

# The AVBOB FCJ Excellence Awards – 2022

Presented by the Forum of Community Journalists NPC



## ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The AVBOB FCJ Annual Excellence Awards is aimed at encouraging excellence and rewarding meritorious work in local and community print media. Only permanent and regular freelance editorial staff members working for such media in South Africa may enter. Regular freelance means such a person must contribute to your publication at least once a month on average. The awards ceremony and national training seminar will be held on 4 August 2023 in Cape Town.

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

Read through the instructions for entering carefully. Entrants not adhering to the instructions/rules will be disqualified. There is a new entry process.

1. The competition covers the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.
2. The **closing date** for entries (in all the categories) is **Monday, 22 May 2023 at 09:00**.
1. For enquiries about entries, contact the judges' convenor, Mr Andre Gouws, at [fcjcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcompetition@gmail.com) or alternatively the FCJ Executive Director Marietta Lombard on 082 853 7817. Entrants will receive electronic confirmation when entries are submitted through Google Forms. The onus is on the entrant to follow up with Andre Gouws if your actual entry was received as well. No late entries will be considered.
3. The decision of the judges will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into. The judges reserve the right to make no award if insufficient entries are received or they feel that none of the entries in a particular category are sufficiently meritorious.
4. Please see **How to enter below**, and each entry form for specific instructions on how to enter per category.
5. Don't forget to enter our second annual Best Community Involvement competition.

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## HOW TO ENTER

All entries should be electronic, **in PDF format only**. Entries that are not in the correct format will be disqualified. No JPGs or any other format will be accepted, except in the photography category and the Avbob Best Community Involvement Award.

In the Writing and Digital categories all articles that you wish to enter should be in **ONE PDF document** only. See the entry forms for instructions about the other categories and specific **naming conventions**. The entry form for each category should be added to the top of your PDF, as the first page. To combine PDFs, use Adobe Acrobat or any free program, such as [PDF Converter](#), or paste your entries and entry form into one Word document and then save the Word document as a PDF file. When your PDF is ready, create a Google Drive folder with your entry and share your folder with the convening judge, Mr Andre Gouws, at [fcjcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcompetition@gmail.com). Make sure to change the sharing settings to “Anyone with link” and “Editor”. **Complete the Google Form (link on the entry form) to finalise your submission.**

## WRITING CATEGORIES

Complete a separate entry form for each category and include it at the top of your single PDF document, in your folder.

### Alet Roux Award

Journalists (who are permanently employed) with fewer than three years' experience who enter any category will automatically be considered for the Alet Roux Award, for best newcomer. The directors have taken the decision that in future, a journalist can win the Alet Roux Trophy only once.

### Journalist of the Year

The winner of this prestigious award will be selected by judges from the pool of entries in the various writing categories. Journalists are thus encouraged to enter as many categories as possible to showcase diversity.

### Categories

#### 1. Investigative reporting:

A maximum of 20 articles, **including** follow-ups.

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## 2. **Headlines:**

Enter five (5) headlines, with the accompanying articles. The impact and creativeness of the headlines and relevance to the articles will be judged – not the article content.

## 3. **Hard news:**

Enter ten (10) articles in total, **including** follow-up articles.

## 4. **Human interest:**

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

## 5. **Editorial comment,**

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

## 6. **Columns**

Enter a maximum of 5 columns.

## 7. **Sport:**

Enter a maximum of 5 articles only.

## 8. **Digital reporting:**

Enter a maximum of 5 digital stories only.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY**

Complete a separate entry form for each category and include it at the top of your PDF document in your folder. **For these categories original JPGs of your photos are also required.** You need to enter a JPG of your photo AND a PDF of the page showcasing the published photograph. Remember that all your PDF newspaper pages should be part of a single PDF document. In all photography categories (Photographer of the Year, Upcoming Photographer of the Year, News, Sport and General) entries will be judged as a portfolio. When your entry is ready, create a Google Drive folder with your entry and share your folder with the convening judge, Mr Andre Gouws, at [fcjcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcompetition@gmail.com). Make sure to change the sharing settings in Google Drive to “Anyone with link can edit”. **Complete the Google Form (link on the entry form) to finalise your submission.**

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## Photographer of the Year

In the Photographer of the Year category your portfolio of six photographs will be judged in its entirety. Entrants must submit a portfolio of six photos for this category specifically and may not enter these six pictures in any other category. You need to enter a jpeg of the photo AND a PDF of the page in the newspaper where it was published so that judges can see how the photo was used in the newspaper.

## Upcoming Photographer of the Year

Only photographers/journalists with fewer than three years' experience qualify to enter this new category but may not enter the Photographer of the Year category as well. Entrants must submit a portfolio of six photos for this category specifically and may not enter these six pictures in any other category. You need to enter a jpeg of the photo AND a PDF of the page in the newspaper where it was published so that judges can see how the photo was used in the newspaper.

## Categories and number of photographs required.

**News, Sport and General:** A maximum of 5 photographs each.



## FRONT PAGE CATEGORY

VIR GEMEENSKAPSKOERNALISTE / OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS

(Sections: Corporate-owned paid newspapers, Corporate-owned free newspapers and any other community/local newspapers not owned by any of the major media groups). The portfolio of three front pages (and not individual front pages) will be judged. These three front pages must all be part of a single PDF document.

## Number of front pages: Three (3) original front pages.

You may enter any three front pages from 2022.

## Format of entries:

Enter a single PDF of your three front pages. Follow the naming conventions on the entry form. When your entry is ready, create a Google Drive folder with your entry and share your folder with the convening judge, Mr Andre Gouws, at [fcjcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcompetition@gmail.com) Make sure to change the sharing settings in Google Drive to "Anyone with link can edit". **Complete the Google Form (link on the entry form) to finalise your submission.**

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## CATEGORY: NEWSPAPERS

### Sections

1. Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation above 5 000.
2. Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation below 5 000.
3. Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination of more than 24 pages).
4. Corporate-owned free newspapers (pagination of 24 pages or less).
5. Independent commercial newspapers and any other community/local newspapers (not owned by any of the major media groups).

**The portfolio of three newspapers (and not individual editions) will be judged.**

### Number of newspapers: Three (3)

You may enter any three editions from 2022.

### Format of entries

You should enter the complete edition as a PDF file. In this category you should enter the three editions as separate PDFs. Save all three editions in a folder that contains the newspaper name, category, and date, for example TheRepCorporatePaid20August2022. You may also provide links to the complete e-publications, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the links are active. If they are not active, the e-publication cannot be adjudicated. Provide the links to the e-publications on the entry form and save the entry form as in the abovementioned example.

When your entry is ready, create a Google Drive folder with your entry and share your folder with the convening judge, Mr Andre Gouws, at [fcjcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcompetition@gmail.com) Make sure to change the sharing settings in Google Drive to "Anyone with link can edit". **Complete the Google Form (link on the entry form) to finalise your submission.**



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## **AVBOB BEST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD**

Community journalists are an integral part of their communities. They are not only known for being the voice of their readers, but also for their active involvement in initiating community projects based on their knowledge of their community's needs and challenges.

To acknowledge this, AVBOB, which is known for its philanthropic support in communities, introduced the Best Community Involvement category last year. This award acknowledges the community journalist and local news teams' involvement and dedication to the communities they serve.

Judges will consider the uniqueness of the project, the newspaper's social investment into their communities, its impact and relevance to the community it serves and the extent to which staff initiated and were involved in the project.

### **How to enter**

To qualify, a detailed description of the project must be submitted as well as a portfolio illustrating how it was rolled out.

Enter a portfolio of articles, online content which can include video and audio showcasing the project initiated by the publication.

The portfolio can include PDF files of pages, links and social media posts. Also include a short profile of the beneficiary.

Detailed instructions on how to enter can be found on the entry form.

Please send your entry for this category to [fcjawards@gmail.com](mailto:fcjawards@gmail.com) with AVBOB Best Community Involvement Award Entry in the subject line.

Note this is not the same email address as the other categories. Entries for this category go directly to the FCJ and not the judges' convener.

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