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Registration: 2005/039586/08

Press Statement

Celebrating 20 Years of the Association of Independent Publishers and South Africa's Independent Media Sector

20 October 2025

The **Association of Independent Publishers (AIP)** proudly marks its **20th anniversary**, celebrating two decades of commitment to strengthening South Africa's grassroots, independent media sector.

To commemorate this milestone, the AIP will host a **celebratory dinner on the 13th November 2025 at the Holiday Inn, Sunnyside Park, Johannesburg**, bringing together publishers, media partners, and stakeholders to reflect on the evolution of independent media and honour the voices that continue to shape communities across the country.

The AIP was founded in 2005 through the consolidation of two key media bodies — the **126-year-old Community Press Association (CPA)** and the **Independent Media Alliance (IMA)**. This historic merger followed a pivotal moment in 2003, when large publishing groups withdrew from the CPA, allowing truly independent publishers to redefine its mission. The result was the creation of a unified body dedicated to representing the interests and unique needs of small, community-based publications nationwide.

Over the past two decades, the AIP has remained steadfast in promoting **media diversity, amplifying marginalised voices**, and ensuring representation across all **11 official languages**. Its **150 member organisations**, representing nearly **200 publications**, serve both rural and urban communities through newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and digital platforms.

As South Africa continues to navigate an evolving media landscape, the AIP reaffirms the enduring importance of **community media** — a sector built on accessibility, accountability, and authentic local storytelling. Independent media plays a vital role in upholding **press freedom, information integrity**, and **journalistic resilience**, even amid growing challenges to independent reporting.

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS

Section 21 Reg No: 2005/039586/08

Directors:

A Mangxaba (Chair), S Mboleka, T Mjiba, S Khanyile, J Makgate (Deputy Chair), M Dlakude, E Phiri, P Luhanga, L Mampa, K Skinner (Executive Director)



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The upcoming anniversary dinner will not only celebrate this milestone but also renew the collective commitment to safeguarding and advancing these values.

Seats are still available for those wishing to attend and show their support for independent media. For those unable to join, **donations are welcome** to sustain the AIP's work in advocacy, capacity-building, and strengthening independent media across South Africa.

For more information about the AIP and the anniversary celebration, please visit www.aip.org.za or contact **Office Manager, Valent Shoaatja**, at valent.shoaatja@aip.org.za.

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