

E-NEWSLETTER

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MISA Namibia visits the President/Reproductive Health and HIV workshop/World Press Freedom Day Message/Quest for Leadership Launch/Drivers of Change Awards



MISA NAMIBIA VISIT THE PRESIDENT OF NAMIBIA FOR THE FIRST TIME



(LEFT TO RIGHT): MISA Namibia Deputy Chairperson Gladwin Groenewaldt, MISA Namibia Chairperson Sandra Williams, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, MISA Namibia Regional Director Kaitira Kandjii, MISA Namibia, Information and Advocacy Officer Marbeline Mwashekele, MISA Namibia National Director Mathew Haikali.

The Namibian Chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa, MISA Namibia, paid a courtesy call to the President of the Republic of Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba on Wednesday 29th April. Chairperson of MISA Namibia, Sandra Williams introduced the MISA party, and got right down to briefing the President on programmes and activities that MISA Namibia was busy with.

These included issues around Access to Information, how MISA Namibia could contribute to the development of the country, the establishment of a media council, the training of journalists, and the transformation of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation from a private to a public Broadcaster.

On his part, the President noted that although he was worried about what was happening on national radio with regards to people insulting each other, he would have to talk to the Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Joel Kaapanda first, before he could make a fair remark. The President also remarked that he was pleased with the idea of the establishment of a media regulatory body, to regulate the media.

In addition he also welcomed the idea of change within NBC in terms of it becoming a public broadcaster. However, the President maintained that in his opinion, the NBC was already a public broadcaster, as it was set up by the representatives of the people (those who were elected by the people), for the people.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba also urged journalists to verify their facts, and speak to the respective sources for the correct information, before they wrote anything. He emphasised that consultation with the person that journalists were doing a story on was imperative to get the truth across. The President expressed joy and gratitude for the visit from MISA Namibia and encouraged a much more closer relationship between government and the media institutions.

• **Mandisa Rasmeni**

MISA Namibia continuous to engage various media house and media practitioners on the need to expand and improve the quality of reporting on the Reproductive Health, Population Development, Gender, Human Rights and Millennium Development Goals, with the aim of facilitating the development of a mentoring and training program for Namibian journalists on these issues.

This was highlighted by MISA Namibia Chairperson Florence Haifene at the Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS workshop held at the Hotel School in Windhoek on the 15-16 April 2009.

Haifene says MISA Namibia as an advocacy and lobbying organization for the media in Namibia applied for support as part of the mobilizing RH/HIV Integration Initiative, with the aim of working in advancing the overall goals of RH/HIV and AIDS integration.

“The aim of the workshop is to increase awareness and information about access to sexual and reproductive health services and supplies in the country. MISA Namibia in cooperation with the Population Action International is hosting this two-day workshop on the Integration of Reproductive Health and HIV AIDS”, she noted.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Population Fund Representative, Fabian Byomuhangi said that UNFPA where delighted to have this opportunity to work together with the Media in dissemination of information with regard to Reproductive Health and rights and



MISA Namibia board member Florence Haifene, UNFPA Country Representative Fabian Byomuhangi and Gloria Siseho from the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association at the Reproductive Health and HIV integration workshop organised by MISA Namibia in cooperation with Population Action International

its integration to HIV issues.

“Media practitioners and Reproductive Health specialist have a task to disseminate integrated RH and HIV messages by introducing them in a clear and simple language. The media should be the voice of the public in urging health providers in improving the quality of health services. Therefore together it should be communicated to all groups including legislators, law enforcement agencies, community leaders, young people, service providers and the public at large through advocacy, social mobilization and program communication”, Byomuhangi said

He emphasized that UNFPA hopes that the workshop is another milestone in commitment and an important contribution to the global commitment such as ICPD, MDGs etc. He urged all of the participants to utilize this platform fully, through engaging in constructive debate and discussions.

During the workshop NAPPA representative, Gloria Siseho explained the concepts and terms of Sexual and Reproductive Health and how Reproductive Health and HIV can be integrated, noting that although the media made use of all the terms, they did not explain it in such a way that the man on the street could understand.



EDITOR'S NOTE

The potential of media in fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation will be the topic of **UNESCO** World Press Freedom Day 2009 to be celebrated on 3 May 2009. As the only UN agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom, UNESCO has placed mutual understanding, and dialogue through media at the core of its mission.

Indeed, UNESCO's Constitution, adopted in November 1945, states that the Organization will "collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of all peoples, through all means of mass communication" and "promote the free flow of ideas by word and image".

At this year's conference and celebrations, UNESCO invites participants to explore the enormous potential of media to serve as a platform for dialogue and a vehicle for understanding.

Perhaps the best way a media can work towards building mutual understanding is by strengthening the media culture itself. A media that is vibrant, independent, pluralistic, inclusive and fair, editorial free and beyond censor and influence from interests, political, commercial, or otherwise – only a free media will innately contribute to the dialogue and understanding across divides. Moreover, a media that is free is essential for the provision of information and knowledge upon which informed democratic participation and good governance depend.

Journalists must be able to practice their profession without fear. They must move freely to collect facts and views, to disseminate news, to demand accountability from those in office, and to protect their sources. In turn, journalists must exercise the highest ethical and professional standards and conduct themselves in accord with general ethical principles.

It is vital that media outlets and professional associations encourage accurate, professional and ethical reporting. This can be done by establishing voluntary codes of conduct, providing training for journalists and setting up mechanisms of self-regulation. Such media accountability should be organized through self-regulation systems that facilitate the direct dialogue between readers, listeners, viewers or internet surfers and the media professionals. Only the application of high professional standards will give media the credibility with their public.

A political climate of openness and transparency is needed for citizens to contribute in the monitoring of the economic, social and political issues in their community and wider society. Pledges to increase transparency and accountability in public administration must be backed up with laws granting full access to areas of information in the public interest. National information laws must provide for full and open access to publicly held information. Actualizing this right to information will ensure that the media can find the information that is needed to hold those we elect accountable for what we have elected them to do.

The media not only acts as a watchdog against abuses by authorities or large corporate bodies – they also empower citizens with the information they require to exercise their democratic rights.



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EVENTS/HOLIDAYS

- 04 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INNOCENT CHILD VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION
- 05 JUNE: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
- 16 JUNE: DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD
- 17 JUNE: WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT
- 20 JUNE: WORLD REFUGEE DAY
- 23 JUNE: UNITED NATION PUBLIC SERVICE DAY
- 26 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING
- 26 JUNE: INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE
- 07 JULY: WORLD POPULATION DAY

What people say about the book:

“Sakaria NIKodemus is laying his finger on the pulse of relevant issue facing us today, especially True, Quality and Visionary leadership. I recommend this book to all the people who are yearning for a better today and a bright future for the land of the brave. This book is a must to read.”

Rt. Rev. Dr. Z. Kaameta – Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia

“The Quest for True Leadership is an inspiring book that gives people the opportunity to find the leadership traits that are embedded in each one of us and utilize them for the common good of society. The author candidly shows the principles necessary for one to discover and realize the leadership potential within us as humans.”

His Excellency Griffin K. Nyirongo – Former Zambian High Commissioner to Namibia

“Mr. 'Sakaria NIKodemus' book titled The Quest for True Leadership is mutatis mutandis, a great and outstanding contribution and review of the world discourse on leadership, which is also reflective of the African and Namibian contributions – a reality too often ignored by many. Mr. NIKodemus deserves a pat on his shoulders for a lucid and well written leadership characterization and typologies which matches the best of its kind in the world literature.”

Lazarus Hangula (Prof., Dr. Phil.) Vice Chancellor – University of Namibia

“It was with great interest that I read your book on leadership titled, “The Quest for True Leadership” and I congratulate you on the effort. Your book follows a logical sequence, taking the reader from the broad concepts around leadership to your exposition of what is required to be a true leader. This is done in an easy to read manner. You have mixed theoretical base with a motivational appeal that makes for interesting and, at times, thought provoking reading. Setting the scene with opening comments in each chapter and closing it with summaries and questions ensures the reader remains focused.”

Mr. Harold Pupkewitz – Executive Chairman & Entrepreneur

“NIKodemus makes a motivational testimony that lucidly tells us that – with true leadership – we can remake the world – it’s possible.”

Dr. Jairos Kangira, Polytechnic of Namibia

“This remarkable book on leadership by Sakaria NIKodemus is life changing, thought-provoking and inspiring and it will equip and prepare you to be on the cutting edge as you serve your generation to the fullest. The book is a guiding chart that will help you to discover time-tested principles that will enable you to fulfill your vision, irrespective of your background. With great wisdom, the author succinctly reveals how you can make your dream and hope a living reality. Applying the principles in his book will infuse your life with a new sense of meaning and purpose. I therefore highly recommend this fascinating book for everyone who desires to rise above the average and tap his / her leadership potential.”

Rev. John Hiamambo

General Superintendent & Senior Pastor (Highlands Assembly of God)



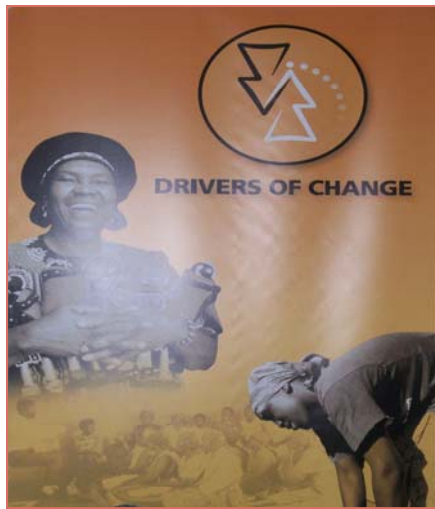
Sakaria NIKodemus launched his first book, Quest for true leadership, at the Nampower Convention Centre in Windhoek recently

"In this book, Sakaria NIKodemus has identified the soft underbelly of the leadership condition of today's world. This is a well structured and passionate work on the subject of leadership, and definitely a must read."

Mr. Simon Nhongo, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Country Representative, Namibia

Between the pages of this inspiring book are priceless treasures and valuable tools which, if applied correctly, have the potential to transform and empower you to face the challenges of today. Read it and get equipped for a better tomorrow.

Mr. Tebs L. Xulu, Senior Producer, National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), Radio



The Southern Africa Trust, in collaboration with the Namibian Non-Governmental Organisations Forum (NANGOF) and the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), organised a consultative dialogue on 1 April 2009 at the Kalahari

- **Laudika Shapopi**

Minister of Information and Communication Joel Kaapanda says he values the media's contributions toward the upliftment of the marginalized and the poor through empowerment with information and awards such as the Drivers of Change Awards.

The Drivers of Change Awards recognizes and creates opportunities for deserving persons and entities that made it their mission to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people and contributes to the development of effective public policies and strategies to overcome poverty.

Kaapanda notes however that the Government's role in partnership with business, media and civil society must be appreciated and understood properly.

"The Government has a broader base of information dissemination channels to reach a wider audience. The Government archives its information dissemination targets through existing communication devices such as radio, television, regional information offices and print media which comprises of Government News bulletin, New Era and Namibia Review. These devices enable the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to play a pivotal role in information dissemination", he said.

In view of the above he says that the Ministry should therefore not be viewed as an entity that is in place to censor or control the media in this country, but it should be seen as a partner by the media fraternity.

"The transformation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the Ministry of ICT has broadened its mandate. It is now tasked with the development of ICT laws. These functions are crucial for the growth of the ICT industry and the promotion of ICT in general to address the digital divide in the country. The Ministry of ICT is responsible for implementing SADC decisions such as those embellished in SADC Protocol on transport, communication and meteorology which advocate the linking of communication infrastructure of Member States", he said.

Minister Kaapanda also emphasized that this linkages are vital in narrowing the communication gaps and enhancing the adoption of common standards of communication technologies, therefore the Ministry is an essential player in Namibia's socio-economic and political spheres.

"Government projects are designed to bring positive change in the lives of the people, therefore the essence of the Driver of Change award commensurate the efforts of government. Government recognizes the important role played by civil society in the fight against poverty through various initiatives such as community-based income generating projects which empowers the poor. I call upon everyone in the room to nominate an individual or organization that he/she believes should be recognized as a Driver of Change. Nominees can be from Namibia or any other country in southern Africa. Nominations in English, French and Portuguese will be accepted from today until 10 July 2009", he emphasized.

The Minister appealed to the media practitioners, especially as the elections are drawing nearer, to be objective and accurate in their reporting.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY HON. DR. THEO-BEN GURIRAB, MP, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS BY H.E. PRESIDENT HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA

Namibia is a young but a daring democracy which will once gain this year, 2009, go through a dynamic electioneering test of continuity and change, at 19 years of age.

We uphold the ideals of constitutional democracy, equality under the law, national unity, gender balance, inclusive tolerance and social justice for all. These are essential virtues of democracy but they are far from being sufficient given the state of the pernicious income distribution in the country.

Namibia cannot maintain this and be proud of a divided country consisting of two incompatible societies, one living on a hilltop enjoying abundant opulence and the other wallowing in a squalor of abject poverty. We are, however, making good faith efforts to transform hope into change for the better for all. But we must do more to become a caring nation.

We cannot forget for a moment that we are racing against strong headwinds loaded with many uncertainties, more so given the fact that global economic powers and major international financial institutions are undecided about recession and needed reforms. Regional integration, land reform and MDGs all seek empowerment of the people. But are incapacitated by lack of capital and more so by policy dol-drums.

Namibian IPU delegation and my own as IPU President returned over the Easter weekend after a week's attendance at 120th IPU Assembly Session in Addis Ababa. It was a successful indaba and we are committed to the outcome.

Among the important issues on the conference agenda was the critical place occupied by national budget process in the society and the competing priorities that must be catered for by the Executive.

Apart from the traditional functions of lawmaking and oversight, parliaments are nowadays expected to have a say in public diplomacy, peace building, women's rights issues and mentoring of youth and students on volunteerism and anti-corruption advocacy, amongst others.

We dealt with an emergency item, which was unanimously adopted. It was entitled: **The Role of Parliaments in Mitigating The Social and Political Impact of The International Economic and Financial Crisis on The Most Vulnerable Sectors of The Global Community, especially in Africa.**

Its operative paragraphs, I highlight only those relating to Parliaments, state as follows:

Calls for urgent action by all parliaments to address the global financial crisis at the forthcoming IPU Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis scheduled for 7 and 8 May 2009 (in Geneva, Switzerland);

Calls on the parliaments and governments...to consider the eradication of poverty and social justice and its root causes in Africa and other developing countries as a priority, and to implement actions to deal effectively with them;

Urges parliaments to explore ways to mitigate the social, political and economic effects of the global financial crisis, particularly on developing nations;

Calls on parliaments to ensure effective governance of financial system, including regulatory measures, in order to avoid future financial crises and provide for accountability;

Therefore not only the Government but also the Parliament has its work cut out for it, therefore the Hon Gurirab called for more teamwork and mutual support.

MISA World Press Freedom day May 3 2009 Statement

'Emerging threats, the need for vigilance and consolidation on media gains in Southern Africa'

Windhoek, Namibia: 30 April 2009

The UNESCO theme for the 2009 World Press Freedom day, Media, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding aptly captures the wishes and ideal situation that many of us yearn for in the media in Southern Africa. We all wish for the media to be platforms for social dialogue, for the media to bring us together and more importantly for the media to be a mirror through which society reflects on itself, especially the ills of corruption, gender inequality, repression and suppression of dissenting voices, and indeed highlight the opportunities for socio-economic development and change in the region.

MISA joins the rest of the world, especially citizens, media workers, governments, civil society and other sectors of society in commemorating World Press Freedom day in Southern Africa. Every year that passes, this day affords us the chance to reflect on how far we have come in developing our media and how our media has assisted, or failed to assist in many challenges that our region faces. Critically, on this day we look and reflect at how society has treated the media and how governments have either promoted or destroyed the media.

We now hear arguments in the region, from those opposed to wider participation in decision makings among others, that the development of private media is in fact anachronistic to the needs of the people of Southern Africa. We hear arguments being put across in some countries that we need to go back to the monolithic state owned media, and that the private media is a danger to society and must be curbed.

These arguments are not only a historical but they also do not account for the repression of the media during the colonial era and how the state media were then used in this repression, but also do not account for how the alternative, private media liberated the people of Southern Africa. It is on the basis of this phobia of the private media that newspapers and radio stations were shut down in Tanzania and Lesotho, and 60 000 copies of *The Zimbabwean* burnt in Zimbabwe. It is on the basis of the unfounded phobia of alternative voices that the Namibian government still maintains a ban on advertising in *The Namibian*. This ban does not take into account the fact that state resources are national resources and cannot be attributed to a singular grouping.

On May 3, we express concern on the steady movement towards state regulation of the media as happened in Botswana with the enactment of the Media Practitioners Act. We hope that propositions by the ruling party in South Africa on similar moves will be abandoned and instead efforts made to strengthen self regulation of the media.

The evidence of the destruction of state regulation is there for all to see in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's media has regressed since 2000 with the loss of tens of senior and experienced journalists and four newspapers. The state media is virtually shut to other voices except those that fall within the news framing schemes of the ruling elite. The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) is a shadow of its former self, struggling to hold on to talent and strangled by the government. It is this scenario that the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has to avoid.

MISA recorded 163 alerts in the year 2008. These alerts are captured in our annual publication, *So this is Democracy*. The most serious media violations took place in Tanzania in 2008, with the acid attack on journalist Saed Kubenea of Mwanahalisi, in Lesotho with the closure of Harvest FM and in Zimbabwe with the arrests of journalists and burning of newspapers. Recorded violations show that while some steps have been taken in some SADC countries to improve media and freedom of expression environment such as Zambia.

In others, hitherto stable and promising countries, such as Tanzania, there seem to be growing threats against the media, hence the shutting down of Mwanahalisi newspaper by the government. In some countries in the region, there is a growing business and corrupt elite that instigates attacks on the media either using state apparatuses or other means. These threats to media freedoms have extended to cases where such individuals set up or buy into media houses exclusively for the defence of their business interests. It is for this reason that MISA calls on the media to take an interest and participate in efforts to set up self regulatory mechanisms. Such efforts, contrary to some perceptions, are not meant to shield the media from criticism but in fact enhance the interaction of the media with its publics as well as enhance media professionalism. On this day, we therefore, call upon leading media organisations in the region, in Zambia and Zimbabwe, to take an interest in self regulation, and look beyond the current political struggles in their societies and see into the future and how setting up these structures now, can guarantee stability in the industry in the long term.

MISA takes this time to appreciate the good work that the media has done in the region. Journalists and the media in Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and Tanzania have gone through a lot but have remained resolute. MISA promises to always stand by you in all challenges. We take time to commend governments in the region that have opened doors for consultation on media issues. The Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique and Lesotho governments have set an example in this regard. We hope that plans by the Zimbabwe government to re-engage the media come to fruition and that Zimbabwe's media can direct its energies to reporting and developing their capacities and systems and not spend time in court, police cells or running away into exile. We hope that the Zambia government will also deal once and for all with issues of media law reforms still hanging for years. We wish all SADC citizens going through elections in 2009, peaceful, free, and fair and fulfilling plebiscites.

Learn the basics, if you haven't already. Basics of photography include composition, which is essentially the placing of a subject within the frame of a photograph, lighting, and the basic workings of your camera.

Sometimes, a great photo opportunity will present itself to you, so be ready...

Be ready. At least half of the time, the difference between a great photograph and a mediocre one is being in the right place at the right time, with a camera in your hand. Carry your camera with you as often as you can. Make sure to use your camera often, too. Just carrying it around does no good.

Be there. Being "ready" is not enough.

Go out at every time of day, every day, and look for things. Don't wait for the right opportunity to come along (but be prepared if it does!); go out and *find them*. Look for opportunities everywhere you go (whether you're at the mall or on the other side of the world), and go to places to look for opportunities. If you can see something in your mind, chances are you can set it up and shoot it!

Stop looking for subjects to photograph and learn to see.

Look for colours. Or do the opposite: look for a total absence of colour, or shoot in black-and-white.

Look for repetition and rhythm. Or do the opposite, and look for something completely isolated from the things around it.

Look for lighting, and the lack of such. Take photographs of shadows, or of reflections, or of light streaming through something, or of things in total darkness.

Look for emotion and gesture if you're photographing people. Do they show happiness? Mischievousness? Sadness? Do they look thoughtful? Or do they just look like another person mildly annoyed to have a camera pointed at them?

Look for texture, forms, and patterns. Great black-and-white photographs are stunning because black-and-white forces the photographer to look for these things.

Look for contrasts. Look for something that stands out from the rest of the shot. In your composition, use the wide end of your zoom (or a wide-angle lens) and get closer and make it so. Look for contrasts of all the things above: colour amid dullness, light among darkness, and so on. If you're photographing people, try putting (or finding) your subject in a context in which they stand out. Look for happiness in unexpected places. Look for a person in a surrounding in which they appear out-of-place. Or ignore this and take them completely away from their context by opening your lens all the way to blur the background. In short..

Look for anything that will hold a viewer's interest which *isn't* a traditional "subject". As you find your niche, you'll probably find that you end up going back to taking photographs of subjects again. This is fine. Looking for things which *aren't* subjects will improve your photography no end—you'll soon see a different world altogether.

Shoot film. If you already shoot film, then **shoot digital as well.** Both film and digital cameras have their place in the learning photographer's arsenal. They both have their advantages and disadvantages, and both will teach you a different set of habits. The worst habits of digital, are balanced out by the better habits of film, and vice versa.

Learn some technical trivia . No, this is not the most important part about taking photographs. In fact, it's one of the least important, which is why it's all the way down here; a great photo taken by a point-and-shooter ignorant of these things, is *far* more interesting than a boring photo perfectly focused and exposed. It's also *infinitely* better than the one that wasn't taken at all because someone was too busy worrying about this sort of trivia.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Develop-Your-Photography-Skills>