

NO.4 GMH CENTRE, 32 WEST RIDING ROW, SHERWOOD  
P.O. BOX 37068 , OVERPORT, 4067  
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel : + 2731 208 1898 Fax: 0312075813  
Email: [kzn@minara.org.za](mailto:kzn@minara.org.za) Web: [www.minara.org.za](http://www.minara.org.za)



Attention: Editors, News Editors & Photographers

MINARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 2017 Business Recognition Awards and Gala Dinner Banquet

Venue: Living Image Centre, Fordsburg CBD, Johannesburg, Gauteng

Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2017

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm (19h00)

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**PRESS RELEASE: THE 2017 NOMINEES FOR THE MINARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS AND GALA DINNER BANQUET VENUE: IMAGE LIFESTYLE CENTRE, FORDSBURG, JOHANNESBURG DATE : WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2017 TIME: 6.30PM FOR 7PM**

### **TOP 18 HIGH ACHIEVERS VY FOR MINARA BUSINESS AWARDS**

**DURBAN:** EIGHTEEN South African high achieving individuals, independent companies and community figures have been shortlisted for the coveted annual awards hosted by the Minara Chamber of Commerce for the first time in 17 years in Johannesburg on Wednesday, 18 October 2017.

Ebrahim Vawda, Vice-president of the Durban-headquartered Business Chamber, said the adjudication panel were most impressed with calibre of candidates and high quality of the nominated people and business entities in this year's field that made the final cut. "We received a significant number of nominations from across the country and the repertoire of diverse individuals and businesses augurs very well for Minara's mission to motivate and encourage high performing people and businesses to always strive for the centre of core values such as service excellence, integrity, patriotic vision, nation building, corporate social responsibility, compassion and a progressive posture towards promoting multiracial cooperation and social cohesion in South Africa," Vawda said at the launch of the 2017 awards edition. He said 18 candidates would be contesting for the prestige prize in each of the six categories.

In the **Business Entity of the Year** category, three highly successful independent, family-owned companies, **Frimax Food, Bakers Tankers and Dursots** are in the running for top prize.

The **Business Person of the Year** finalists are **Riaz Haffejee of Sumitomo Rubber Industries SA, Dr Anwah Nagia of Altius Investment Holdings and Aslam Mahomed of Maharani Tiles.**

In the **Businesswoman of the Year** section, **Amina Chipeta of Amafuto Construction, Dr Fatima Bhaba of Beauty and Curves and Zaida Enver of Pure Grit** have made it to the shortlist.

**SAA Pilot Fatima Jakoet, Head of Vodacom Business Fatima Hassim and KZN Provincial Managing Executive of ABSA Bank Faisal Mkhize** are the three contenders in the **Professional of the Year** Category.

The **Young Entrepreneur** finalists are **Dr Reza Mia of Pegasus Air, Mariam Manack of iTrain South Africa and Omar Osman of OS Man Tailor.**

In the **Community Builder** category, the late **Mahomed Farid Choonara of the Africa Muslim Agency, Zaheera Bham Ismail of the Caring Women's Forum and Ahmed Ismael of Siyafunda CTC** have been selected to the shortlist.

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The winners will be announced at the upcoming Gala Ceremony where some of South Africa's leading personalities will be at the podium.

SAfm talkshow host and Champion South Africa founder Ashraf Garda will handle the proceedings and programme as MC, leading author and strategist Chantelle Ilbury will deliver the keynote address and the guest speaker from platinum sponsors Standard Bank, Ntlai Mosiah, Head of Client Coverage CIB, will address more than 600 guests, award nominees, political, community, NGO representatives, religious and cultural leaders, foreign diplomats and chief guests from chambers of commerce and corporate South Africa.

Ends

For further information and booking for tables and exhibition stalls contact Minara Chamber of Commerce on 031-2081898 or email: [awards@minara.org.za](mailto:awards@minara.org.za)

# Media Statement issued on behalf of Minara Chamber of Commerce by MapMedia GreenGold Consulting (Pty) Limited; media liaison and editorial support, contact Marlan Padayachee on 0837591944/ email: [marlan.padayachee@gmail.com](mailto:marlan.padayachee@gmail.com)