

Andiswa Matikinca Receives International Anti-Corruption Award for Investigative Journalism

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By Haroon Rashid Qureshi

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South African investigative environmental journalist Andiswa Matikinca was honoured at the Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award Ceremony in Doha. She received the award in the Innovation and Investigative Journalism category for exposing corruption and environmental crime through data-driven investigations.

Andiswa is an award-winning investigative environmental journalist associated with Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism. Her work focuses on uncovering environmental crimes, corruption, and governance failures using investigative reporting and digital mapping tools across Africa.

Haroon Rashid Qureshi talks to Andiswa Matikinca on the sidelines of the award ceremony

Question

Please introduce yourself and tell us about your work.

Andiswa

My name is Andiswa Matikinca. I am an investigative environmental journalist from South Africa. I have worked extensively with Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism which is a pioneering unit on the African continent focused solely on environmental issues. The organization also hosts digital mapping tools that help expose environmental crimes across Africa and beyond. I began my journey with Oxpeckers as an intern shortly after graduating from university. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me including the opportunity to lead major projects and see them through to completions. The organization has consistently trusted my ideas, my vision, and my commitment to exposing corruption and environmental offenders.

Question

What message would you like to give to newsrooms and investigative units across Africa?

Andiswa

I consider myself among the youngest journalists present both in age and experience. I have not yet completed ten years in journalism and I often work alongside professionals with more than thirty years of experience in anti-corruption reporting. My message to newsrooms is to trust young voices. Give young journalists the opportunity to tell important stories, trust their vision, and guide them. When young people are supported, meaningful and impactful journalism follows.

Question

As a young woman, do you face discrimination in your profession?

Andiswa

Unfortunately, discrimination does exist both within newsrooms and in the field. At times you are given less respect and it becomes easier for people to threaten or intimidate you. Remaining focused on your mission as a journalist is essential. When I am reporting, I do not think about my age or gender. I think about my responsibility to tell the story. At the same time, I ensure that safety systems are in place and that I do not expose myself to unnecessary risk.

Question

Who has been your source of inspiration and courage throughout your career?

Andiswa

My family has always been my strongest support system, especially my parents. My father, who couldn't be here today due to work commitments, believed deeply in my path even when I doubted myself. When I considered moving away from journalism, he encouraged me to continue and supported my decision to study at

Rhodes University. I am here today because of his belief and encouragement. I am equally grateful to my mother who continues to support me.

Question

What advice would you give to young people considering a career in journalism?

Andiswa

Journalism requires deep commitment. You will sacrifice time with family and friends, and at times it may affect your personal and mental wellbeing. However, if you are committed to truth-telling and believe in the importance of accountability and public interest reporting, then you should pursue this career wholeheartedly. The sky is the limit.

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