

NGC CONTINUE VISITS TO MEDIA HOUSES



MISA NAMIBIA E-Newsletter

Members of Misa Namibia's National Governing Council (NGC), and The National Director, Mathew Haikali, last month continued their visits to editors of several news organizations which included, One Africa television, The Namibian, Windhoek Observer, Allgemeine Zeitung and The Economist.

The visits primarily focused on introducing the newly elected board members, (July 2006), to media houses, to discuss the challenges they faced as well as issues pertaining to the Namibian Media Conference which is scheduled to take place towards the middle of this year.

One of the issues that also received top priority during the discussions were the Misa Namibia Media Awards, with focus on how to improve the event, the time frame during which the event was to take place, the categories, and the judges selection process. Comments by members of the media houses were as follows:

One Africa Television suggested a need for media gatherings at least once or twice a year, and while they considered themselves new in the media industry, were willing to contribute to media conferences.

The Namibian newspaper was critical of the awards and suggested a revamp of categories. They also placed emphasis on the coming together of media houses to socialize. In addition, The Namibian felt that there were enough media experts in Namibia to deal with media related issues, and hence there was no need to get external expert advice.

Allgemeine Zeitung recommended that there was a need to revamp the award categories, while they emphasized that the timeframe for entering the awards needed to be extended to give journalist enough time to gather their materials.

The Economist plans to employ four interns from the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia.

In an effort to create more interaction between media practitioners, The Windhoek Observer offered to facilitate media gatherings at least once a month and to avail its archive materials to journalist.



From left: Chairperson of the MISA Namibia National Governing Council, Christof Maletsky, and Editor of the Windhoek Observer, Hannes Smith during the NGC's visit to the Observer.

Media houses visited by the board last year, includes the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, New Era, Insight Magazine and The Republikein.

MISA NAMIBIA ANNOUNCES INFORMATION OFFICER



The Media Institute of Southern Africa, Namibian Chapter has appointed former Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) Senior Reporter and television presenter, Marbeline Goagoses as its Information and Advocacy Officer.

Goagoses says her main priority will be to encourage everyone to join MISA Namibia, in order to gain from numerous benefits.

The NGC and the management of MISA Namibia welcomed Ms. /Goagoses to the media institution. She replaces Mr. Jonathan Beukes who joined NAMPOWER. (January)

EDUCATIONAL RADIO BROADCASTING PROJECT

In line with its core responsibilities to develop and contribute to the upliftment of community media in Namibia, the National Director of MISA Namibia, visited NAMCOL last month (January) to discuss ways in which NAMCOL could utilize community radio channels through MISA Namibia.

At the meeting, NAMCOL Deputy Director for Programmes and Materials Development, Jerry Beukes, highlighted that the institution wanted to supplement the text based material that they provided to their learners and students with radio programmes.

The Educational Radio Broadcasting project was introduced by the Ministry of Education at the beginning of 2004, to enhance the production and broadcasting of educational radio programmes in the country.

Partners involved in the project, include the University of Namibia, the Polytechnic of Namibia, the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED), and various



Ministries such as the Ministries of Health and; the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture.

Beukes noted that the Ministries got on board the initiative as a way to share information to students and learners, on topics relevant to their sectors.

He further highlighted that NAMCOL has trained a core group of twenty-five staff members from the partner institutions and ministries to incapacitate them to produce educational radio programmes.

Thus far he noted, the trained staff members produced about 20-30 pilot programmes, which

will be aired via the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), and selected community radio stations, during February and March.

Beukes said that funds have also been made available to train an addition 80 to 100 staff from partner institutions, to broaden the base and have a critical mass of trained people who can produce programmes.

Meanwhile, the National Director, Mathew Haikali at the meeting highlighted that Misa Namibia has a network of community radio stations that could be utilised with regards to distributing radio materials on development.

Haikali noted that Misa Namibia would also be in a position to either advice or give direction to Namcol from time to time, as the organisation has been involved in the development of community radio since 1998.

He said MISA Namibia could also provide the avenues for the distribution of Namcol materials.

NATIONAL BROADCASTER OR PUBLIC BROADCASTER?



MISA Namibia's National Director, Mathew Haikali last year December met the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation's (NBC), National Director, Bob Vezera Kandetu to discuss ways of transforming the NBC from

a national service broadcaster, to a public service broadcaster.

The NBC is established as a national broadcaster in accordance with the Namibian Broadcasting Act No.9 of 1991.

During the meeting however, Haikali encouraged Kandetu to raise awareness on turning the NBC into a public service broadcaster in line with MISA's Campaign for Public Broadcasting in Southern Africa. The campaign highlights that a

public service broadcaster is fully independent in all editorial and operational matters.

At a minimum, there needs to be a statutory guarantee of independence and a clear prohibition of government interference in any respect of operation.

A board that is independent of government should govern public broadcasting stations. Public servants, Members of Parliament and political party office bearers should not be eligible to serve on the governing board.

Editorial policy and decision-making in all broadcasting institutions should be free from interference by government or the governing board

Editorial independence means the right of journalists and editors to make decisions on the basis of professional criteria..

Haikali gave Kandetu documents to look at, containing more information concerning public service broadcasting, with a promise from Kandetu to engage in further discussion on the matter in future.

First-Ever Namibian Film Awards Soon

The Wild Cinema Film Festival Trust, in conjunction with the Namibian Film Commission and the Filmmakers Association of Namibia (FAN), are organizing the First-ever Namibian Film Awards.

The awards, to be held in the capital from March 23 to April 1 this year, will recognize filmmakers in the country. Volker Roder of Wild Cinema Film said this would not only act as a welcome incentive to filmmakers and the Namibian film industry as a whole, but would moreover elevate local filmmaking, to bring it to international standards.

Despite Namibia's small film industry, the Wild Cinema Film Festival Trust has received more than 18 Namibian entries for this year's festival. The entries

range in genre from documentaries to short films and full-length features.

The selection will be screened during the 2007 festival at various venues throughout Windhoek. Films submitted for competition will see productions competing in several category and judged according to a host of professional criteria: overall presentation, cinematography, editing, directing, script and a number of other filmic details.

Some of the judges the 2007 Namibia Film Award are Simon Wilkie, Deputy Chairperson of the Namibia Filmmakers Association (FAN); Anna Shivute, board member of the Namibia Film Commission; Emily Brown, Head of the Media

Technology Department of the Polytechnic of Namibia.

The Wild Cinema Windhoek International Film Festival 2007 is sponsored by the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC), Mafilm GmbH, the Namibian Film Commission, the Embassies of Finland, Sweden and Spain, Advantage McCann, Radio Energy, Informante, One Africa TV, TNT, Ster Kinekor, and Nice, amongst others. **NAMPA**

MULTICHOICE CNN AFRICAN JOURNALIST AWARDS

Awards 2007 Return to South Africa. CNN International and MultiChoice this week on 25th January 2007 officially launched the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2007 Awards. The winners of this prestigious annual Awards will be announced at a gala ceremony to be held at Cape Town's International Conference Centre in July 2007.

Chris Cramer, Managing Director of CNN International, said: "To meet such a broad range of talented journalists with compelling stories to tell is a humbling experience and I'm delighted that we are able to contribute to encouraging excellence in journalism across the continent."

Eben Greyling, CEO MultiChoice Africa, said: "The last few years have seen encouraging maturity in the way the continent's media has been telling the African story, especially in capturing the human condition in our continent.

This is most evident in the greater focus that the continent's media has paid to two critical issues to the progress of our continent-health and education. Such efforts need to be recognized, encouragement and support to the many women and men, who record our continent's progress, often under trying conditions. We hope it inspires others to take journalism to greater heights.

This year, the competition will award prizes in 16 categories. The judges will choose the overall category winner - The CNN MultiChoice African journalist 2007.

Over the past eleven years, the competition has grown in size and status. In 2006 it attracted a record-number of entries from 43 African countries and highlights of the ceremony, which was held in Maputo, Mozambique, were broadcast in 39 African countries, on the Africa Channel in the US, the OB Channel in the UK and RTP Africa.

The 2007 Awards introduce a new category targeting journalists working for a magazine published in Africa and the proprietor must be based in Africa: the MIH Print Media Award- Best Feature in a Magazine. These awards will recognize an individual excellence in magazine feature writing.

Finalist in the 2007 competition will be flown to Cape Town to participate in a four-day finalists' programme culminating in a gala awards ceremony on Saturday 21st July, 2007.



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*Committed to promoting and
advancing media freedom*



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **09 February:** Constitution Day
- **21 February:** International Mother Language Day
- African journalists, editors and the general public can nominate candidates for the "CNN MultiChoice African Journalist Awards." **Application deadline: February 21.**
For more information or to download a nomination form, visit <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/africa/africanawards/categories.html>.
- The World Press Freedom Committee, the World Association of Newspapers and UNESCO will be co-hosting a conference in Paris from **15 to 16 February 2007** to examine the challenges and opportunities for press freedom posed by new media. For more information, visit: <http://www.wan-press.org/article12826.html>

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you are reading this newsletter, our first for this year, it means that you are a paid-up MISA Namibia member, or you have received it from someone who is a paid-up MISA Namibia member. Congratulations in any case, because you are one of a few journalists in Namibia, who are always informed about the latest developments in the media.

This is but one of several benefits of becoming a MISA Namibia member. Since its inception MISA has its focus on; the need to promote free, independent and pluralistic media. Now, although this focus should be enough to make any journalist or organisation/institution join the NGO, MISA however only has a paid up membership base of fifty-seven (58) members.

Coming from a journalistic background, I have never regretted more that I was not a member myself as I could have gained so much. However being the newly appointed Information and Advocacy Officer, I intend to encourage as many journalists as possible join.

Once a member, you will be invited to all MISA Namibia events, where you will get the opportunity to meet people, network and mingle with media practitioners, academics and students as well as those working in the civil society. In addition, you will receive all MISA Namibia publications absolutely free.

You can vote and be voted for at MISA Namibia's Annual General Meetings. You will also get free internet and archive access when you visit our offices, while working journalist can tap into our Legal Fund, should work related problems arise.

Most importantly, all paid up members will get first option for numerous jobs that are advertised through MISA Namibia, including media training, workshop, articles, research and much more.

Great benefits for members, you will agree, however there is an underlying factor. MISA Namibia needs membership in order to expand its mandate, increase its income, bring more journalists into the fold and become a stronger more visible advocacy organisation.

The vision of MISA Namibia is to assist in creating an environment of media freedom that promotes independence, diversity of opinion, a financially viable media and professionalism.

Full Membership is open to all independent media and individual media practitioners, while Associate Membership is open to any human rights organization or NGO involved in human rights of independent media practitioners temporarily resident in Namibia.

Members as well as non-members have free access to our website: www.misanamibia.org , **which has been revamped**, to read the latest stories, statements, alerts, view upcoming events, have access to local and international media list, find useful journalism resources, and of course to download a MISA Namibia membership form, to become a member for only 120 Namibian dollars (individual) a year.

Feel free to e-mail me at info@misanamibia.org for comments, feedback or ideas.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2007!!!

Marbeline /Goagosos
Editor

NATIONAL COUNCIL RAISES AWARENESS ON YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Youth Parliament was launched in 2003, in Windhoek, consisting of twenty-six (26) young people from all the regions in the country.

The primary aim for the establishment of The Youth Parliament was to engage young people in the democratic process of lawmaking.

The Youth Parliament was inaugurated by the National Council Chairman Kandy Nehova.

At the inauguration ceremony, Nehova said that the Youth Parliament would help young people to acquire political experience on how parliament proceedings work.

In addition he said, they will also develop leadership skills that would help them become decision makers in the future.

National Director of MISA Namibia, Mathew Haikali said that last year in December, a meeting was held at the National Council in order to raise awareness on the Youth Parliament in Namibia.

The meeting focused on ways to make the Youth Parliament more

effective and to involve more young people.

A decision was also made to include various stakeholders, which included the National Youth Council, to participate in the process.

Haikali emphasized the importance of engaging and making young people aware of which laws were in place in the country.

For more information on the Youth Parliament, visit: www.grnnet.gov.na

"The whole policy of legislation awareness through the media is also very important if you have the right information", he said adding that more research has to be done on how to make the Youth Parliament more effective.

In 2005, the MISA National Director pointed out, a new student representation was voted for, which only included students from higher institutions such as

the Polytechnic and the University of Namibia.

The Youth Parliament was set up in collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), which is headed by the Principal Clerk of Committees and Table Office Services, Ephraim Gwai Jane, of the National Council Secretariat of Namibia.

"New members of the Youth Parliament are voted for every two years, and meet once a year", said Jane.

Jane pointed out that one of the difficulties facing the youth parliament is resources, stating that in order to bring the members of the youth parliament together from the different regions, there is need for financing, travel costs and other basic needs such as food.

"During the past few years that the Youth Parliament has been in place, noted Jane, it is being financed in house by the National Council and this money is not enough to cover all costs."

MISA NAMIBIA — LEGAL DEFENCE FUND



The MISA Namibia Legal Defense Fund is designed to serve as a "first line of defense" for MISA Namibia members who need funds to pay for an initial consultation with a lawyer.

This approach stems from the belief that many unjust actions against the media and media practitioners can be reversed if people who feel threatened are confronted with swift legal response.

However because the fund is relatively small, it is not intended to replace other sources of long-term assistance.

Last year December MISA Namibia was given money by the MISA Regional Secretariat Office, through the MISA defense Fund, to assist one of Namibia's investigative journalist who is being sued for articles he wrote in a newspaper.

John Grobler is sued for defamation of character by one of the Catering Association of Namibia Member Companies, VIZ. Welwitchia Caterers CC, for a series of articles published last year January concerning gross irregularities in the State Catering Trade.

Grobler is also sued in his private capacity by three employees of independent caterers over a highly classified report, and notes

that The Namibian, where he published his articles, cannot help him financially to cover his legal cost.

Grobler says that it gets difficult for him to do his work as an investigative journalist because he finds himself dreading to report new stories. "Spending all that money on Legal costs makes for less money to spend on other investigations", he stresses.

Grobler notes that he approached MISA Namibia for assistance to pay his lawyer, Hosea Angula's fees, which are now running in excess of N\$30 000. "MISA Namibia gave me funds towards my own legal costs, which helped enormously," says Grobler.

He says that a date has been set down for the VIZ. Welwitchia Caterers CC case in late February this year, while his own legal battle will be heard in June this year. .