



MISA NAMIBIA E-Newsletter

AND THE WINNER IS...



Shell representative, Mona-Liza Garises handing over funds for Media Awards to MISA Namibia.

The Director of the UNESCO Cluster office in Windhoek, Dr Claudia Harvey says it is no longer enough for journalists themselves to think they are doing a good job. Harvey explains that for journalism to continue to receive constitutional protection; and to continue to attract readers and viewers, readers and viewers have to agree that journalism plays an essential role in a democratic society.

Dr Harvey made these remarks during a press conference organized by MISA Namibia on the 23 March 2007, to call for entries for the Fourth MISA Namibia



Awards organizer Ferdinand Tjombe does a presentation at the press conference.

Media Awards.

She notes that some of the latest research shows that the press values its watchdog role more than the public does. "Today some new models are being tested. One is that of 'guide dog.' Can there be a journalism that not only give the people news and information but also helps them do their jobs as citizens? That doesn't just deliver the latest sensationalism, but actually challenges people to get involved, get engaged, and take ownership of problems? That doesn't position them as spectators, but as participants", she states.

Dr. Harvey notes that UNESCO recognizes the importance of empowering people not only with quality information but also with fostering the ability to make sense of the information they get to create knowledge that is inherent in culture, science, education, communication and information.

"Therefore UNESCO is honored to be associated with the awards which are intended to recognize excellence. "

Head of Corporate Communication and Social investment Officer at Bank Windhoek, Helene Badenhorst, whom donated N\$ 31 500 for the media awards, says that by sponsoring the awards, the bank hopes

strengthen their relationship with the media.

Another sponsor for the awards, Shell Namibia, who was represented by External Affairs Officer, Mona-Liza Garises, donated an amount N\$15 000 to MISA Namibia for the awards. Garises says the media has an important role to fulfill, providing factual and responsible information to readers and audiences on issues of relevance to Namibia.



Director of UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Office, Dr. Claudia Harvey delivering her speech at press conference.

"It is in this spirit that we deem ourselves honored to participate in the 2007 Namibia Media Awards as a sponsor of the Tourism/ Environmental Journalist Award," added Garises.

The awards ceremony, which is scheduled to take place on the 30 June 2007, is organized by the Executive Director of the Namibian Strategic Business Communications, Ferdinand Tjombe.

Photo's taken by Victoria Hango

ACCESS TO INFORMATION???

The Deputy Editor in Chief of the Allgemeine Zeitung, Eberhard Hofmann says after the delivery of the annual budget speech, the news media are entitled to their own copy of the budgeted speech and other documents.

Hofmann made these remark in a letter he wrote to the Speaker of the National Assembly on the 23rd March 2007, titled "Unworthy- no-existent –arrangements for the distribution of National Budget documents to the news media".

In the letter, the Editor in Chief says, on Thursday, 15 March 2007, after the delivery of the annual budget by the Minister of Finance, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amathila, the news media were subjected to a totally unacceptable situation, were they were forced to beg for copies of the budget speech, and

were refused.

With regards to the incident, Hoffman made the following proposal, on behalf of the media.

"Assign one official of parliament to control a number of media copies beforehand to be signed for by each a representative of each media house. News is a fast business. It is therefore important and in the interest of the National assembly that those documents are **released immediately after the budget speech.**"

"In the event that the National assembly has no staff to execute such tasks, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should be requested to assign temporary personnel for such task, as was done in some previous years?"

The letter was also forwarded to

the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, the Leader of the Opposition, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Steering Committee of the Namibia Editors Forum, and the National Director of MISA Namibia.

The National Assembly responded in the form of a press release, saying that the responsibility of the National Assembly starts and ends with the distribution of the documents once agreed numbers of copies are received.

National assembly explained that further inquiries had to be addressed to the Ministry of finance and the National Planning commission respectively, who are the authors of these documents.

MEDIA BAROMETER FOR 20 AFRICAN COUNTRIES



Head of the media project at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Peter Schellschmidt, and MISA's Regional Director, Kaitira Kandjii, signing MOU.

The Media Institute of Southern Africa and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on the 28 March 2007, signed an agreement to pave the way for a series of in-country self-assessment exercises on media freedom in Africa. Around 20 African countries will be monitored on how they deal with free, independent, profes-

sional and economically viable media.

At the end a self-assessment exercise will be done by concerned and informed citizens in each country according to a number of general, home-grown criteria. The main areas on which country performances are judged are: * freedom of expression, * diversity, independence and sustainability of media, * independence and transparency of the broadcasting regulation and the transformation of the state broadcaster * and, lastly, professional standards of media practitioners. Speaking at the signing ceremony in Windhoek, Peter Schellschmidt, head of the media project at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, said the African Media Barometer was primarily meant to stimulate and encourage governments and civil

society to work for positive changes where they were needed. He said the analysis after the 2005 and 2006 rounds clearly indicated a lack of credible and independent public broadcasters in most African countries. MISA's Regional Director, Kaitira Kandjii, said the AMB was motivated by the omission of free and independent media as key requirement for good governance in the African Peer Review Mechanism.

"We believe that without a government ensuring the promotion of a free and independent media, which in essence is the promotion of freedom of expression of a free people, good governance is not possible and democracy cannot flourish," he said.

Story by Christof Maletsky (Namibian)
Photo by Martin Buch Larsen



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*Committed to promoting and
advancing media freedom*



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Namibian Chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa, MISA Namibia, calls on all journalists to enter the Fourth Namibia Media Awards to compete for most outstanding journalist of the year! If you are a journalist or writer reading this, that most outstanding journalist could be you!

Why should you enter the media awards? Because these awards recognise, encourage and honour outstanding achievements that contribute to the advancement of the journalism profession. Who would not want to be held and starred upon in that light?

In addition to that, the Namibia media awards also encourage journalist to act as agents of reconciliation and national building, as well as encourage accurate, balanced and fair reporting of Namibian life and issues of importance in the public.

Entrants are required to submit articles of up to five-thousands words, or broadcast as per category requirements, that must have been published or broadcast during the 2006 calendar year.

Entry form, rules and **information** on awards on www.misanamibia.org

The closing date for entries is on the 30 April 2007, while the finalists will be announced on the 14 June 2007. **The MISA Namibia Media Awards Gala event, is scheduled to take place on the 30 June 2007.** Good luck!!!

Marbeline /Goagoses
Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 06 April: Good Friday
- 07 April: World Health Day
- 07 April: International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda
- 08 April: Easter Sunday
- 09 April: Family Day
- 23 April: World Book and Copyright Day
- 25 April: Africa Malaria Day
- 30 April: Closing of Namibia Media Awards Entries

PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM

- **JOURNALISM'S FIRST OBLIGATION IS TO THE TRUTH**
Democracy depends on citizens having reliable, accurate facts put in a meaningful context. This "journalistic truth" is a process that begins with the professional discipline of assembling and verifying facts.
- **ITS FIRST LOYALTY IS TO CITIZENS**
While news organizations answer to many constituencies, including advertisers and shareholders, the journalists in those organizations must maintain allegiance to citizens and the larger public interest above any other if they are to provide the news without fear or favour.
- **ITS ESSENCE IS A DISCIPLINE OF VERIFICATION**
Journalists rely on a professional discipline for verifying information. When the concept of objectivity originally evolved, it did not imply that journalists are free of bias. It called, rather, for a consistent method of testing information--a transparent approach to evidence.
- **ITS PRACTITIONERS MUST MAINTAIN AN INDEPENDENCE FROM THOSE THEY COVER**
Independence is an underlying requirement of journalism, a cornerstone of its reliability. Independence of spirit and mind, rather than neutrality, is the principle journalists must keep in focus.

The Elements of Journalism: PEJ Director Tom Rosenstiel, CCJ Chairman and PEJ Senior Counselor Bill Kovach.

“BOB, YOUR TIME IS UP”

Namibians living in Windhoek, on Friday 16 March, took to the streets to demonstrate against the silence of the Namibian government and the rest of SADC on the deteriorating security situation in Zimbabwe.

After a failed attempt by police to shut down the protesters march, demonstrators where asked to keep a distance of 50 meters from the Zimbabwean Embassy as requested by the Zimbabwean High Commission in Namibia.

Demonstrators carried posters that read, “Stop Bob”, “No Justice No Peace”, “Silence not in our Name”, and “Bob, Your Time is Up.”

On delivering his speech, Regional Director of the Media Institute of Southern Africa, Kaitira Kandjii said, the events that transpired in Zimbabwe spelled a frightening turn in the political development of the entire region, especially in light of the deafening silence of governments and political leaders.

“Does their silence mean they condone the actions of the Zimbabwean government?”



Namibian police guard the gates of the Zimbabwean High Commission



Executive Director of the LAC, Norman Tjombe (middle) with his poster!

We demand clarity and intervention from our governments; intervention aimed to restore the dignity of a people to whom the rest of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has often looked to for guidance and solace in their times of political struggle,” he said.

Speaking on his part, Namibian Society for Human Rights Executive Director, Phil Ya Nangoloh said: “We deplore the deafening silence on the part of our own Namibian Government in the face of the brutal and barbaric physical attacks by the police against human rights defenders and opposition leaders in Zimbabwe,”

He added that the Zimbabwean situation was reminiscent of the systematic abuses that existed under apartheid South Africa, which the Namibian people have been fighting against for some three decades.

“Continuous silence on our Government’s part could reinforce widespread reports that Namibia approves or tolerates the grave human rights, humanitarian and security situation in Zimbabwe,” Ya Nangoloh said.

In a petition, MISA, called upon the SADC Secretariat, international community and SADC citizens to strongly condemn the violence in Zimbabwe and the lack of respect for human rights. MISA also appealed to the media, whether state-owned or independent to vigorously report on the situation in Zimbabwe to break the silence.

Police cordoned off the street leading to the High Commission despite an earlier promise that the demonstrators would be allowed to reach the front door to hand over the petition, and diplomats from that country refused to come out to receive it.



Namibians from all walks of life took to the streets to show their discontent with the situation in Zimbabwe.

The march was organized by the Media Institute of Southern Africa, MISA.

Photo’s were taken by Victoria Hango

GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMS

Gender-insensitive language

Man, mankind

Manpower

Businessman

Cameraman

Chairman

Craftsman

Delivery boy

Policeman

Spokesman

Avoid using 'man' as a generic noun.

The English language tends to use 'man' as a generic known. It is as if men represent the whole human race.

Avoid associating men and women with certain professions.

Gender-sensitive language

People, humanity, human beings,
human race, we, ourselves

Staff, labour, work force, employees

Personnel, workers

Business manager, executive, head of

Firm, agent, representative

Photographer, camera operator

Chairperson, chair

Craftsperson

Messenger

Police Officer; (plural) police

Representative, spokesperson

OCEAN WAVE COMMUNITY RADIO STATION!!!



Facilitator Andre Engelbrecht shows participants how to load their stories on computer!

Unemployed youth and members of a youth organisation in Hentiesbay, about 70 km from Swakopmund, gathered on the 7-8 March 2007, to attend a workshop aimed at transforming them into

radio journalists. Ten participants attended the workshop, however, only five were chosen to be part of the Ocean Wave Community Radio Station, as journalists and presenters. The OWCR station is scheduled to be launched at the end of the year.

The training focused on the importance of community radio, script writing, interviewing, investigative journalism, and presentation.

The participants also did a lot of practical work, such as interviewing community members.

Similar training sessions were also conducted in the towns of Arandis, Swakopmund and Walvisbay.

From these sessions, five participants were also selected in each town. Thus far, there are twenty participants, who will all be taking part in a workshop organized for 29 April to the 3 May.

Engelbrecht appealed for financial assistance for follow-up workshop. MISA Namibia provided funds for workshops held in two of the towns.



Canadian Facilitator Danny Glenwright doing his training on human rights issues!

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY WILL BE CELEBRATED IN SWAKOPMUND ON THE 3 MAY, 2007!

SPEAK YOUR MIND WITH “SAY A WORD”



Poet, Actor and Writer, Macaba Hendricks shares his passion for poetry.

Have you ever dreamt of being in the limelight? Written hundreds of poems and stashed them away in a deep corner in your cupboard? Well, dust off those poems and get ready to speak your mind with Say a Word!

The Say A Word Platform, was started in 2002 in the North Eastern parts of Namibia by Project Chairperson and initiator of the Say A Word Platform, Macaba Hendricks. Hendricks explains that the Say A Word Platform project is a program that targets people who can perform on stage, do music, comedy, drama, lyrics, poetry, as well as story telling, with the aim to educate.

Hendricks relates that when he started the project he did poetry on radio for listeners, but now he says, he wants to make it a personal experience, through live shows.

The Say A Word project, currently consists of 20 members who meet twice a month to find interesting ways to make the project more exciting and inviting to the youth. Hendricks therefore encourages youth

from across the country to join the Say A Word Platform.

There is one problem though. Hendricks explains that whenever Say A Word wants to have a session, they make use of the Multi-purpose center in Windhoek.

“Although there is nothing wrong with the center, the group is growing and there is a pressing need for a bigger place to meet – like a big hall.

We would really appreciate if people could make this facility available to us.”

Hendricks also appeals to people, both in the private and public sectors, to sponsor Say A Word with two loud speakers, four cordless microphones, two tape recorders, empty tapes and compact discs, cameras, film rolls, a computer set or, laptops and radios.

“If the show gains a stable reputation, with all equipments in place, it will take place three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at different sponsored venues from six until the words dry up”, he adds.

Some of the objectives of Say A Word Platform is to exchange knowledge of education for all.

In addition the project also aims to provide a platform to a diversity of people to express their views and feelings.

Hendricks notes that people will also be able to share information with the audience that will bring about positive change in their living conditions.

The poet encourages people to think positively and to bring about debating on important social issues that affect the country.

How is life

Your days of living shall become long. Especially when the season turns cold

How hypocritical yet vital. There is no hearing or any justice

No lawyer, judge or an interpreter. Creditable Advisors are not availed

In the frankness come a simple question, what is the problem with everything?

Where is the judge president? Don't know, cries the chested heart

So, who then can preside over this case? Ask the brain while guarding the head

The Oracle, a wise person must be consulted. Might only be able to give reliable guidance

Dear friends, some times life is hellish nonsense. Whatever you this is free, is already owned

Everyone declares problem, their problems. And choose to forget to play their part

Be always in your words not on your words. After all, everyone will stand trail from above

-Macaba Hendricks-



Hendricks Macaba says he loves his job!

Photo's taken by Victoria Hango