

# SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT



## PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Recognition of outstanding service

30 JUNE 2026

"Public Service Excellence through Scholarship and Research"

The Public Service Award is one of SAAPAM's highest honours which is intended to recognize officials and former officials in the public sector and researchers who have demonstrated exceptional service in the field of Public Administration and practice.

It recognises those people who have consistently performed to the highest standards and have made an extensive contribution to their communities. The Public Service Award was established to recognise employees of the South African Government and other organs of the State at national, provincial and local government spheres as well as those who have given outstanding service in research and scholarship in the field of Public Administration and Management. Importantly, officials and researchers in the African continent are also eligible for this award should they meet the criteria.

Outstanding service could be shown through:

- Service excellence to the public, or to external or internal clients;
- Exceptional contributions in the research, scholarship and practice of Public Administration.
- Innovation in programme, project or policy development;
- Leadership, including as a member of a team; or
- The achievement of more efficient processes, improved productivity or better service delivery

## YOUR GUIDE TO PREPARING NOMINATION FOR THE SAAPAM PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

### The award

Only a maximum of three (3) awards of the SAAPAM Public Service Award (SPSA) can be made within a two (2) year period. This means that up to 3 awards can be awarded to employees of South African Government, its agencies and the field of academia and the continent at large.

### What is the medal awarded for?

The sole criterion for the award of the SPSA is to recognize outstanding achievement in the public service. "Outstanding service" includes service above and beyond the normal requirements of the position, a special achievement or success in the performance of duty in difficult or unusual circumstances, or sustained high level performance by an individual with a focus on outcomes and recognisable benefits to clients and the workplace.

### Who is eligible?

All (current and former) employees of the South African Government at national, provincial and local sphere of government are eligible for the award. The SPSA is open to all levels of the public service.

The SPSA may be awarded only once to each recipient in a five (5) year circle. A person who has received an award from SAAPAM is not excluded from receiving an SPSA if the five years period has lapsed.

### Retired office Bearers

Retired public office bearers, academics and researchers can be nominated for this award.

### How should nominations be prepared?

All nominations should be prepared in word format.

The criteria and nomination form- Nominations are limited to 2 pages.

As the SPSA is part of the official national honours of SAAPAM, it is important to provide full personal details of the nominee, including the full name and home address. All information provided is treated as confidential.

Full position details are required so that the SPSA Committee can assess the nomination relative to the duties that would normally be expected of a person at a particular level. This is very important for the committee when comparing nominations.

The nomination statement must contain comprehensive information on the service or achievement for which the nomination is being made. A list of positions held over a number of years is not sufficient. Because the nomination will be considered alongside other nominations in what is essentially a competitive process, the committee needs to be given a clear idea of what the nominee has done to fulfil the criterion of outstanding service. It should not be assumed that the committee has a detailed knowledge of the area in which the nominee is employed or was employed, or a full understanding of the significance of certain achievements. The nominee's service should be put into context in the nomination statement.

Adjudication support- **Nomination reports are limited to 2 pages.**

To be properly considered by the committee, all nominations must be accompanied by referee statements which comment on the service of the nominee. It is also often appropriate to obtain referee statements from outside the agency, especially if the nominee is being nominated for outstanding service to a particular community or industry. If the nominee's service relates to the work of another agency, a referee statement from that agency may also help the committee in their consideration of the nomination. Two referee statements would be sufficient.

A completed nomination should be forwarded to the National Board of SAAPAM.

### Procedure for nominations

The various SPSA Committees consider nominations for eligible candidates. The National Board of SAAPAM will publish dates for nominations on the SAAPAM website annually.


After considering the nominations, the committee recommends a list of proposed recipients to the President and Executive Director of SAAPAM who will approve or decline the recommended names for the awards on behalf of the association. This decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into beyond this decision.


Responsibility for contacting the proposed recipients rests with the Nominations Committee Chairperson, SAAPAM President/Vice President or Executive Director, who arranges for the announcement of the awards to appear in the SAAPAM website. Proposed recipients may decline an award if they so wish. Sometime after announcement the recipient will be notified by SAAPAM Administration of the arrangements for them to receive their award at an official investiture.

### Contacts


Nominations for the SAAPAM Public Service Award should be directed to the office of the Executive Director of SAAPAM on contact details provided below before 30 June 2026.

 Prof John Molepo **Executive Director**

 Telephone: 076 750 2300

 Email: MolepoJN@tut.ac.za or SAAPAM@tut.ac.za

South African Association of Public Administration and Management Administrative Office

 Telephone: 012 382 9769

 Email: SAAPAM@tut.ac.za

SAAPAM Public Service Award  
Nomination form for SAAPAM Public Service Award

The Information contained in this document will be held in confidential subject to the provisions of POPI Act.

**Details the nominee**

Full names

Occupation/former position

Work address

Postcode:

Telephone (Work)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Details of person being recommended for an award**

Please complete the section below, and provide a nomination statement either on the back of this form or separately, taking the Guidelines into account.

Surname

Given Name(s)

Title

Home address

Postcode:

Telephone (home)

Occupation/former position

Work address

Postcode:

Telephone (work)

Awards and/or Degrees

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

If born outside South Africa

Naturalisation Certificate details:

Country of  
Citizenship:

### Referee/Nominator

Please list the names of persons who have provided referee statements to support the nomination. At least One should be provided, including, if appropriate, referees from outside the public service.- Referee reports are limited to 2 pages.

Name

Name

Position

Position

**Nomination statement-** Nomination motivations and statements are limited to 2 pages.

Please provide details of the nominee's service which are considered particularly worthy of recognition. You could use the space below or you may wish to attach a separate statement. You should, however, consider the following questions in developing your nomination:

### Service

In what role(s) has the nominee excelled? You should give positive details and describe comprehensively the nature of the occupation(s) (i.e. policy, customer service, research or administration) and the length of service.

### Achievement

How has the nominee demonstrated 'outstanding service'? Has the individual provided service excellence; shown innovation in program, project or policy development; excelled in leadership; or achieved more efficient processes, improved productivity or better service delivery? You should give details of key achievements that have resulted from the nominee's involvement.

### Impact

How has the nominee's contribution impacted upon their organisation and its clients? What are the broader outcomes of the nominee's work? This is an opportunity to describe in terms of the 'big picture' the significance of the nominee's efforts.

### Other Comments

NB Incomplete submissions will be disqualified