

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **VOTING HAS STARTED FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS REGIONAL ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS (RASA 2018)**

Voting has began for The African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 third edition of Regional Annual Sports Awards (RASA 2018), scheduled to take place in Johannesburg on the 26 May 2018, hosted by South Africa at Birchwood Hotel.

Stanley Mutoya, the AUSC Region 5 CEO says he is excited to see the RASA brand grow the manner in which it has since its inaugural edition in 2016. “Today we have 9 member countries taking part in the third edition, a serious growth because in 2016 we only had 5 member countries taking part. This is an indication that we have a good product to commercialize and know the corporates in our region will be keen to partner with us”

As per the AUSC Region 5 Awards Rulebook, the primary mandate of the AUSC Region 5 is to encourage all ten member countries to host national sport awards preceding the RASA. The winners at country level are automatically entered as RASA nominees. All these nominees are already winners in their own right, and now it’s all about triumph at the regional level.

Since the inaugural edition in 2016, the RASA event and the excitement it brings has grown at country level during the hosting of national awards. Winners of national sport awards look forward to be paired with There are talks to have more activities during the RASA week to further give this event more excitement and opportunities for the nominees and corporates interact with local hosting country’s citizens by giving back in a social responsibility initiatives.

The 2018 RASA will see two new editions to the basket of excitement. The Nelson Mandela Centenary celebration will form part of the activation plan. Nelson Mandela played a pivotal role in the liberation struggle of South Africa and is revert internationally as an icon and a sport legend. We are exuberated that his legacy and the celebration of 100 years will be part of RASA 2018 event. Also, for this third edition of RASA 2018, a regional boxing bonanza and Regional Professionals

Boxing seminar will be part of the activities that will take place, leading up the night of glimpse and glamour were the winners from the 2018 edition will be announced.

The hosting of RASA in 2019 will start going on rotational basis, and member countries will host in an alphabetical order starting Namibia. “We once again extend the Region’s gratitude to the government and people of the Republic of South Africa for stepping up and offering to host the second edition RASA,” concludes Mutoya.

## **THE NOMINEES ARE ...**

### **JUNIOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR**

1. Teboho Lelimo, Chess, Lesotho.
2. Thandolwethu Motsa, Taekwondo, Kingdom eSwatini.
3. Delano Muller, Kickboxing, Namibia
4. Karabo Sibanda, Athletics, Botswana
5. Kennedy Luchembe, Athletics, Zambia

### **JUNIOR SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR**

1. Tshegofatso Tsiang, Botswana
2. 'Malillo Phera, Lesotho
3. Charlize Van Zyl, Namibia
4. Carlota Munave, Kingdom eSwatini
5. Lubuuto Bwalya, Zambia
6. Tanyaradzwa Muzinda, Zimbabwe

### **SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR**

1. Ofentse Bakwadi, Botswana.
2. Peter Banda, Malawi.
3. Julius Indongo, Namibia,
4. Luvo Manyonga, South Africa.
5. Sibusiso Matsenjwa, Kingdom eSwatini.
6. Patson Daka, Football Zambia.
7. Elford Moyo, Zimbabwe.

### **SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR**

1. Onkemetse Francis, Botswana
2. Neheng Khatala, Lesotho.
3. Tabitha Chawinga, Malawi.
4. Helalia Johannes, Namibia,
5. Caster Semenya, South Africa.
6. Phumlile Ndzinisa, Kingdom eSwatini
7. Mupopo Kabange, Zambia
8. Helen Costa Sinclair, Zimbabwe

### **SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR WITH A DISABILITY**

1. Keatlaretse Mabote, Botswana
2. Johannes Nambala, Namibia.
3. Dyan Buis, South Africa.
4. Mcebo Dlodlu, Kingdom eSwatini
5. Elford Moyo, Zimbabwe

### **SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR WITH A DISABILITY**

1. Nonofu Zingwa, Botswana.
2. Lahja Ishitile, Namibia.
3. Illse Hayes, South Africa.
4. Phenduliwe Mavuso Kingdom eSwatini
5. Margaret Bangajena, Zimbabwe

### **SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR**

1. Botswana 4 x 400 meters Men Relay, Athletics, Botswana
2. Namibian U20 National Team, Rugby, Namibia
3. Springbok Sevens Team, Rugby, South Africa
4. Sihlangu Semnikati – Football, Kingdom eSwatini
5. Zambia Football U20 National Team, Football, Zambia
6. Zimbabwe Rugby Sevens, Rugby, Zimbabwe

## **COACH OF THE YEAR**

1. Mogomotsi Otsetswe, Botswana
2. Griffin Saenda Junior, Malawi.
3. Nestor Tobias, Namibia
4. Jean Verster, South Africa
5. Thabo Vilakati, Kingdom eSwatini.
6. Beston Chambeshi, Zambia

## **JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

1. Ramajake Monamane, Lesotho
2. OG Molefe, South Africa
3. Ntokozo Magongo, Kingdom eSwatini
4. Mathews Kabamba, Zambia

## **SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**

1. Karabo Sibanda, Botswana.
2. Bernadetta Mzika, Malawi,
3. Luvo Manyonga, South Africa.
4. Tony Tsabedze, Kingdom eSwatini.
5. Samson Muripo, Zimbabwe

## **ENDS**

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DISTRIBUTED ON BEHALF OF THE AUSC REGION 5 SIYABONGA SANGWENI  
FOR ANY MEDIA QUERIES CONTACT:

Mr. Siyabonga Sangweni

Project and Marketing Manager, AUSC Region 5

Tel: +267 391 4960

Cell: +267 76 990 999/ +27 82 597 0091

Email: [siyabonga@auscregion5.org.bw](mailto:siyabonga@auscregion5.org.bw)

Email: [siyabonga@yaya-africa.com](mailto:siyabonga@yaya-africa.com)

## **EDITORS NOTE:**

The African Union Sport Council Region5 (AUSC Region5) is the sports arm of the African Union, which was once the Organisation of African Unity. It was formed in the 1960s, and its headquarters is based in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The main aim of the AUSC is to use sports to achieve peace, integration and unity in Africa i.e. sport as a vehicle of encouraging people to develop and come together, irrespective of colour, economic status, political, class, or gender.

The AUSC divided Africa into seven competition zones due to the vastness of the continent and for financial prudence. The main consideration was the countries' geographical positions. It is from this that AUSC Region was born.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE AFRICAN UNION SPORTS COUNCIL (AUSC) REGION 5**

The African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Region 5 is one of the five Regions entrusted with the responsibility to develop sport under the African Union. This follows the dissolution of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA), under which the Region 5 was known as SCSA Zone VI.

Members of the Region comprise of: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The AUSC Region 5 is the Continent's most organized Region and a trailblazer in implementing sports programmes and activities. Among the top programmes that the Region runs are the 5 Under 20 Youth Games held every two years (2016 Games scheduled for Luanda from 9–18 December 2016), Sport Education and Accreditation Systems (SEAS), Museum, Regional Marathon, Regional Awards, Medals of Honour, Confederations Assistance Programme as well as Women in Sport and Sport for People with Disabilities programmes.

The SCSA was established on the 14 December 1966 and served as a specialized agency of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for the coordination of the Africa Sports Movement and to utilize Sport in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid on the continent. Invariably, the SCSA was essentially a political organization which furthered the aims and objectives of the OAU through Sport.

