

SABS

SABS ESSAY COMPETITION



2017

ORGANISED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS

This annual essay competition is organised in an effort to raise tertiary students' awareness of standardization early on in their student life and careers; and give them a creative theme from which they can learn about standardization, with the view to get them to participate fully in standardization throughout their careers. It also aims to inspire society and the SABS to learn from the nations' young minds about how each of us can make a difference in the world through standardization.

THEME

"Socio Economic Impact of Standards"

Standards are important tools for South African companies to participate in global markets. For economies to grow, standards are a major determinant for market access. The SMME sector plays a critical role in our economy. In 2015, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) report on 'The role of small business in the economy' estimated that the contribution of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) to the GDP, could be 52 to 57 per cent with the number of SMMEs in South Africa at 2,8 million. Their contribution to employment was at 60 per cent. Moreover, looking ahead, the National Development Plan projects that, by 2030, no less than 90 per cent of new jobs will be created in small and expanding firms.

Our rural communities who play a vital and often invisible role in supporting economic growth in promoting productivity and efficiency, need to be considered when participation in global markets yield its benefits. Their standard of living needs to be improved; they need to have wages which will enable them to provide for their children's education. In 2000 the International Conference on Non-Trade Concerns in Agriculture reported that farming is the fabric of rural society and, in many countries of the world, it is the main economic activity. Any sudden and profound changes which impacted on the farm sector could have severe consequences in terms of social and political stability in economically developing countries. The rural development policies and standards should exploit the contribution of farming, both in terms of improving on-farm activities and supporting ancillary services, to secure sustainable development for rural areas.

Entrants to the competition are required to write an essay of 1500 to 3000 words covering:

- Understanding of standards and standardisation and their essence in South African socio-economic environment
- Discussion on the impact that standards and standardisation have on the world economy, and citing examples from developing and developed economies
- A short write-up to motivate the government to invest in the implementation of South African National Standards to invigorate our economic activities, in African region and abroad. This should be a catalyst to assist with South Africa having been recently been downgraded to junk economic status. The motivation should indicate the sectors in which this revitalisation start and state why.

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DEADLINE

Entries must be submitted by 18:00 pm on **September 30, 2017** to essay@sabs.co.za

AWARDS

The following awards will be given respectively:

1st Prize : Certificate and prize of R15 000

2nd Prize : Certificate and prize of R10 000

3rd Prize : Certificate and R 5 000

GUIDELINES

1. Essays may be submitted by anyone who is currently registered at any of the South African Universities
2. Essays must be 3000 to 5000 words in English. Essays may be typed and submitted electronically as indicated above.
3. Essays must have a cover page indicating (i) Your name and essay title (ii) Name of university, programme registered for and year of study (iii) address (iv) phone number (v) e-mail (vi) nationality (vii) age (viii) gender (ix) word count.
4. Essays must be original and unpublished. Plagiarised entries will be rejected.
5. Essays must be written by one person. Co-authored essays will not be accepted.
6. Copyright of the essays entered will be assigned to the South African Bureau of Standards.

NOTES

- * The shortlisted candidates will be invited to an awards ceremony at the SABS campus, where they will be expected to present a synopsis of their essay.
- * Entries missing any of the above information will not be considered.
- * The organizer will confirm receipt of essays