

# The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Outstanding Young East African Journalists Win the 2014 David Astor Awards

A Kenyan investigative reporter, a Tanzanian health reporter, and a Ugandan political reporter are the winners of this year's David Astor Journalism Awards.

A panel of three independent judges selected Paul Wafula, 28, from *The Standard* in Nairobi, Syriacus Buguzi, 30, from *The Citizen* in Dar es Salaam, and Sulaiman Kakaire, 24, from *The Observer* in Kampala, after a rigorous six-month review and assessment of more than three-dozen locally nominated candidates.

The winners, all exceptionally promising early-career journalists, were chosen for their evident talent, integrity, and long-term commitment to African journalism, and for displaying the requisite qualities to excel in the profession.

They now join 14 previous David Astor Award winners as career-long members of an expanding regional network of next-generation leading journalists in East Africa, supported by The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust.

“In their relatively short careers, these three very impressive young journalists have already distinguished themselves with considerable ability, determination and skill,” said Jim Meyer, the Trust's Executive Director. “As we help them further develop their capacities, they will surely make outstanding contributions to first-rate journalism in the region in future.”

Later this year, they will take part in individually tailored professional development programmes in their respective fields, involving work experience attachments with newspapers in the UK and South Africa for a total of three months. They received nominal cash awards of \$500.

They will also join the other members of the David Astor Award Winners' Network for the group's annual three-day meeting in Arusha, Tanzania from 27th-30th March.

Two British judges and a previous David Astor Award winner individually interviewed each of the finalists in Nairobi on 25th February, Kampala on 27th February, and Dar es Salaam on 1st March to choose the winners.

Erick Kabendera, the 2009 Tanzanian award winner who is now a regional and international freelancer, along with Michael Holman, former Africa Editor of the *Financial Times*, and Oliver Wright, current Whitehall Editor of *The Independent*, did the judging in Kenya and Uganda. Taking Kabendera's place on the panel for Tanzania was 2012 Ugandan award winner Yasiin Mugerwa, Chief Political Reporter for the *Daily Monitor*.

The candidate-selection process began in May 2013 when media houses in the region, local journalists' associations, journalism lecturers, media and civil society organisations, and David Astor Network members were invited to nominate one candidate each.

After reviewing written applications from the nominees and examples of their work, 10 short-listed candidates each in Kenya and Uganda, and six in Tanzania were interviewed last September. Second-opinion interviews were conducted with the candidates' nominators, employers, and other local sources in October and November, before choosing the finalists.

The runners-up were Immaculate Karambu from the *Daily Nation* in Kenya, Sammy Awami and Katere Mbashiru from *The Citizen* in Tanzania, and Solomon Arinaitwe and Frederic Musisi from the *Daily Monitor* in Uganda. They each received \$250.

The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust is a UK charity founded in 2006 to promote, strengthen and support independent journalism in Africa. It honours the late, distinguished editor of *The Observer* newspaper in London from 1948 to 1975, who was a lifelong champion of African development, human rights, and other social justice causes. Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu is Patron of the Trust.

SABMiller plc and Tullow Oil plc are principal sponsors of the awards this year.

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