of immense challenges.

Their stories are powerful reminders that resilience is more than enduring hardship; it is about imagining a brighter future and working relentlessly to achieve it, with heart, purpose, and unwavering conviction.

This spirit is the driving force behind Old Mutual's Better Futures initiative. It's a call to action for communities to regain the confidence to save, to plan, and to dream again, even after years of economic uncertainty.

Better Futures is not just a financial programme; it's a movement to restore trust and belief in tomorrow. It champions the idea that every small act of saving contributes not only to personal and family security, but also to the collective strength and stability of our nation.

"Our goal is to inspire communities to start saving again, even in difficult times," says Sam Matsekete, Group CEO of Old Mutual Zimbabwe. "When families save, they create vital safety nets for the future. And when we save collectively, we fuel the growth of our economy and the infrastructure that sustains it."

Rutendo Magorimbo, Managing Director of Old Mutual Life Assurance, echoes this sentiment: **"We have lived through tough seasons, but we cannot afford to give up. We must keep moving forward. We must build the Zimbabwe we want, not just for ourselves, but for our children and future generations."**

Like the everyday heroes we celebrate tonight, Better Futures is built on courage, commitment, and hope, the kind of hope that doesn't just endure but transforms, laying the foundation for real, lasting change.

THE SOUND OF IMPACT

When music becomes more than melody, it transforms into movement. By Identities Media Magazine

Hope Masike, the Queen of Mbira Music and winner of the 2024 List Awards Entertainment Impact Award, embodies the essence of transformation through art. Her story is one of courage, healing, and conviction, a journey where art becomes activism and rhythm becomes voice. When she graced the stage at the inaugural List Awards in 2024, her performance stirred emotion and pride, setting a new standard for artistic excellence and social consciousness.

This year, she returns once again to entertain guests, her music echoing the spirit of empowerment that defines the Awards. Crowned for her unique ability to blend traditional Zimbabwean sounds with contemporary rhythm, Hope now weaves hymns into her mbira compositions, creating a spiritual and soulful sound that connects culture, faith, and modern expression. She has also successfully collaborated internationally, bringing African identity and heritage to global audiences while celebrating unity through music.

Her brave decision to speak publicly about her battle with fibroids turned private pain into public awareness, breaking the silence around women's health and inspiring women to seek help and healing. Having overcome fibroids herself, Hope now

stands as a symbol of strength and restoration, proving that openness can heal and healing can inspire.

As the first cover girl of Identities Media Magazine, Hope Masike represents resilience, creativity, and purpose. Her story reminds us that true artistry lives where courage meets compassion, where every note becomes a call to restore dignity, celebrate identity, and ignite change.

“Music gave me healing, and healing gave me purpose.”

Hope Masike



AT THE HEART OF IDENTITIES MEDIA LIES TAG A LIFE INTERNATIONAL (TALI)



At the heart of Identities Media, the parent company behind The List Awards, lies Tag a Life International (TaLI) — a movement of hope, empowerment, and transformation for girls and young women across Zimbabwe.

Founded in 2010 by Advocate Nyaradzo "Nyari" Mashayamombe, TaLI began as a simple dream to create a world where girls are protected, educated, and free to lead. Over the years, that dream has touched thousands of lives and inspired a new generation of young women who believe in themselves and in their power to change their communities.

FROM COMMUNITY WORK TO CREATIVE STORYTELLING

Through its mentorship and empowerment programmes, especially the Leadership Economic Mentorship Hubs (LEMHS), TaLI has reached more than 6,500 young women and community members, helping them build confidence, start small businesses, return to school, and raise their voices on issues that matter.

It was from this life-changing work that Identities Media was born, a creative and communications company designed to give voice to the stories TaLI helped create while also building sustainability for its work. Through media, film, and storytelling, Identities Media turns real experiences into stories that move hearts and minds, ensuring that impact goes hand in hand with inspiration.

THE LIST AWARDS: WHERE IMPACT MEETS CELEBRATION

Out of this vision came The List Awards, a glamorous yet purposeful celebration of Unsung Heroes from Zimbabwe, Southern and East Africa. It is an evening where elegance meets meaning and where every ticket and partnership helps fuel TaLI's programmes for girls and young women.

What began as a platform to celebrate others has become a beautiful circle of purpose. Identities Media creates, The List Awards celebrates, and TaLI continues to change lives.

THE HEARTBEAT OF IT ALL

TaLI's story is not one of charity but of possibility. From young mothers starting businesses, to survivors of violence finding their voices, to communities embracing renewable energy and education for all, every achievement speaks to the resilience and brilliance of women and girls when given the chance to shine.

Many of TaLI's young women are now taking part in leadership and politics, standing for positions in their communities, local councils, and youth movements. They are living proof that when girls are empowered early, they grow into women who lead with confidence, compassion, and courage.

As Identities Media continues to grow and tell stories that matter, Tag a Life International remains its heartbeat — the reason behind every celebration and the reminder that true impact happens when we give back.



BECAUSE WHEN WE CELEBRATE OTHERS, WE SUSTAIN HOPE.

2024 LIST AWARDS FINALISTS

