



Press Release

UPDATE: e.TV SOON TO COMMISSION 7 LOCAL DOCUMENTARIES FOR BROADCAST

In May of this year e.tv sent out an invitation to producers to submit proposals for documentaries reflecting the unique stories of the people living in South Africa's various provinces. All provinces, excluding Gauteng and the Western Cape, were invited to participate. This was in the interest of developing production capacity in provinces that do not already boast thriving film and tv production industries and also to ensure diversity in e.tv's documentary programming,

Proposals for documentaries had to be submitted for a selection process by 30 June. The entry process has now closed with e.tv receiving 90 actual proposals that are in the process of being reviewed and shortlisted before any commissioning decisions will be made. The short-listed producers will be contacted from 18 July and e.tv will hold hearings with potential producers in the provinces from the week beginning 25 July.

According to Zanele Mthembu, e.tv executive producer, many of the short-listed proposals have captured the essence of what e.tv is looking for: stories that are unique to the province but have a national appeal. Ms Mthembu said: "It made for very interesting reading and some were quite an eye-opener. e.tv is really looking forward to meeting the people behind these stories. We are however disappointed that there was only one submission from the Northern Cape and unfortunately it did not make the cut."

e.tv expects that in certain areas the capacity to produce the documentaries may be quite limited - in these cases the channel will send out experienced Executive Producers from e.tv to assist and, if necessary, contract in some veteran producers to mentor and assist the local producers in these areas. In this way the project provides an opportunity to young documentary producers in provinces that, historically, have not been part of mainstream television production in South Africa.

The proposed schedule for the hearings is as follows:

25 July to 29 July - Free State (Bloemfontein), North West (Mafikeng)
1 August to 5 August - Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth), KwaZulu Natal (Durban)
8 August - 12 August - Northern Province (Polokwane), Mpumalanga (Nelspruit)
Final selections will be made by 12 August.

Thank you to all the producers who participated in the call to entry.

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