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East Africa continues on a record breaking streak at the 7th edition of DStv Eutelsat Star Awards!

From left to right: Paolo Nespoli, ESA Astronaut and Chairman of Jury, Mr. Michael Niyitegeka, Country Manager, ICDL Africa, Prof. Funso Falade, Faculty of Engineering Dean, University of Lagos; Steven Musoke, MultiChoice Uganda Chairperson; State Minister for Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda, Hon. John Muyingo; Amos Mumbere, Continental Essay Winner; Ms. Patricia Kiconco, Head of Operations, MultiChoice Uganda; Astrid Bonté, Director of International Affairs, Eutelsat and Charles Hamya, GM MultiChoice Uganda.

- **Amos Mumbere adds to Uganda’s remarkable Star Awards record scooping top honours in the essay category**
- **Rasheed Taher from Tanzania added to the tally by winning overall poster award**

Kampala, Paris, 12 April 2018 – There was a sudden burst of excitement as the room erupted in a thunderous applause when **Amos Mumbere from Ntare School in Uganda** was announced as the **overall winner in the essay category** at the 7th edition of the DStv Eutelsat Star Awards organised by MultiChoice Africa and Eutelsat in Kampala. Tanzania added to East Africa’s tally when **Rasheed Taher from Al-Madrassa-tus-Saifya-tul-Burhaniya school in Tanzania** was announced as the **overall poster winner**. The winning essay was lauded for its simple yet eloquent writing style as it demonstrated an understanding of the application of satellite technology and the role that Sputnik has played in launching humankind into the 21st century. Deceptively simple at first glance, to the attentive eye the winning poster reveals a deep understanding of the topic with a level of ingenuity in using mirror imaging to demonstrate the rapid transformation of satellite technology.

Photo: Amos Mumbere, Continental Essay Winner

Out of this world prizes

The winner in the essay category wins a trip for two to Paris and onwards to a launch site in French Guiana to witness a rocket blast into space in order to place a satellite into orbit. This is third win in the essay category for Uganda [2011, 2012 & now 2017] adding to a tally of six previous winners including runner-ups in the poster category. The winner in the poster category wins a trip for two to visit the South African National Space Agency and MultiChoice facilities. The two winning schools attended by the overall winners will be rewarded with a DStv installation, including dish, TV set, PVR decoder and free access to the DStv Education Package.

For this edition, students from secondary (high) or combined schools were asked to write a creative essay or design a poster based on the topic: *“It’s sixty years since the first satellite, Sputnik, was launched, broadcasting a unique and easily captured ‘beep, beep, beep’ signal. Looking back at this historic moment, write an essay or design a poster depicting how satellites have launched humankind into the 21st Century and acted as a unifier.”*

Panel of industry experts

Paolo Nespoli, European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut who returned for the fourth time as chairman of the jury was assisted by a panel of industry experts namely; Prof. Funso Falade, Faculty of Engineering Dean, University of Lagos; Mr. Michael Niyitegeka, Country Manager, ICDL Africa; Mr. Patrice Paquot, Deputy Regional Vice-President for Sub-Saharan Africa, Eutelsat as well as Ms. Patricia Kiconco, Head of Operations, MultiChoice Uganda.

Commenting on the entries, **Paolo Nespoli** said: *“The purpose of the competition was achieved! There were almost a thousand entries from young people across the continent and I believe all the students were exposed, involved and excited about science and technology, satellite technology in particular. The finalists showed an exceptional grasp of the subject matter along with a distinct use of creativity and ingenuity. We all were extremely impressed by the calibre of the work we had to judge. As a jury, we were challenged when we had to pick the winners: it was a mammoth task that took an entire day of intense discussions. If it were up to me I would have given the first prize to all the finalists!”*

The keynote speaker was **Uganda’s State Minister for Higher Education, Hon. John Muyingo** who said: *“I take this opportunity to commend the DStv Eutelsat Star awards team for this initiative that has been held every year since its inception in 2011 and particularly for bringing Paolo Nespoli an astronaut and engineer of the European Space Agency. I would also like to recognise that he is the first astronaut to visit Uganda. Mr. Paolo Nespoli you are welcome. I believe your presence will inspire the students especially those interested in the space industry. Your presence will create hope and belief among students that anything is possible in this world.”*

All details on the judging criteria, overall winner’s selection are available on the DStv Eutelsat Star Awards website: <http://www.dstvstarawards.com/about.html>

Follow the winners on Facebook fb.me/DStvEutelsatStarAwards and on Twitter using the hashtag #DStvEutelsatStarAwards

About MultiChoice Africa

Entertainment is a powerful way to tell stories that open our minds, bring people together around shared passions, and connect us to new realities. It makes us laugh and cry. It informs, it educates and it inspires. MultiChoice is a video entertainment company, and our purpose is to use the power of entertainment to enrich lives. We make the best in entertainment accessible to millions of households in 49 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. We do this through cutting-edge technology on our DStv and GOtv platforms – delivering the content our customers love and contributing to the success of local economies. Born and bred in Africa, we are rooted in the countries where our customers live. We are managed and run by local people, and strive to provide all our employees with new opportunities. We're proud of the contribution we make to our communities, and our business has grown hand-in-hand with local economies by forging long-term partnerships with governments, national broadcasters and entrepreneurs. We want to use our influence and resources to play a positive role in Africa, helping to grow Africa's people and creative industries into vibrant, economic powerhouses. It's by creating value for our customers, our employees and society that we'll build a successful business for the future.

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About Eutelsat Communications

Founded in 1977, Eutelsat Communications is one of the world's leading satellite operators. With a global fleet of satellites and associated ground infrastructure, Eutelsat enables clients across Video, Data, Government, Fixed and Mobile Broadband markets to communicate effectively to their customers, irrespective of their location. Over 6,800 television channels operated by leading media groups are broadcast by Eutelsat to one billion viewers equipped for DTH reception or connected to terrestrial networks. Headquartered in Paris, with offices and teleports around the globe, Eutelsat assembles 1,000 men and women from 44 countries who are dedicated to delivering the highest quality of service.

Eutelsat Communications is listed on the Euronext Paris Stock Exchange (ticker: ETL).

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