



PRESS RELEASE

Winners of 2018 Pan African Re/Insurance Journalism Awards Announced

Lagos, 9 April 2018: Odimegwu Onwuwere, a journalist with Nigeria's Africa Prime News has bagged the **Pan African Journalist of the Year Award** for the 2018 Pan African Re/Insurance Journalism Awards sponsored by Continental Reinsurance.

His winning article titled, [**Africa emerging new frontier in the reinsurance markets**](#) investigates how foreign insurers that once rebuked Africa due to economic instability are now swarming for businesses on the continent because the sector is becoming alluring and dynamic due to unswerving GDP growth.

Otiato Guguyu, a Business and Data Journalist with Standard Group Kenya won the **Best Re/Insurance Industry Feature Article** for his story, [**Business of protecting wealth from drought**](#) that talks about how an insurance scheme that was introduced in the dry regions of Kenya is cushioning farmers from losses; while **Adenike Popoola**, Chief Correspondent of Nigerian's *The Punch* newspaper emerged the winner for **Best Re/Insurance Industry Analysis and Commentary** for her article, [**Foreigners taking over Nigerian insurance industry**](#), which discusses how the recapitalisation trend is transforming the insurance industry and its expectations in the future.

At the same time, **Gareth Stokes**, a seasoned financial journalist working with Commercial Risk Africa (CRA) in South Africa won a special award in recognition of his exemplary contribution to Re/ Insurance journalism and was recommended to become a judge in future editions. Gareth emerged the Pan African Journalist of the Year in 2017 awards.

The winners were announced at a Gala dinner held during Continental Reinsurance's CEO Summit held on April 9th 2018 in Swakopmund, Namibia.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Dr. Femi Oyetunji, Continental Reinsurance's Group Managing Director noted, *"The Pan-African Re/Insurance Journalism Awards are an extension of our continued commitment to advance excellence in the sector. I am glad this year's entries not only improved in quality, but they also came from a wider range of countries, and with more diverse insurance topics being featured by journalists. We will be including two new categories in next year's Awards – for broadcast and online entries, and I would like to encourage TV, radio and online journalists to participate."*

The winners will win a combination of financial and practical training prizes to include: a fully paid trip to attend the awards ceremony and Continental Re's CEO summit in Swakopmund, Namibia in April; a cash prize of USD 2000 for the overall winner and USD 1000 for the other two categories and a two-day training on insurance reporting during the awards event and mentorship by Commercial Risk Africa Magazine. The overall winner will also win a fully-paid trip to attend CRA's training in London, UK including a one-week internship.

The third edition of the journalism awards received 61 entrants from 15 English and French speaking countries including: Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia, Mauritius and Zambia for Anglophones; Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Senegal, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo for Francophones.

The entries were assessed and evaluated by an independent panel of judges, which comprised of 5 insurance and business media experts: Nadia Mensah Acogny, Journalist, Forbes Afrique; Tony



van Niekerk, Editor, Cover Publications; Afif Ben Yedder, Founder, IC Publications; Michael Wilson, Business & Finance Journalist and Kenneth Igbomor, Market News Editor (West Africa), CNBC Africa.

“I have had the honour of being a judge for two consecutive years, and I would like to note that the quality of entries has significantly improved. There were also more contenders for the top scores than there were last year, which is encouraging progress,” noted Nadia Mensah Acogny, Chairperson of the 2018 Judging Panel.

Commenting on the French entries, Ms. Nadia said, *“There are many excellent francophone journalists on the continent, who should rise and compete with their fellow business journalists by participating in these awards. I would like to encourage French writers to submit their entries for the 2019 awards.”*

Continental Reinsurance initiated the journalism awards in 2015 to recognise and acknowledge the good work of media on the continent. Journalists are required to demonstrate how their articles raised awareness and understanding of the re/insurance sector in Africa.

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About the 2018 winners

Odimegwu Onwuwere, Africa Prime News, Nigeria

Odimegwu has over two decades of experience in the media and has won multiple awards. A respected poet and writer, he has served as Nigeria Editor of Newstime Africa (London, 2010); Africa Review of Business and Technology, London (Contributor – 2015-2017); Contributing Editor to Nigeria Oak newspapers; Publisher for Lifestyle & Wellbeing stories on ThisDay Newspapers since 2015; The Nigerian Voice, Nigeria, (Columnist/Special Reporter of about a decade). His work has appeared in all the print media in Nigeria and likely, on all Nigerian owned online media. He has written over five books, some of which can be found on Amazon.

Otiato Guguyu, Standard Group, Kenya

Otiato is a 29-year-old Kenyan journalist based in Nairobi. He has worked at Nation Media Group's Daily Nation and Business Daily newspapers and the Standard Group where he is currently working as a business and data journalist. His work includes writing compelling business stories and features specializing in data and analysis of the Kenyan regional and global economic performance. He is a dedicated Business journalist with experience reporting across a wide range of topics cutting across banking, financial markets, technology, entrepreneurship and corporate governance. He is also a poet and fiction writer, an observant thinker whose greatest strength is in noticing details most people miss and trying to fix them together to tell a story. He has also cultivated a background in civil society, which have offered wide ranging experience and interaction with the people whom policy and politics affect directly. He has worked for Kituo cha Sheria, Indigenous Fisher Peoples' network and the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Adenike Popoola, The Punch, Nigeria

Nike has won many national and international journalism awards. She was adjudged the Insurance Reporter of the Year in 2010, 2011 and 2015 by the Nigerian Media Merit Awards. She also won the Insurance Reporter of the Year in 2010, 2015 and 2017 at the Diamond Awards for Media Excellence. Popoola emerged as the overall winner at the



maiden edition of the Pan-African Re/Insurance Journalism Awards in 2016. She has a BSc. in Economics from University of Ilorin and a Master's Degree in Mass Communication from the prestigious University of Lagos.

Gareth Stokes, Commercial Risk Africa, South Africa

Gareth is a professional freelance journalist and writer who specialises in financial services industry. Based in South Africa, his work has been published in magazines and newspapers including Mail & Guardian, Financial Mail, FA News, FIA Insight and others. He is the author of a basic guide to stock market investing and the co-author of '*Short Term Insurance in South Africa 2016*'. Gareth currently writes on risk management and insurance topics and contributes as a reporter to Commercial Risk Africa.

About Continental Reinsurance

Continental Reinsurance is a composite reinsurer, writing business in more than 50 countries across the African continent. Established in 1985 and listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in 2007, Continental Reinsurance provides support to over 200 insurance companies in Africa with its main offices in Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Botswana. It also has a specialist subsidiary – Continental Property and Engineering Risk Services (CPERS) – registered in South Africa.

[\[Awards website\]](#)

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