

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22nd September 2026

MINARA CHAMBER ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR 2026 BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA — The Minara Chamber of Commerce today announced the finalists for its **2026 Business Recognition Awards**, which recognise outstanding achievement, leadership, innovation and contribution across South Africa's business and professional landscape.

The finalists represent a diverse range of established businesses, entrepreneurs, business leaders, young achievers, professionals and community builders. The winners will be announced at the Awards Gala Dinner on **Friday, 23 October 2026**, at the **NMJ Conference Centre in Durban**.

THE 2026 FINALISTS

Business Entity of the Year – Large

Roshgold Investments · Royal Travel · Woodford Group

Business Entity of the Year – Medium

Ethicore Group · Minnies Food Enterprise

Business Entity of the Year – Small Business

Daily Dippers · Wonder Snacks

Businessperson of the Year

Munir Jeewa · Osman Arbee · Riaz Cotwal

Businesswoman of the Year

Bint Nur Ebrahim · Mariam Galant-Diedericks · Yasmin Essop

Young Achiever of the Year

Muhammad Paruk CA (SA) · Muhammad Yusuf Goga · Waheed Amanjee

Community Builder of the Year

Bilal Ismail · Haseena Azmuth · Yusuf Abramjee

Professional Achiever of the Year

Prof. Yahya Choonara · Dr Zakia Salod

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT

Ebrahim Patel, President of the Minara Chamber of Commerce, said the calibre and diversity of this year's finalists reflect the contribution being made across South Africa's business, professional and community landscape. The Minara Chamber believes that success should be measured not only by commercial performance, but also by leadership, innovation, opportunity created and the impact made in our communities.

"On behalf of the Minara Chamber, I extend my congratulations to every finalist. Reaching this stage is in itself a significant achievement, and a reflection of the standards you have set in your respective fields."

INDEPENDENT ADJUDICATION

Solly Suleman, Chair of the Minara Awards Committee, said the response to the 2026 awards had been exceptionally strong, with the independent adjudication panel considering a high calibre of nominations across the categories.

"Selecting the finalists was not an easy process. Our awards look beyond commercial success to consider leadership, innovation, resilience, professional achievement and broader community impact."

CELEBRATING BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Rishaad Webster Head of Business Banking Coverage KZN said "These awards shine a light on the businesses doing the hard work of building the KwaZulu-Natal economy. Standard Bank is proud to stand alongside the Minara Chamber in recognising them, and prouder still to be on the growth journey with them. Behind every finalist is a business that has taken risk, created jobs and kept trading through a tough environment. Standard Bank's role is to make sure ambition of this caliber has the backing it needs to keep amplifying growth."

The 2026 Awards will be aired on **Hilaal TV**, Radio Islam and Radio Al Ansaar.

AWARDS GALA DINNER

Date: Friday, 23 October 2026

Venue: NMJ Conference Centre, Durban

Keynote Speaker: Fatima Vawda, CEO, 27four Investment Managers

MEDIA & CORPORATE ENQUIRIES

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ABOUT THE MINARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Minara Chamber of Commerce creates platforms that connect people, create opportunities and encourage excellence. Through its initiatives and partnerships, the Chamber seeks to support business growth, promote leadership and recognise individuals and organisations making a meaningful contribution to South Africa's economy and communities.