

OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE

PUBLISH'D AFRIKA

LITERARY MAGAZINE

**IDRIS ELBA TO
STAR AS
OKONKWO IN
'THINGS FALL
APART' TV
ADAPTATION**

**BOOST FOR
PUBLISH'D
AFRIKA's Adopt-
An-Author
Program**

TAXI LOVE STORY
- From Flash
Fiction, To Sought-
After Novel

**NADIA DAVIDS WINS
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**WITHOUT FEAR OF
FAVOUR:**

The Key Dingake Story

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‘WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR’

The Key Dingake Story



Justice Dingake (left) receiving his books from PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Director Thokozani Magagula

PUBLISH'D AFRIKA
Director Thokozani Magagula officially handed over complimentary book copies to Judge Key Dingake, at The Maslow Hotel in Sandton.

Justice Dingake's book, '*Without Fear or Favour*', is an abridged biography detailing his rise from an ordinary peasant boy to Africa's first PNG judge.

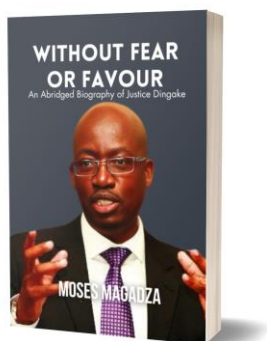
Judge Dingake is currently a Justice of the National and Supreme Courts of Papua New Guinea and the Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone.

In this book, Moses Magadza explores Justice Dingake's background and his tenure as a servant of the law in several jurisdictions across the globe. Magadza unearths

life experiences that shaped Justice Dingake's passion for justice and his progressive jurisprudence: his desire to live the promise of the Constitution.

At the heart of Justice Dingake's story is his background as a son of peasant parents, which appears to have inspired him to excel in his chosen career. The book demonstrates his profound mark on Botswana, Seychelles and Papua New Guinea jurisprudence that changed lives for the better in those societies.

His progressive jurisprudence, celebrated across the world, will reverberate into the 21st century and beyond and is bound inspire generations yet unborn.



The project took six months to complete bringing to a close one of the most challenging yet educational projects **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** has had to undertake.

“Thanks to the book, I got to be privy to some of the continent's inner workings of the judiciary,” said **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** Director, Thokozani Magagula, who also edited the work. “The

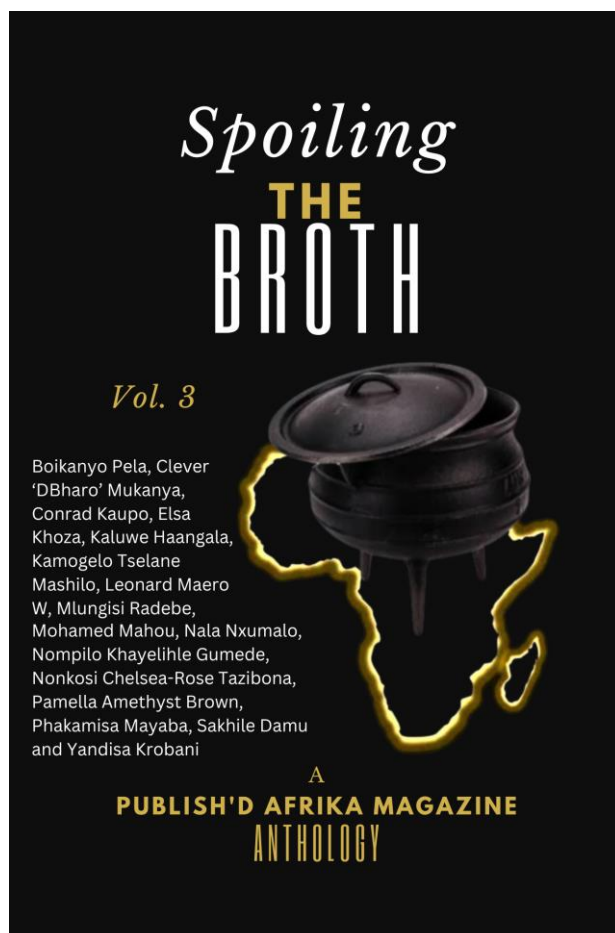
educational value of the book – as far as how politics can have an adverse effect on the administration of justice – make it an important resource for law students and those starting out in law across the continent.”

The author, Moses Magadza, is a Zimbabwean national and a teacher, journalist, guitarist, song writer, blogger, academic and communications practitioner. He has won 11 media awards including the SADC Media Award (2008). With more than 20 years of media and communication experience, he has published in peer reviewed publications. His articles have appeared in more than 30 publications all over the world.

On the academic front, Magadza holds a (PhD) Doctor of Philosophy in Media Studies; MA in Media Studies; BA(Hons) Media Studies; Diploma in Journalism and Communications; Diploma in Education; and a Diploma in Copy Editing and Proofreading (UK).

BOOST FOR PUBLISH'D AFRIKA'S ADOPT-AN-AUTHOR PROGRAM

NAC, DSAC, Presidential Employment Stimulus Come On Board



PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Magazine's Adopt-An-Author Program has received a boost from the National Arts Council, Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and the Presidential Employment Stimulus 5.

Earlier this year, PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Magazine made a call for submissions for the program, and a total of 22 aspiring writers were identified and will get an opportunity to get published.

Of the 22, a total of 16 writers will form part of **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Magazine's** Spoiling The Broth Volume 3, while six scribes will publish individual, complete bodies of work.

Each year, **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Online Literary Magazine** sponsors the editing, proofreading, manuscript development and ultimately publication

of aspiring authors' works, at no cost to them. These are aspiring authors that we identify independently, whose works in our opinion stand out and show promise. The authors also have to be willing to be mentored further on the craft.

The **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA's Adopt-An-Author Program** was established in 2021, with the publication of, amongst others, Zeripah Amoni Phiri's book, *I Am Also A Woman*. The project was wholly funded by Mr Success Moripa, of Moripe Group of Companies. The project gained momentum with the publication of Matumelo Mafoko's book, *Through The Silent Tsunami*. Matumelo's project was funded by **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA**.

Anathi Kom's poetry anthology, *A Tree of Life*, soon followed. This was a collaboration between **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** and the University of Fort Hare. Anathi has gone on to make a name for herself, also becoming a contributor to **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Magazine's** Spoiling The Broth anthology Vol1.

See the September edition of the magazine for the stories on the authors who are set to benefit from this program.

FUNDED by the National Arts Council of South Africa, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Presidential Employment Stimulus 5



PRESIDENTIAL
EMPLOYMENT
STIMULUS



NADIA DAVIDS WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



South African writer Nadia Davids has won the Caine Prize for African Writing, taking home a whopping £10 000.

Davids, who is also a theatre-maker and scholar, won the prestigious prize with her story, *Bridling*, which was published in *The Georgia Review* in 2023. As part of the prize, her work will be featured in the 2024 Caine Prize Anthology, *Midnight In the Morgue and Other Stories*.

The Caine Prize for African Writing is an annual award for a short story by an African writer published in English of a length

between 3 000 to 10 000 words. This year's competition saw a record-breaking 320 entries received from 28 African countries.

Chair of the judges, Chika Unigwe, said *Bridling* is an impressive achievement, a triumph of language, storytelling and risk-taking while maintaining a tightly controlled narrative about women who rebel.

"It embodies the spirit of the Caine Prize, which is to celebrate the richness and diversity of short stories by African writers," said Unigwe.

In a post on Instagram, Davids said this last year has brought her some creative and professional challenges, making the good news of these last few weeks all the more joyful. She said the underlying theme of *Bridling* was "power, rebellion, the often-impossible constraints of girl and womanhood and the ways we try to free ourselves".

R19 500 UP FOR GRABS IN SHORT STORY COMPETITION

PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Magazine's 'Spoiling The Broth' Returns



Following the successes of PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Online Literary Magazine's 'Spoiling The Broth' Volume 1, 2 and 3 anthologies, which saw a total of 35 aspiring authors unearthed through the monthly short story contest, the competition is set to return with a bang in November 2024.

Once again, we hope to unearth at least two writers a month over a period of 12 months, who will then go on to form part of the 2025 Spoiling The Broth anthology

Volume 4. Already, the editing and publishing process of Volume 3 has begun, which boosts a total of 15 writers.

The PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Online Literary Magazine Short Story Competition was officially established in December 2021, and started operating in January 2022. Monthly, we invite writers to submit short stories of between 1800 and 2500 words, under a theme of their choice. The stories are then posted on our Facebook page and on the website, and

readers vote for the best story for the month. The story that

obtains the most votes (PEOPLE'S CHOICE) wins R500, while the PUBLISHER'S CHOICE AWARD is worthy a whooping R1000.

While the writers and their works are exposed to the 18 000-plus following our page has amassed (new followers join the page daily), the stories are exposed to an even bigger audience as every writer is allowed to canvass for votes and advertise his or her story on various platforms, exposing the page to an even bigger audience monthly. The winners are then featured in our monthly issue of the PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Online Literary magazine, giving them further publicity and assisting them to build themselves into brands.

In-between, we offer mentoring programs, based on the areas we identified to be lacking in each writer's work. Writing tips are also posted on the page regularly, as well as other worthy calls for submission from various other art and craft organisations. Already, this mentoring program has produced published authors such as Anathi Kom, Zeripah Amoni Phiri and Matumelo Mafoko. All three were published by PUBLISH'D AFRIKA's Adopt-An-Author Program.

While the competition has unearthed writers from every corner of the country, the PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Online

Literary Magazine has gone a step further. Through the magazine, we have brought to the fore hidden talent from various parts of the country, that no one would have known about had the magazine not been established. We also invite established authors, artists and other established creatives to give tips on anything from writing, publishing, entrepreneurship (using your art as a business), building yourself into a brand etc.

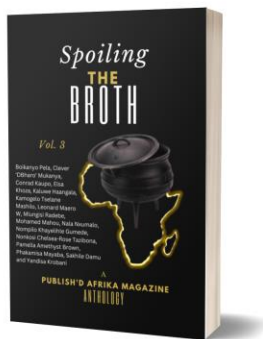
People who have honoured our invites include American author Eve Fairbanks, Nhlanhla Ngema of Sarafina and Broadway's The Lion King fame and founder of Keeloz Global Entertainment, and Kirsten Miller who won the prestigious international writing competition, the Niso Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize for 2016. She is also the author of six books. We have also had the courageous Tshidi Monkoe, author of Prison Love, gracing our pages, best-selling authors Takalani M and Busisekile Khumalo, and poetry connoisseur Frank Meintjies.

Look out for the calls for submissions set to be announced in November. In the meantime, put pen to paper and craft those stories that seek to redefine Africa's narrative.

You can order the previous volumes from any of your favourite authors who are part of the anthologies, or contact

PUBLISH'D AFRIKA directly at info@publishdafrika.com, or WhatsApp +2783 487 4440.

Spoiling The Broth – A PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Magazine Anthology



It is said that too many cooks spoil the broth. This broth, comprising of writers unearthed through PUBLISH'D AFRIKA

Online Literary Magazine's Short Story Competition, seeks to shatter this myth.

Spoiling The Broth Vol.1-3 are multi-themed collections of new short stories by authors from across the African continent. They were all monthly winners in tightly contested short story writing competitions that were held since the competition was established in 2021.

The magazine's monthly competition draws over 2000 writers from across the continent with each call for submissions. Each story in the anthologies is distinctly African, the characters brutally honest and relatable and the narrative geared at redefining Africa's narrative.

The books, Volume 1 and 2 of Spoiling The Broth, were released mid-April 2023. Volume 3 will be published in March 2025.

Looking for free stories to read on Facebook? Here is a plug.

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IDRIS ELBA TO STAR AS OKONKWO IN ‘*THINGS FALL APART*’ TV ADAPTATION



British thespian Idris Elba is set to star as Okonkwo in yet another TV series adaptation of ‘*Things Fall Apart*’, a novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe.

‘*Things Fall Apart*’ is the debut novel by Achebe, first published in 1958 when he was 28 years old. The novel depicts the events of pre-colonial life in Igboland, a cultural area in modern-day southeastern Nigeria, and the subsequent appearance of European missionaries and colonial forces in the late 19th century. Elba won’t only star in the TV series,

but he will also executive produce it.

The novel follows the life of Okonkwo, an influential leader of the fictional Igbo (“Ibo” in the novel) clan of Umuofia. The novel was first adapted for the screen in 1985 with combined elements of ‘*No Longer At Ease*’. It stars Pete Edochie who played the lead role Okonkwo alongside the late Justus Esiri.

The novel is Africa's bestselling book with over 20 million copies sold. It has been translated into 57 languages. It was ranked as one of the Greatest Books Ever by Encyclopedia Britannica. In 2011, Chinua Achebe forced 50 Cent to rename his new movie. 50 Cent had

titled his then forthcoming movie '*Things Fall Apart*'. He was contacted by Achebe's legal team and told that he couldn't use the title. Even when he offered Achebe \$1 Million dollars, Achebe felt insulted and rejected the money. 50 Cent later re-named his movie '*All Things Fall Apart*'.

The casting of Elba as the star of the TV adaptation has stirred intense debate amongst Nigerians. Broadcast journalist and podcaster, Daniel Nsa, feels at the heart of the matter is not just the question of who gets to embody one of the most significant characters in African literature, but how much respect is paid to the cultural essence of the story.

"This saga brings up important questions about representation, cultural integrity, and the broader global perception of African stories," he wrote on his Facebook page. "There's no denying that Elba is a phenomenal actor. His filmography speaks for itself—his roles in *Beasts of No Nation*, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, and *The Wire* showcase his ability to bring gravitas and depth to complex characters. However, embodying Okonkwo, a quintessential figure in Igbo culture, goes beyond raw talent. Okonkwo is not just a character; he is a symbol of the Igbo people's struggle to maintain their traditions and way of life amidst colonial disruption. The fear is that casting someone who doesn't have the cultural roots might dilute the essence of this iconic role."

Nigerians' frustrations, particularly those voiced on social media, aren't solely about Idris Elba's acting capabilities. It's about the loss of cultural specificity and authenticity. How do you tell a story so deeply tied to Igbo tradition, language, and folklore without involving someone who is inherently familiar with that world?

"Think about it—Okonkwo's speech, mannerisms, and interactions are steeped in a very particular context," says Nsa. "His conversations, his proverbs, the rituals he partakes in—they're woven into the fabric of Igbo life. A misstep here could turn a deeply authentic narrative into a superficial 'Hollywood-fied' version of African culture."

Nsa feels there is also a broader issue at play here. We often talk about telling our own stories, but when push comes to shove, global capital—particularly Western production companies—often dictates how these stories are told. Achebe's work is part of the global literary canon, but that doesn't mean it should be reinterpreted in a way that panders to foreign audiences at the expense of its cultural integrity. In this case, Idris Elba, though he is of African descent, represents the face of an international film industry that sometimes sees African stories as marketable commodities rather than cultural treasures.

“And here’s the kicker: the book itself reflects the tension between tradition and modernity, the indigenous and the foreign. Some might say the casting of Elba is ironic—a Westernised African portraying a man who resisted foreign domination. Okonkwo’s essence is his stubborn refusal to change. So, while the book’s themes are about adapting to inevitable change, shouldn’t this adaptation resist unnecessary alterations that weaken the cultural roots of the story?”

The project is still in nursing stage with no writer or streaming platform announced yet.



PUBLISH'D Afrika

Coming Soon...

**SPOILING
THE BROTH
VOL.3**

COMING SOON

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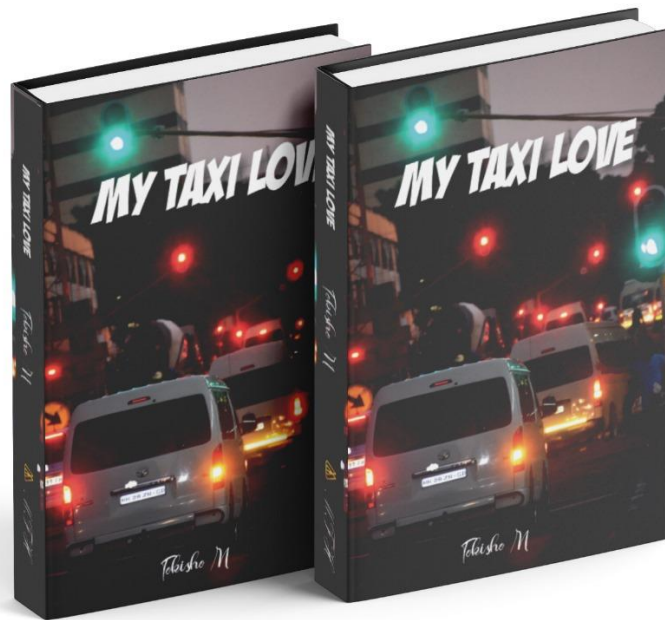
Vol. 3

Boikanyo Pela, Clever
'DBharo' Mukanya,
Conrad Kaupo, Elsa
Khoza, Kaluwe Haangala,
Kamogelo Tselane
Mashilo, Leonard Maero
W, Mlungisi Radebe,
Mohamed Mahou, Nala Nxumalo,
Nompilo Khayelihle Gumede,
Nonkosi Chelsea-Rose Tazibona,
Pamella Amethyst Brown,
Phakamisa Mayaba, Sakhile Damu
and Yandisa Krobani

**A
PUBLISH'D AFRIKA MAGAZINE
ANTHOLOGY**

TAXI LOVE STORY

From Flash Fiction, To Sought-After Novel



When Tokisho Moriti penned *My Taxi Love* on Facebook, it was supposed to be just flash fiction, the suspenseful short story that a reader would skim through within five minutes and put away.

But then the strangest thing happened – the short piece of writing resonated with readers so much, she had to sit back down behind her machine and type a fully-fledged novel.

My Taxi Love is a romance novel that follows Thandolwethu Ndlovu and Sibusiso Dlamini's love story. Their story begins when they meet in a taxi one fateful morning as Thandolwethu is on her way to work. That is where the title of the novel stems from. Its themes include black love, friendship, family, body dysmorphia and African spirituality.

Tokisho told **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA**: “The fun fact is that the whole story started as just flash fiction on Facebook,

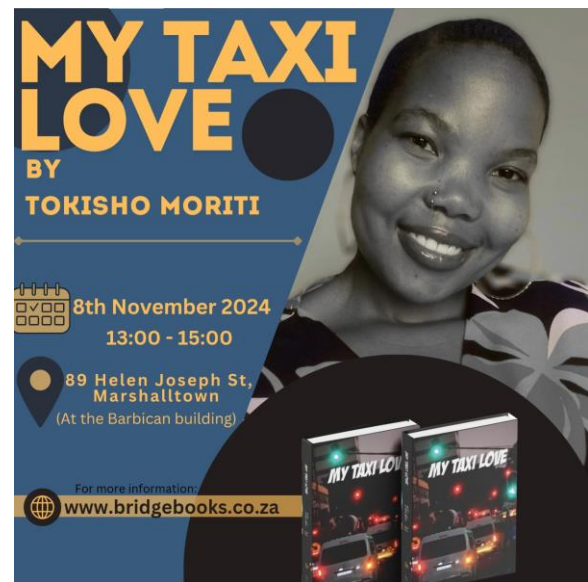
and the reception from readers turned it into a novel. It was not inspired by anything per se, but somehow it tries to draw more into love that is not toxic, platonic or romantic. It is love that is intentional and shows how fate and destiny will always find you, in the most unexpected times and places.”

Tokisho said the book is aimed at anyone with an interest and passion for love stories and fiction in general. She believes anyone from the ages of 13 years, both male and female, will enjoy the book. So far, the book has drawn interest from readers countrywide, who were attracted by the title and cover.

“This quite ironic, because it is said that you should never judge a book by its cover,” said Tokisho candidly. “Those who have read it, loved it, just as much as I enjoyed penning it down.”

The one lesson Tokisho hopes her readers would take away from reading the book is how relationships are like plants; if they are watered and taken care of, they will grow and bear fruits in due time. This, she said, is similar to how Sibu and Thando's relationship was.

“Although Thando was rude at first sight, Sibusiso was intentional about making her his partner, even before it was revealed to him that she is the one,” she said. “When a man wants to, he will.”



My Taxi Love will be launched at Bridge Books, Barbican. 89 Helen Joseph Street, Marshalltown, in Johannesburg, on 8 November. The launch will start at 13h00 to 15h00. For more information, email Tokisho at tokishomoriti452@gmail.com, or call her at 073 550 4542.

Advertising space available. Contact us on 0834874440/ 0746430618 or email info@publishdafrika.com to book your space.

BARNEY SIMON RESIDENCY PROJECT AT THE MARKET THEATRE LABORATORY



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

With the support of the Barney Simon Trust, the Market Theatre Laboratory offers one residency a year to provide a space for theatre-makers to develop a new work, investigate artistic process, and take creative risks.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 OCTOBER 2024

for more information on how to apply, visit

www.marketlab.co.za or whatsapp 076 283 4459

A cultural complex for theatre, music, dance and the allied arts.

THE MARKET THEATRE LABORATORY IS A DIVISION OF THE MARKET THEATRE FOUNDATION

With the support of the Barney Simon Trust, the Market Theatre Laboratory offers one residency a year to provide a The artist will receive a grant of R90 000 to subsidise their project costs, including their creative team, cast, archiving and materials. In addition, the residency project will be given 8 weeks of studio space, access to the Ramolao Makhene Theatre for one week to present the outcomes of the residency (with a technician), access to the internet and some IT resources, and printing.

The resident artist will be asked to engage with the students at The Market Lab through masterclasses, seminars and 'sharings' of the creative process. At the end of the Residency, the resident artist will present their creative progress to a larger audience. This residency is open to practitioners of any level of experience, but you must be a practising theatre-maker.

To apply, please submit the following as one document:

*Brief history of you or your company (Who are you? Where are you based?)

space for theatre-makers to develop a new work, investigate artistic process, and take creative risks.

*A concept note (What is your idea?)

*Motivation (Why does your idea/process require the support of The Market Theatre Laboratory?)

*How does this idea sit within your overall body of work? (How will it contribute to your existing creative work?)

*Links to support material (videos, sound files, photos, etc.)

*A budget (Cost breakdown of how you intend to use the grant)

NB: Please keep your application to a maximum of 3 pages.

A panel will be appointed for the selection process. The residency will take place at the Market Theatre Laboratory from January – February 2024.

Applications are due 31 October 2024, and should be submitted to thandeka@marketlab.co.za

CELEBRATING SEVEN YEARS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S POETIC HERITAGE: THE 2024 AVBOB POETRY COMPETITION



The 11 winners of the 2024 AVBOB Poetry Competition, representing each of South Africa's official written languages, were celebrated in grand style at the AVBOB Poetry Gala dinner on Wednesday, 18 September 2024 at the Pretoria Country Club.

The gala event showcased the rich cultural diversity of the country and highlighted AVBOB's continued commitment to fostering linguistic heritage through the art of poetry. AVBOB CEO, Carl van der Riet, delivered the keynote address, describing poetry as an essential toolkit for

making sense of our most deeply felt experiences. As South Africans prepare to celebrate Heritage Day on 24 September, he paid tribute to a rich and diverse local poetry scene, saying, “I’m here to encourage every poet to reimagine life and explore the possibilities of what is and what could be. Poetry offers individuals and communities the freedom to express their innermost thoughts, bypassing logic and inviting us to listen with our hearts.”

He also proudly introduced a new category of the AVBOB Poetry Competition, “As we find ourselves in the seventh year of celebrating poetry, it’s rewarding to introduce a fresh element to the project, ensuring its longevity. We introduced *New Beginnings* as a fifth writing category this year, in addition to the original themes of *Birth, Hope, Death and Love*. This new theme invites poets from all walks of life to explore the possibilities of a fresh start and capture the joy of embarking on new journeys and chapters through the art of poetry.”

The winner in each language category of the AVBOB Poetry Competition secured a R10 000 cash prize, a R2 500 book voucher, and an elegant trophy. Each guest to the gala received a copy of the annual anthology, *I Wish I'd Said...* Vol. 7, which was launched at the event. The top six poems in each language appear in the anthology (each with an English translation). The anthology is rounded out by a selection of commissioned poems, as

well as one Khoikhoi poem by prolific poet, Toroga Denver. This comprehensive collection was compiled by the Editor-in-Chief of the AVBOB Poetry Competition, Johann de Lange, and the Siswati Editor, Prof Stanley Madonsela.

According to de Lange, poetry has a unique ability to not only express what is profoundly personal but also to provide a shared language of mourning or celebration when we need it most.

“When we read and write strong poetry, we remember that we are not alone. We know that others have been here before us, looking for words just as we are now. The wonderful thing about a competition such as this is that it encourages participants to reach deep inside themselves to find the words that keep hope alive.”

This year, attendees were entertained by violin and beatbox duo Beauty and the Beat, blending timeless music and modern poetry. Their vibrant soundscapes set the scene for the event’s emcee, Tumelo Mothotoane, who assisted in introducing each winner with AVBOB CEO, Carl van der Riet. Moving poetry performances were also delivered by Fezile Mpela, Siyasanga Papu, Hanli Rolfes and Nozi Langa.

In alphabetical order of language category, the 2024 AVBOB Poetry Prize (first place) winners are: Salvia Ockhuis (Afrikaans), Sarah Frost (English), Nosipho Noxolo Nxumalo (isiNdebele), Athi Simamkele

Dyantyi (isiXhosa), Siyabonga Nxumalo (isiZulu), Moses Seletisha (Sepedi), Moeketsi Golden Mokotjo (Sesotho), Othusitse Moses Lobelo (Setswana), Junior Gcina Nkomo (Siswati), Humbulani Julia Tharaga (Tshivenda) and Amukelani Deborah Mashele (Xitsonga).

To order *I Wish I'd Said...* Vol. 7, SMS the word 'POEM' to 48423 (at a standard cost of R1,50 per SMS) to have it posted to

you at a total cost of R240. Alternatively, email your order to tertia@naledi.co.za or find it at selected bookstores.

Visit www.avbobpoetry.co.za to access the AVBOB Poetry Library and to register for the 2025 AVBOB Poetry Competition (which is open for entries until 30 November 2024).

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CANEX PRIZE FOR PUBLISHING IN AFRICA 2024 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

The shortlist for the inaugural Canex Prize for Publishing in Africa was announced on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

The CANEX Prize for Publishing in Africa recognises the publisher of the best African fiction or non-fiction title. It is open to writers from all over the African continent with submissions reviewed by a team of experienced judges to select a long list before being narrowed down to the best works.

It is a project of African Export-Import Bank's (Afreximbank) CANEX Book Factory and Narrative Landscape Press. The jury for this edition Dr. Wale Okediran (chair), Edwige-Renée Dro, and Ashraf Aboul-Yazid went through the entries and a longlist was made public on Thursday, August 15.

The shortlist of standout publishers, editors, authors, and books the jury feels is shaping the future of our literature was announced on Wednesday, September 25 2024

In his comments on the shortlisted candidates, Chair of the Judges, Dr. Wale Okediran, said: "In line with our mandate to 'judge the book as a physical object while

also paying attention to its editorial work, including topical relevance and editorial risk,' we have been able to produce a shortlist of five books which we believe have met the required standard of exceptional work and professionalism.

The five finalists were drawn from a highly competitive process that involved 85 applications for published books from 45 publishers and 10 countries across Africa."

Those on the shortlist are:

Reine Or, Fatou Sy (Les Case Des Lucioles)

Female Fear Factory: Unveiling Patriarchy's Culture of Violence, Pumla Dineo Gqola (Cassava Republic Press)

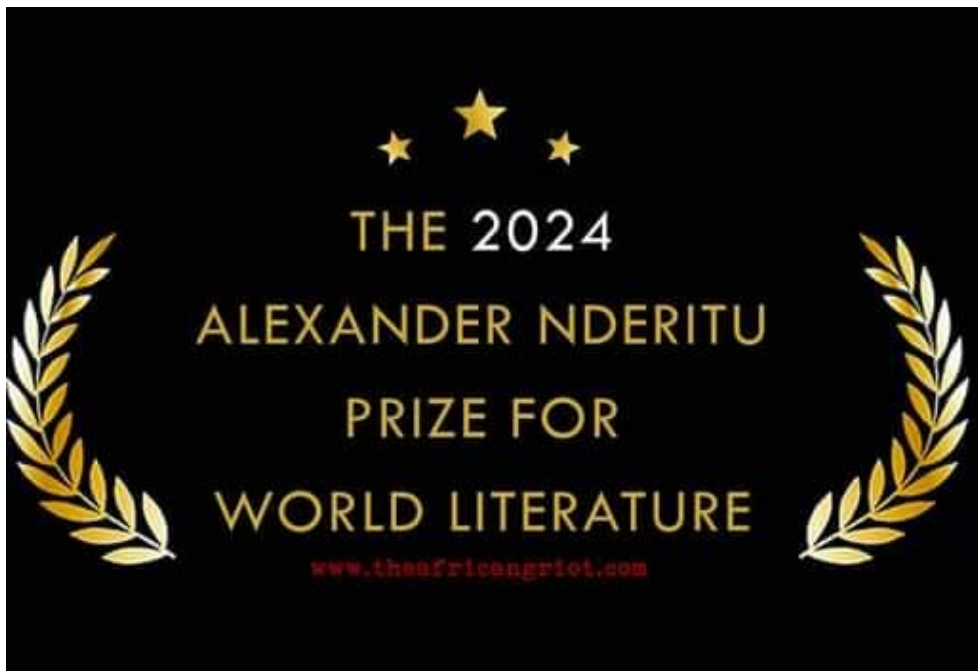
Paperless, Buntu Siwisa (Jacana Media)

When We Were Fireflies, Abubakar Adam Ibrahim (Masobe Books)

Half Hour Hara, Ugo Anidi (Kachifo)

The publisher of the Best Trade Book will be awarded a cash prize of US\$20,000 with each of the four finalists receiving cash prizes of US\$2,000 each during the CANEX WKND 2024 in Algiers, Algeria this October.

WRITERS FROM 13 NATIONS VIE FOR NEW LITERARY AWARD



Judging is currently under way for the inaugural Alexander Nderitu Prize for World Literature. The Prize will be awarded to the best unpublished short story submitted to the jurors, from anywhere in the world.

This year's contest received a total of 72 entries of which 51 were eligible for the judging phase. The submissions came from Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, Kingdom of Eswatini, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Poland, Malawi, The Gambia, Sri Lanka, USA, Botswana and Tanzania. Nigeria

alone had 26 entries. The youngest entrant was 19 years old while the eldest was 70.

The judges include Camilla Bauer (Sweden), Dr. Paula O. M. Otukile (Botswana), Rupasinghe D. Pramudith (Sri Lanka), Henry Akubuiro (Nigeria) and Alexander Nderitu (Kenya). The longlist will be announced November 2024 and the shortlist in December 2024. The eventual winner, who will receive a cash prize and an online marketing campaign, will be announced in early 2025.

More info: TheAfricanGriot.com

3 PUBLISH'D AFRIKA AUTHORS IN SALA LONGLIST



**S.A. LITERARY
AWARDS** TM
Advancing our literary heritage

Three **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** authors have made it into the longlist of the South African Literary Awards (SALA), after five months of an open Call for Submissions season for the 19th edition of South African Literary Awards (SALA).

Mosimanegape Leeuw (17) made it into the longlist with his poetry collection, *Thoughts and Tears*, while Dr Lutendo Rhinah Singo got the nod for her book, *A Perseverance Journey*, in the Creative Non-fiction category. Dr Sarona Lengana made the longlist in the Children's Literature category with her book, *The Pikinini Scientist Sprinkles Some Love Dust*.

The completion of the adjudication process by between 30 and 35 seasoned judges will yield a shortlist of nominees from whom ultimate winners will emerge and announced at the Awards handover

ceremony on 7 November 2024, at a venue still to be confirmed.

On the same day and venue, preceding this Awards ceremony will be the 12th Africa Century International African Writers Conference, both celebrating the 33rd anniversary of the African Union-declared International African Writers' Day and 30 years of South Africa's Freedom and Democracy.

The prestigious South African Literary Awards were founded in 2005 by the wRite associates, in partnership with the national Department of Arts and Culture (now Department of Sport, Arts and Culture), as a platform to honour authors, translators, poets and other literary practitioners who made and continue to make a contribution in the South African literary landscape. More than 300

wordsmiths have been honoured over the last 18 years.

Morakabe Raks Seakhwa, Managing Director at wRite associates and SALA's founder Executive Director, is pleased with the massive impact SALA has had on South Africa's literary scene over the past 18 years. "We are pleased with the consistency, growth and maturing of SALA across languages, generational, gender and other social prisms", Seakhwa says.

"The past 19 years have seen SALA recognise authors who have since soared higher in their literary careers, leading to them being republished, invitations and participation in literary events at home and abroad, some of their work optioned for movies and theatre stages".

Seakhwa is confident that this year's adjudicators will, once again, select the

best literary offerings. "SALA always goes out of its way to source the best adjudicators through literary and linguistic departments at institutions of higher learning, writers' and literary translations experts and so on".

As writers are given an equal opportunity to contest any of the Awards categories, the winners over the years reflect that elevated state of South African literature, which has seen some of the local works adapted to screen- and stage-plays.

Some of the literary practitioners honoured in various categories over the years include the current National Poet Laureate, Prof Mongane Wally Serote, the late Nobel Laureate, Nadine Gordimer, multi-award winning novelist Kgebetli Moele, literary journalists Phakama Mbonambi, Bongani Madondo and Sabata-Mpho Mokae.

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BE INTENTIONAL WHEN GIVING TITLES TO YOUR BOOK

By Princess Chidera



Many books are being read only by the authors and their family members because their book's title is either whack or the author has not proven credibility over time.

Your book's title should be void of drama. It should be simple, short, and memorable, summarising the book's content.

Your target audience should gravitate towards you because your book's title project their pain points, tell them how bad their problem is, and ultimately, how your book solves it.

Authors, make your readers so desperate that they become restless until they purchase your book. In 2020, Sir Emeka Joseph Nobis made a couple of millions from his book, 'YOUR BOOK WILL SELL'. People

struggling with sales saw their pain and answers through his book's title.

In February, Elizabeth Samuel made over 500k from her book, 'ONE PRODUCT, ONE MILLION' in 24 hours. Her title was simple and short. Her audience

patronised her because they had seen tangible results and needed a template to replicate the same.

This is the power of a book title. Stop giving your book generic titles. The truth is, if your book solves a problem your potential customers don't mind living with, then it will be incredibly hard to get a share of their pocket. Understanding your market is king, but if your title isn't promising, you must be kidding.

Before pushing your book to the public, ask yourself: 'Will this title command the results I hope to achieve?'

If your answer is No, scratch that! Perish that idea!

Today, let's talk about your manuscript and make it a bestseller.

*Princess Chidera – The Greatness Dame – is a writer, an author, book project consultant and speaker.