



MISA NAMIBIA E-Newsletter

NGC Visits New Era

The MISA Namibia Governing Council (NGC) recently paid a visit to the New Era Publications Corporation. The aim is to visit all media houses before the end of the year, to raise awareness on the upcoming media awards and for the NGC (elected this year in July) familiarise itself with the different journalists and editors.



"The visit has made it possible for better working relationships as New Era journalists are being encouraged to take part in next years awards by their editor, she added."

She said that the two sides are still getting to know each other and added that this was just an introductory meeting and hopefully it will not be the last.

"The media houses were all very welcoming to the New MISA Namibia board members," said Surihe Goamas the Vice Chairperson of the Board.

She said that the visit at New Era was very fruitful and all the board members of MISA Namibia met with the editor Rajah Munamava and Acting News Editor Viola Zimunya.

From left: Surihe Goamas, Gladwin Groenewaldt, *New Era's* Editor Rajah Munamava, Christof Maletsky and Acting News Editor of *New Era* Viola Zimunya.

"Topics included talks on next years MISA Namibia awards and how to get more involvement from the New Era Management in this journalism awards and encourage its staff members especially the journalists to become members," Said Gaomas.

The National Governing Council has so far visited four media houses this year and this includes, *The Namibian Broadcasting corporation, Insight Magazine, New Era publications corporation and The Republikein.*

KCR Gets Visitors From the Coast

The project Co-ordinator of the Erongo Community radio initiative Andre Engelbrecht, was in Windhoek three weeks ago with two of his 22 volunteers who will be part of the initiative of a community radio to be set up in Swakopmund.

The Community Radio Initiative which will be the first of its kind in the region, is expected to start operating early next year. "The training

of the two students was held at the Katutura Community Radio, were they got the chance to co-

"The students also received voice training and visited various radio stations," Engelbrecht

present with presenters from KCR. They needed to be exposed and get practical training from the station with regards to community radio," said Engelbrecht.

Apart from co-presenting programmes the students also received voice training and visited various radio stations like the National Broadcaster NBC,



Participants at work during the workshop held in Swakop

Radio Energy and Unam Radio.

Engelbrecht says that the training lasted for a week, and all travelling expenses were made possible by MISA Namibia.

Connecting



Mathew Haikali, Rene Lötter and the editor of the Southern Times, Moses Magdza

On the 13th of November this year, MISA Namibia organised a breakfast meeting at the Furstenhof hotel. The meeting discussed various issues relating to the coverage of Gender violence during the Sixteen Days of Activism. The National Director of MISA Namibia said that the meeting was to engage the (media houses) to provide more coverage on gender based violence.



From left: Camilla Johansson, Anna Corshammar-Bojerud, Christof Maletsky, Karin Carlesten and Anki Elken.

A visit by Parliamentarians from Sweden's Centre Party. The MP's work closely with the Khomas Women in Development in Namibia. They visited MISA Namibia Offices last Friday and were welcomed by the NGC Chairperson Christof Maletsky.



Editors and media practitioners at the breakfast meeting at the Furstenhof hotel a while ago.

"The meeting was part of the MISA Namibia Gender and HIV and AIDS programmes, together with the office of the Ombudsman which coordinated the 16 days activism.

Various editors from different organisations attended meeting. Issues such as that of space in newspapers versus advertisements were also raised. However the editors agreed to and accommodate at least one Gender based violence Story, during the 16 days of activism.

16 Days of Activisms

On 6 December 1989, shortly after 5pm, at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Canada, 14 women students were murdered and 13 others wounded by a lone gunman carrying a semi-automatic rifle. First, he stormed into a classroom full of Engineering students and shouted "I want the women. I hate feminists". In that classroom, he separated the women from the men - and proceeded to shoot the women. Then he went to the cafeteria where he killed more women students before turning the gun on himself.

This day is remembered every year by feminists all around the world as one of the worst and most blatant acts of gender vio-

lence in recent history. (*Feministagenda.org*)

"The 16 days of Activism is commemorated globally each year," said Natasha Tibinyane, member of the Preparatory Committee of the 16 days campaign in Namibia.

Tibinyane said that the Preparatory Committee is a commission of NGO's, civil society and the Office of the Ombudsman and they have been organizing the 16 day campaign. "A lot of activities are taking place which are mainly public events and the main aim of the campaign is the issue of gender based violence. Tibinyane said that she is happy with the way the media has covered the 16 days campaign however disappointed by the *New era* and *Southern*

Times because "I haven't seen much coverage.

A book called the *I stories* will also be published by the end of the 16 days campaign and will be distributed to the public. "I'm very happy with the role MISA Namibia has played.



Leahandra Nell Admin Officer at Misa Namibia and Natasha Tibinyane of the Preparatory committee.

Information is your right! Or is it

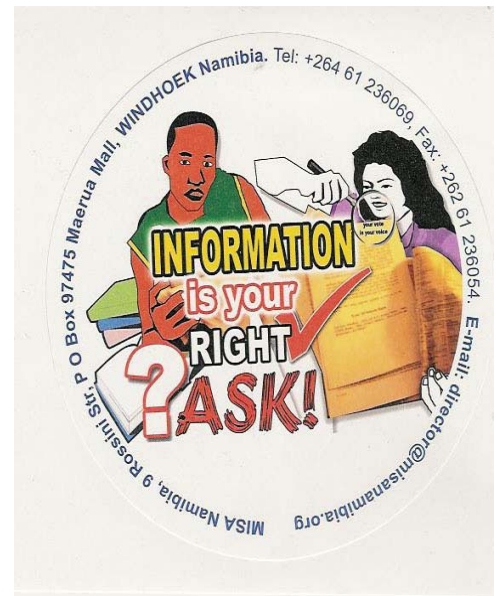
'There can be no democratic participation in decision-making without transparency and sharing information. Secretive government is nearly always inefficient in that the free flow of information is essential if problems are to be identified and resolved. Furthermore, a secretive governing culture fosters suspicion and encourages rumours and conspiracy theories'. UNDP (*Bureau for Development policy*)

One of the major focuses of MISA Namibia this year was the access to information campaign. A lot of information on the campaign has been distributed to different stakeholders and the campaign still continues.

Meetings with regards to the campaign were discussed with both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting earlier this year. A panel discussion was also held in June this year with media practitioners and members of parliament.

The National Director of MISA Namibia says that a meeting was scheduled with the members of parliament standing committee commission but that have been put aside for next year. "We did have a discussion with the members of the National Assembly but we still have to do so with the members of

the National Council."



Broadcasting Workshop in Maputo

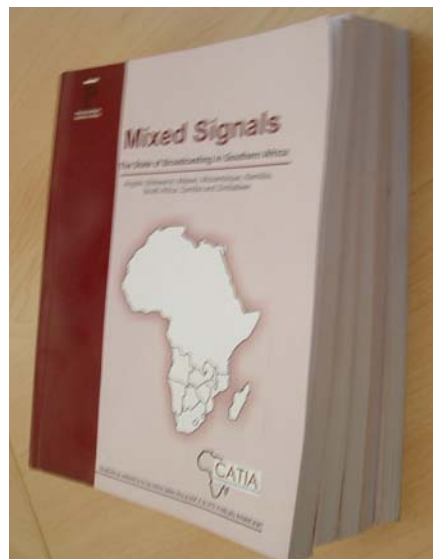
A two day workshop was held in Maputo, Mozambique in October. 'The Regional Broadcasting Workshop' was organised by Panos Southern Africa (PSAf) a branch of the Panos Institute of London. PSAf works in ten Southern African countries to facilitate public debate on media and development issues. These include Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The MISA Namibia National Director said that the workshop discussed various issues ranging from, challenges affecting community media in Southern Africa, and one of the major points was the need for a sustainable community radio. "We also discussed the broadcasting policies that affect broadcasting in different African countries.

A book called *Mixed Signals* was also launched at the workshop. "It was commissioned by the Panos Institute Southern Africa

on behalf of the CATIA 1d media policy development project." Haikali said that the book is a reflection of the media in Southern Africa.

Asked about the state of community radio in Namibia, the National Director said that there is need for it to be improved, not just locally but regionally as well.



Haikali says he is currently working on a report (research paper) on determining the state of community broadcasting in Namibia which he will have to hand to Panos next year. "The report is progressing quite well so far."

Overview of the Book

'Mixed Signals'

The State of Broadcasting in Southern Africa.

The book follows up to another publication which was called 'up in the Air in 1997. It also advances to the aim of its predecessor, namely contributing to the emerging debates about broadcasting in Southern Africa.

The new publication also examines Angola and Malawi.

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 advancing media freedom*

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Your new E-Newsletter

The festive season is here. Shops are sparkling with colours, many have started to re-decorate their houses with all the rainbow colours one can think off, the toddler who just a year ago could not figure out when last you gave him a hug has now began to work on your nerves, asking when father Christmas will deliver the goodies, yea, what can we say, every turn you make is a reminder of how you have to pull back from your day to day schedule and give yourself a (well deserved break). Well even if it's just a day it's still a break.

Indeed it is time to celebrate; the media environment in Namibia has left quite a mark this year. Earlier this year an NBC camera person was accused of stealing cattle, and then came the much anticipated media awards, which had a rough raw of its own criticism, the law suit by Founding Father Sam Nujoma was also one of this years highlights but so was the suspension and removal of former New Era's Editor Da'oud Vries. And no one can forget the hate speeches that did their round on the Oshiwambo radio station and the caller on the National Chat Show who accused two newspapers of trying to defame public figures.

Having said that, the media did get their fair share of criticism this year, the establishment of a new N\$30 million printing press by Free Press Printer (FPP) a joint venture between Trustco Group International (TGI) and The Namibian Newspaper, and the initiative of the first ever Community Radio at the coast expected to start operating early next year are no exceptions.

Indeed it has been a long year, but let us enjoy the fresh breeze for now.

Vikitoria Hango (*Interim Editor*)

Draft Report of Media Awards finalized

The draft report of the 2007 MISA awards has been finalised said MISA Namibia's National Director Mathew Haikali. However the National Governing Council (NGC) still has to launch it to make it public. "They are still reviewing what should happen next with the 2007 awards before the launch."

Haikali says that this year's awards were challenging in that they were prepared within a very short period of time.

He said that in future people will be given at least two months to prepare for the awards and at least one month for the judges. "The people who were short listed will also be announced at the event."

Haikali said that one of the major challenges is the number of categories, more categories were added this year, and needless to

say it comes at a cost. "Financial incentives are a good thing and the sponsoring of next years awards is quite something compared to the other years, and I would like to thank Bank Windhoek and Telecom Namibia for their unwavering support."

Bank Windhoek pledged an amount of N\$31 500 towards the 2007 MISA Namibia Awards.

Chairperson of MISA Namibia's National Governing Council Christof Maletsky said that the next awards would be held in the first quarter of 2007 and urged journalists from both the private and public media to start preparing. At a Thank you function held in late Au-

gust, this year. "We could not have hosted such a successful event without the very generous support from our business sector. We are eternally grateful for your support," he said.

Haikali said that MISA Namibia and the Namibia Strategic Business Communication (NSBC) have signed a contract to organise the event for the next two years.

See you next year at the awards.

*"the next awards
 will be held in the
 first quarter of
 2007"*

