

SABS

ARSO
Standardization

Essay Competition



2017

INVITATION FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICAN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ESSAY COMPETITION

Overview

International standards bodies have identified the need to introduce standardisation at institutions of higher learning, with the aim of sensitising younger generations to the importance of standards and standardisation and this can be best implemented by National Standards Bodies (NSBs) in partnership with their respective institutions of higher learning. The SABS supports this initiative and has also introduced its own national essay competition. At continental level, the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) also runs an annual continental competition.

ARSO was established by the African Union (AU) in 1977 and its principal mandate is to harmonise African Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures in order to facilitate intra-African trade as well as enhanced industrialisation of Africa. More information about ARSO can be found at <http://www.arso-oran.org/>

Theme

One of the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations is **"An Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of women and youth"**. However; to achieve this aspiration a number of milestones are imperative. These milestones are necessary and form a pathway towards the improvement and empowerment of women. Most women face a variety of legal, economic and social constraints. In industry and trade, women have been confined to small-scale operations in the informal sector, however vibrant these operations are and despite empires built up by the most successful female entrepreneur, women's average incomes are relatively low. In working towards the empowerment of women the AU declared 2016 as the **"Africa Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women"**.

In support of this declaration the theme for the ARSO essay competition is "Role of Standardisation in Facilitating Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women".

Entry requirements

This competition is open to all students currently studying at any institution of higher learning in South Africa, as recognised by the relevant authorities. Information and rules of participating in the competition are included in the attached flyer. All essay entries must be submitted to: essaycompetition@sabs.co.za by **24 March 2017** and must be written in English. Essays that are well-written and demonstrate innovation will be shortlisted and submitted to ARSO to compete with participants from the entire continent.

Guidelines

For guidance on what aspects the essay should cover, and to obtain entry rules and conditions participants are encouraged to carefully read through the concept note. Essays that do not comply with the entry rules and conditions will not be considered.