



## Media Statement

### **CIPC Celebrates Young Innovators at the Inaugural IP Youth Awards**

Pretoria, South Africa – 28 March 2025 - The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) proudly hosted the inaugural **CIPC IP Youth Awards** on 27 March 2025 in Pretoria, marking a milestone in recognising and celebrating young South African innovators between the ages of 15 and 28. The event brought together industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and key stakeholders to honour the exceptional intellectual property talents of the country's youth.

The CIPC IP Youth Awards showcased groundbreaking innovations across five categories, emphasising the importance of intellectual property in fostering creativity, sustainability, and economic growth.

### **Honouring Excellence in Innovation**

The prestigious awards recognised young innovators who have made remarkable contributions in the following categories:

- Inventions Focused on New Technology to Support the Sustainable Development Goals
- Inventions Focused on Copyright-Protected Creative Works
- Innovative Solutions for Managing Confiscated Counterfeit Goods
- SMME Excellence in Innovation Focused on the Effective Use of Intellectual Property Rights
- CIPC National Award for Women in IP

Among the evening's highlights was the announcement of Mahlogonolo Mphahlele, who won the **Women in IP** award for her innovative contribution in the healthcare sector, ensuring that x-rays are done quicker and safer with just a pair of glasses used to x-ray patients. Their pioneering work exemplifies the potential of intellectual property to drive positive change in society and place South African on the map for groundbreaking ideas that can be used globally.

### **The winners**

1. Tech for Good Winner: Juandre Kloppe (EZ Airway: Revolutionising Advanced Airway Management with a Novel, Modular Approach to Video Laryngoscopy)
2. Counterfeit Combat Winner: Taharah Mchunu (MyRariFile: A solution aimed at digitising healthcare systems while making it easy for patients and healthcare workers to access healthcare records)
3. Copyright Creators Winner: Nhlanhla Langa (Mo 'n Fro: An online gaming solution)
4. SMME Excellence Winner: Landile Mabele (NavWok: A walking stick aimed at making the lives of blind people easier, by making it easy to navigate through spaces)
5. Women in IP Winner: Mahlogonolo & Masego Mphahlele (TwinX: X-ray glasses that allow healthcare workers to conduct quicker and safer X-rays)

### **A Platform for Future Leaders**

CIPC Commissioner, Advocate Rory Voller, emphasised the significance of the awards, stating, “Intellectual property is not just a legal framework; it's the lifeblood of our economy and culture. Through these awards, we aim to honour the visionary thinkers and creators who inspire us all to push boundaries and redefine what's possible. Together, let's shine a light on the power of intellectual property and innovation and the impact it has on our lives and economic growth” - Advocate Rory Voller, CIPC Commissioner.

The gala event also featured keynote speeches from leading industry experts, panel discussions on the role of intellectual property in business development, and networking opportunities for young entrepreneurs to connect with potential investors and mentors.

## **Looking Ahead**

Following the success of the inaugural event, CIPC remains committed to supporting and nurturing young talent. Plans are already underway for the 2026 edition, with expanded opportunities for mentorship, funding, and international collaboration.

Ends.

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## **About The CIPC IP Youth Awards**

The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) is a South African regulatory body responsible for the registration of companies, intellectual property (trademarks, patents, copyrights), and the enforcement of business compliance laws. It operates under the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC) to ensure corporate governance,

transparency, and fair business practices. The CIPC also facilitates business rescue processes and promotes innovation by protecting intellectual property rights.

The CIPC IP Youth Awards are an initiative that CIPC is spearheading to celebrate young innovators who are creating models and ideas that will make a difference.

CIPC IP Youth Awards

*"Celebrating Innovation, Protecting Creativity."*