



16th CROWN GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS 2023 – PRESS RELEASE

**MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10 OCTOBER 2023**

CROWN AWARDS NOMINEES ANNOUNCEMENT AND GAUTENG GOSPEL TALENT SEARCH GRAND FINALE

It is a busy week for the Crown Gospel Music Awards, with 3 events in 2 days. The IZIKO National Gospel Music Conference takes place this Thursday in Sandton, followed by the much-anticipated 2023 nominees announcement party on Friday the 13th, also in Sandton. The nominee announcement party will have a twist, as it will feature the Gauteng Gospel Dreams talent search grand finale, with the finalists battling it out in front of their future industry colleagues.

The nominations closed last week and the organisers have confirmed a record high number of entries since Covid 19. “We have received more than 400 entries, something we last saw around 2017. This is exciting as it shows the growth in the industry and an overwhelming of support of the Crowns after so many years. We will know on Friday, as to who stands to wear the Crown in 2023. We know everyone is eager to see the Gospel song and Gospel artists of the year nominees”, said Rofhiwa Nethengwe, head of talent at the Crowns.

The nominees party will have an exciting feature this, after the workshops and talent search in 5 different corridors of Gauteng, (South - Sebokeng, West - Kagiso, Central Diepsloot, North - Sausville, East - Daveyton) the selected finalists will have a rare opportunity to battle in a room full of Gospel artists whose voice will be added to that of the judges, to select the final, overall winner. “We have always wanted to do a talent search in order to ensure that the awards are not recycling the same artists. Gauteng was the first, and we will be moving to other provinces. The talent in the townships and rural areas is amazing, however they don’t often have the chance nor the means to go to bigger cities for a chance to be seen” said Zanele Mbokazi

“It’s a new season for Gauteng, we are happy with the finalization of the second leg of this exciting journey” says MEC for sport, arts, culture and recreation Ms Morakane Mosupyo. “It was exciting to see so many gospel music enthusiasts come out in their numbers across the province to

showcase their talent and benefitting from the skills programme that is set to benefit them for life” she continued.

MEDIA is invited to confirm attendance of this double celebration – the announcement of the nominees and the Gauteng talent search grand finale. They can contact prince@mirrorpr.co.za or events@mirrorpr.co.za

Another equally important event will take place on Thursday, also in Sandton. This is the annual IZIKO National Gospel Music Conference. “As the World Gospel Powerhouse and the Crowns, we take the empowerment of artists very seriously, once a year we convene this conference to tackle a broad range of issues, from collecting societies and maximising on the royalties they each pay, to personal branding and using digital media for profits. We also bring funders, such as the NAC, to speak to artists about funding opportunities and how to go about accessing these” said Mr. Dumisani Motsamai, entertainment lawyer and Executive Director, Legal & Talent Empowerment for the Crowns.

The 16th Annual Crown Gospel Music Awards will take place on the 26th of November, at the FNB Stadium (dome marquee) and tickets are already available at Ticketpro and Spar Supermarkets

For more information: WhatsApp +27 73 581 9043, +268 7820 6155 www.cgma.co.za, and prince@mirrorpr.co.za.

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Mirror PR & events on behalf of The Crown Gospel Music Awards