

Press Release

19 February 2025

## **KAS MEDIA AFRICA ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2025 LOCAL JOURNALISM AWARD**

KAS Media Africa and the Jury of the KAS Media Africa Award for Local Journalism are pleased to announce the three winners of the 2025 contest. They were chosen out of over 30 submissions from 16 countries in Africa and they are:

### **Philip Teye Agbove with Justice Baidoo, Ghana**

For his series – “Death and brutality: The battle for West Africa's largest salt deposit and related stories”, The Fourth Estate

The jury said:

*“Philip Teye Agbove investigates the dramatic developments around salt mining in the Songor Lagoon, West Africa's largest salt deposit. With his outstanding research and storytelling he draws us into the lives of residents and the background of several violent confrontations. His story does not only show the clashes between a big corporation and a community, it sheds light on how this kind of conflict can influence the outcome of elections.”*

View the stories [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Tina Mehnepaine, Liberia**

For her piece – “In Liberia, Women Struggle for Elective Offices Amidst Sexism”, Liberian Observer

The Jury said:

*“Liberia made history as the first African nation to elect a female president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2006, yet women remain vastly underrepresented in elective positions. Those who step forward face formidable obstacles—financial constraints, online harassment, public shaming, and deep-rooted sexism. Tina Mehnepaine brings this reality to life through the voices of women candidates, weaving a compelling narrative of their struggles while challenging perceptions of leadership. More than an exposé, her piece offers concrete solutions, urging communities and policymakers to create a more inclusive political landscape.*

*With women holding just about 20% of elective positions in Liberia, Mehnepaine's story is both a wake-up call and a beacon of hope. It highlights the learning, unlearning, and re-learning needed to break down systemic barriers and paves way for real change. The path is difficult, but Mehnepaine's work makes it clear: progress is not only possible—it is necessary”.*

Read the piece [here](#).

## **Edouard Samboe, Togo**

For his piece – “Insécurité foncière: De retour sur la terre de leurs pères, ces déplacés réclament des terres”, Laabali

The jury said:

*“Edouard Samboe report on the Displaced persons in Pligou, is a well-documented story that is emotionally captivating. The way he describes the situation of these displaced people with individual stories and testimonies, is compelling and above comes the critical issue of lands possession. A report that clearly shows how it can be difficult not to have a home or a shelter or to seek for one. Not to mention constant insecurity in that part of the Sahel of Africa and a critical humanitarian situation that calls on authorities to engage in lands reform”.*

*“Edouard Kamboissoa Samboé has fulfilled the noblest journalistic duty with his unspectacular reportage. To be on the ground, to observe, to describe, to report impartially. His report is a prism for the disastrous security situation in the Sahel and West Africa and its consequences for millions of internally displaced people who become homeless and without income overnight. He takes the pulse of one of the region's greatest challenges without lapsing into a polarizing, sensationalist tone. With a pleasantly sober perspective, his article makes it clear that it can affect anyone: Togolese, Ivorians, Burkinabe or Malians”.*

Read the piece [here](#).

## **Many exceptional submissions**

This year's competition brought in many exceptional submissions – a testament to the calibre of journalism across the continent. While we can only have 3 winners, the jury identified the following two submissions for recommendations:

### **Kwaku Krobea Asante**

For his piece – “Influence and Deception: How pro-NPP firm flaunting UK connection produced polls favouring Bawumia”, Fact Check Ghana

The jury said:

*“This careful investigation into a suspicious opinion polling operation was a crucial insight into efforts to manipulate Ghana's information landscape ahead of the presidential election”.*

Read the piece [here](#).

### **Mahad Egal**

For his photojournalism – “Photos of Somaliland's election”

The jury said:

*“These powerful photos tell the story of Somaliland's fragile yet persistent democracy”.*

View the photos [here](#):

### **The jury members were;**

Prof. Nancy Booker, Dean of the Graduate School of Media and Communications at the Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya

Mr. Simon Allison, Co-Founder of *The Continent* and executive board member of the International Press Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa

Mr. Claus Stäcker, Director of Programs for Africa, Deutsche Welle, Bonn, Germany

Ms. Mamadiarra Diop, Founder of BMC Médias Consulting, Bamako, Mali

Ms. Sandra Niemann, Editor, Science Programmes, Multimedia, Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (RBB), Berlin, Germany

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