

## World Press Freedom Day 2021 – The Sidelines

**26 April to 03 May 2021 & 27 and 28 May**

*Claudia Gossow, Programme Manager KAS*

*Josaphat Tjiho, VP - ISOC Namibia*

*Nashilongo Gervasius Managing Consultant, NamTshuwe Digital*



30 YEARS OF THE WINDHOEK DECLARATION

**WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY  
THE SIDELINES**

26 April - 03 May 2021

**PROJECT:**

- » **Journalists Digital Narrative 26 April - 03 May (Online)**
- » **Public Lecture: Taking stock of the impact of digitisation on the Namibian media landscape**  
28 April (09h00 - 10h30, Roof of Africa Hotel)
- » **Journalists Panel Discussion: Media Ethics in the Digitalised World**  
28 April (11h00 - 13h00, Roof of Africa Hotel)

**INFORMATION  
AS A PUBLIC GOOD**

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2021 | 3 MAY

#WorldPressFreedomDay #WPF2021

Internet Society Namibia Chapter | KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG | namTshuweDigital | facebook | NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | NAMIBIA MEDIA PROFESSIONALS UNION | Informanté

### Background:

On May 3rd 2021, the media industry globally joined the host country Namibia to celebrate World Press Freedom Day 2021, which coincided with the 30th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration - well known for paving ways for free speech, media freedom and media pluralism in Africa and the world.

In celebrating world press freedom day, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and UNESCO Global and local offices have led celebrations by hosting a number of events prior, during and after the global commemorations.

Collaborated event designed by NamTshuwe Digital with support from the Internet Society Namibia Chapter, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia Media Professionals Union and supported by media partner Informante Newspaper and with financial support, training and visibility materials as well as various publications of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Namibia-Angola and Facebook took place with the following events:

- A Journalist Digital Narrative
- A Public Lecture titled "Taking stock of the impact of digitisation on the Namibian media landscape"
- A Journalist Panel Discussion themed "Media Ethics in the Digitalised world"

- A Digital Rights & Online Safety Training for Journalists

The partners' events and activities complimented the global event held by UNESCO and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. The partner events have focused on overarching themes related to all institutions work areas which are;

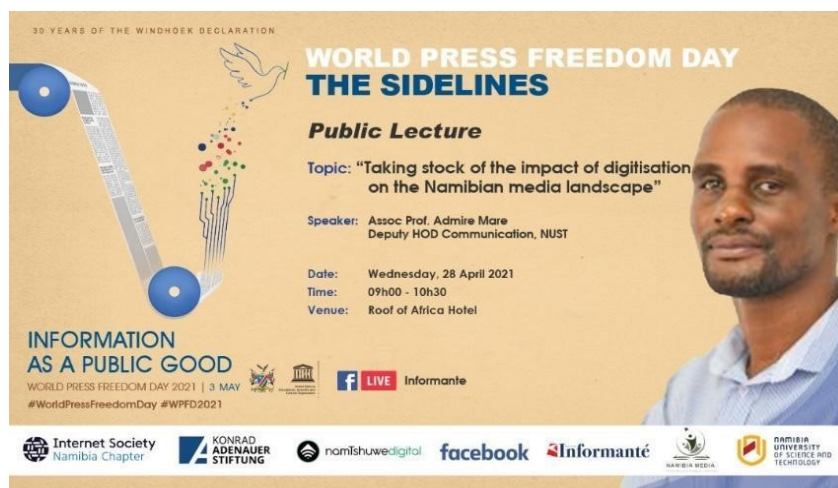
- Privacy and Safety of Journalists online
- Ethics and news Integrity in the digital age
- Misinformation and Disinformation
- Impact of Digitisation on media sustainability

### **The Journalist Digital Narrative of Media Freedom In Namibia**

- Featured 12 Journalists (volunteered)
- Social media based
- Took place from 30th April to 4th May 2021

The journalist digital narrative on media freedom in Namibia was an online-based campaign featuring twelve (12) journalists who volunteered to share their views and opinion focusing on the overall theme of the 2021 World Press Freedom Day "Information as a Public Good".

The online campaign took place from 30th April to 4th May 2021 on partners' social media pages with the aim to give Journalists views and perspectives on issues which concern their operations while also creating awareness and visibility of World Press Freedom Day.



The twelve journalists represented 6 media entities and captured personal views on five (5) key questions that align to the collective thematic areas of the event. The questions were:

- Why does the integrity of information matter in a democracy?
- What has the Windhoek Declaration heralded for the Media industry?
- To what extent are "Press Freedom and Media Pluralism", important aspects of democracy?
- What are the key steps in guaranteeing information for the public good?
- What are the biggest threats to media freedom today and how can that be dealt with?

## **Public Lecture- "Taking stock of the impact of Digitisation on the Namibian Landscape"**

- Delivered by Prof Admire Mare, Associate Professor at NUST and Acting HOD of Media and Communication Technology
- Moderated by Hilde Basson-Namudjembo, media personality & businesswoman
- 23 participants in person attendance and many others online

The public lecture took place on the 28th of April 2021 at Roof of Africa, Hotel in Windhoek under the title "Taking stock of the impact of digitisation on the Namibian landscape". The lecture took place through two means of participation, which are in person attendance and participation through live streaming through the Informante's Facebook page that has a fellowship of more than 700 000 followers.

In his opening statement Prof Mare praised Namibia for maintaining the number one (1) position in Africa on the World Press Freedom Index, which he credited to be a sign of the media that is not working in an environment that is not constricted. He also highlighted the changing wheels of the media landscape where the news gathering process, the news business model and media ethics amongst others have changed. Prof Mare lecture outlined the following issues:

- Journalism at Crossroads
- The Disruptive Digital Media Ecology
- The Namibian Media Context
- Circuit of Culture
- The Disruptive Digital Media Ecology
- Responses to the Digital Headwinds in Namibia
- Recommendations
- Concluding Remarks

Prof Mare highlighted that journalism is at the cross road where journalism has significantly changed and requires a different approach and solutions to exist. Prof Mare made an example on the SABC scenario where over 600 journalists lost their jobs in 2020-2021 and also highlighted the revenue crisis facing public service broadcasting as well as the traditional news. To him, this crisis requires a different approach and mind shift accordingly.



*Figure 1: Prof Admire Mare, Lecturer presenting his lecture titled "Taking stock of the impact of Digitisation on the Namibian Landscape"*

"There is a fractured media landscape where information does not only rely on primary or traditional media but digital platforms and social media platforms have also dominated the media landscape," He noted.

On the Namibian Media Landscape, Prof Mare summed up the Namibia media landscape as a "crowded and competitive market-shrinking advertising space" where many advertisers opt to advertise their content on their own media platforms as opposed to the normal norms, which has consequently affected the media industry in Namibia. He highlighted that COVID-19 has also played a role in gaining trust from the general people as they have started to rely on traditional media for accurate information, adding however that the low internet penetration in Namibia which currently stand at 52.1% according to the Internet World Stats of December 2020, means that 48% of the population is yet to get online. Prof Mare also highlighted other key issues affecting the Namibia media landscape such as:

1. Reading culture
2. News consumption patterns and habits
3. Advertising agencies
4. Over Reliance on social media bundles
5. Little appetite to pay for online content
6. Online add which are not lucrative as offline

Prof Mare also posited the three (3) aspects that have affected the Namibia media industries in the last five (5) years. Which according to him are economic recession, digital disruption and Covid-19.

On the **Circuit of Culture**:

Prof Mare highlighted the different stages of news under this component by starting with

- **Production:** where the news content production has been disrupted, as everyone has now become content creator from blogging to online content creation.
- **Consumption:** indicating that young people prefer getting their information online and have shorter attention spans as opposed to the older generation that opt for traditional media making their new consumption to be fast and easy to digest.
- **Distribution:** highlighted that there is a shift from analogue to digital online content and this is what younger generations are also interested in.
- **Business Model:** The old business model is broken with new ways of revenue generation now existing.
- **Regulation:** Where people are calling for regulations of platform companies as well as fair distribution of online advertising revenue.

Prof Mare also argued that there is no digital media strategy in the country and there is a lot of copy and paste of content from the global north. He emphasised on the need to think outside the box or like there is no box at all as the context is different all over the world and there is a need to respond to own contextual issues. Mare hence highlighted some of his key recommendations as follows:

- A need to re-visit and change the current business model and to think creatively and innovatively.
- The need to amend the current out-dated varsity curriculum as well as an allocation of a temporary media relief fund.
- a need to know media stakeholders as well as think of the “Australian way

In his concluding remarks, Prof Mare highlighted that digital disruption and COVID-19 has escalated the issue of media sustainability and there is the need to fix the current media business model. The issue of ‘casualization’ and ‘juniorisation’ of the newsroom might not save the journalism sector and might create a lot of confusion on media information.

In his final statement, Prof Mare alluded to the fact that “journalism will not die as it is the oxygen of democracy”, however reminded that journalism will continue to be disrupted. “The future is going to be hybrid and fluid” he concluded.

30 YEARS OF THE WINDHOEK DECLARATION




# WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY THE SIDELINES

**Panel Discussion**


Topic: Media Ethics in a digitalised world

Date: Wednesday, 28 April 2021  
Time: 10h30 - 13h00  
Venue: Roof of Africa Hotel

**PANELISTS**

-  Gwen Under  
Veteran Journalist
-  Dr Clayton Peet
-  Tsvangirai Maswai  
Freelance Journalist
-  Mufson Hanziku

**MODERATOR**

-  Hilda Basson  
Media Personality

**INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC GOOD**  
WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2021 | 3 MAY  
#WorldPressFreedomDay #WPF2021

### **Event 3: Journalist Panel Discussion: Media Ethics in a Digitalised World**

- Date: 28th April 2021
- Panellists were:
  - Gwen Lister, veteran Journalist and former Editor of the Namibian Newspaper
  - Tiri Masawi, Freelance Journalist
  - Dr Clayton Peel, Media Lecturer at NUST
  - Mathias Haufiku, Freelance Journalist
- Moderated by: Hilda Basson-Namundjebo
- Number of participants: 23

The panel discussion was titled "Media Ethics in a Digitalised World " and consisted of different journalists and practitioners from different media houses. The panel engaged in-depth on various topics and interrogated current ethical challenges faced by the Namibian journalism industry.

- The conversation opened with definitions or constitution of media ethics, to which prominent Namibian journalist and Editor **Gwen Lister** responded by defining ethics as morals and principles of right and wrong. She highlighted that in the media and journalism, ethics are standards that guard against things such as plagiarising someone else's content. She also highlighted media development from the traditional media to the Internet, and how that transition has come with its advantages and disadvantages for the media industry.
- **Dr Peel** emphasised on the absence of learning standards with regards to the information dissemination in the new media.
- **Masawi** pointed out that the development of social media as being both a curse and a blessing at the same time. A blessing in the sense of information being disseminated faster to the end user, and a curse in a sense that people are able to share anything they feel on social media, without any worry or being sensitive to sharing sensitive content.
- **Haifiku** spoke on the absence of reporting taking a step back and the absence of reporting certain stories and topics. He also spoke of the law as a set of rules that need to be abided by, whereas ethics has some component that is adhered to.
- On the question of the conventional rules of media ethics to being applied in the digital space, **Gwen** raised a question of the extent of journalists responsibility to verify social media content, saying that there are rights to expression of information and sharing, however there is a need to interlink and make sure that these rights do not overpower other rights such as the right to privacy.
- **Gwen** also spoke on the quality of journalism, highlighting that the 2019 Afrobarometer reported a decline in the trust of journalism by Africans, and thereafter engaged on the root causes of this lack of trust.
- **Dr Peel** addressed the issue of the curriculum on journalism at varsity level and the gaps between the academic journalism and industry journalism expectations. He also highlighted the need for the curriculum to get reviewed every four to five years, based on the regulatory requirements. He also emphasised on infusing passion in the journalism sector in order to promote good journalism.
- A further engagement point raised was on the quality of journalists employed, noting that there seems to be a trend focussing on the recruitment of interns over qualified journalists, as the interns seem to be happy with low wages, given the lack of funds in the industry due to a drop in advertising.
- To this point, **Masawi** argued that experience and quality can never be replaced and that keeping experienced journalists creates credibility in that specific media house. He also spoke on the need for media literacy where ordinary citizens need to be critical thinkers, and people that are not blind, but know what they want and what they will believe in.

The discussion also highlighted the knowledge and awareness of the media code of ethics and conduct, which was developed by the Office of the Media Ombudsman, and alerted journalists to be familiar with and use it.



Figure 2: FLTR - Gwen Lister, Mathias Haufiku, Dr Clayton Peel, Tiri Masawi discussing “Ethics in Journalism”

The panel also highlighted the following challenges that they feel hinders good journalism:

- Lack of reading culture amongst journalists.
- A need for varsity to teach from a “jack of all trades and master of none” approach
- A need to strengthen the usage of the Office of the Media Ombudsman before running to courts and other adjudication avenues.

In the closing remarks, the panellists emphasised the need to relook the media business model to create sustainability of the media industry as well as the need to look into the online platforms available, for building capacity and knowledge in journalisms as well as making use of experienced journalists. “Journalists are products of their own society and there is a need to look back at the role of the journalist and good journalism”, the panelists concluded.



Figure 3: Participants of the Journalists Training on Digital Rights and Online Safety Training, on the 1st day of Training.

## **Journalist Training on Digital Rights and Safety Online**

The Speakers for the training were:

- Djaffar Moussa-Elkhadhum - Head: UNESCO Namibia
- Mrs Natalie Russman- Resident Representative, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. Namibia-Angola
- Hon. Emma Theophilus (MP), Deputy Minister of ICT

The event trainers, were:

- Panduleni Nghipandulwa , Consultant via KAS
- Nashilongo Gervasius , Executive Director at NamTshuwe Digital
- Dr Hu Xianhong, Programme Specialist, UNESCO
- Nomonde Nonxepa, Head of Public Policy, Facebook Southern Region
- Jocelyne Muhutu-Remy, Strategic Partner Manager-Media Partnership, Facebook
- Dr Attlee Gamundani , Senior Lecturer at NUST
- Dr Philip Santos, Senior Lecturer at NUST
- Prof Admire Mare, HOD at NUST Media Technology Department
- Frederico Links, Editor Fact Check Namibia
- Number of participants: 27

### **Lead facilitator: Prof Admire Mare, Associate Professor & Acting HOD Communication, NUST**

Prof Mare opened the training by outlining the aim of the training and the expected outcomes.

In his opening remarks, Prof Mare thanked the invited guests, organizers as well as journalists, for making time for the training. Mare emphasized the importance of capacitating journalists, especially in this evolving digital era as well as encouraging journalists to do more reporting on science and technology matters. Concluding his welcoming remarks, Prof Mare called on the journalists to build knowledge in fact checking.

### **Mrs Natalie Russman's- Resident Representative, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. Namibia-Angola**



*Figure 4: Mrs Natalie Russmann, Country Representative KAS Namibia-Angola*

Mrs Russmann, too, thanked the invited guests and applauded Namibia for successfully hosting the 2021 World Press Freedom Day, and for commemorating the 30+ Windhoek Declarations. Mrs Russmann also congratulated Namibia for maintaining the number one position in press freedom in Africa and 24th position in the world, respectively.

Mrs Russmann spoke on the journey of accessing news from the normal newspaper, leading to digital devices. She has also highlighted her own experience with internet connectivity in the country, especially the northern part of the country. Mrs Russmann spoke on the importance of technology and how it has impacted the way people communicate and depend on the internet. However, she also noted some of the side effects of the new technology, especially on restriction on the freedom of the press, misinformation as well as cyber-attacks amongst others.

In her conclusion, Mrs Russmann emphasized on the importance of protecting freedom of the press and keeping the internet a safe space, she also spoke on the connection between the training and KAS, and how KAS plan to build on this training in their other endeavours.

### Mr. Djaffar Mousa-Elkhadum- Head of UNESCO

Moussa-Elkhadum observed all protocol during his short remarks delivery. Moussa-Elkhadum also reflected back on the World Press Freedom Day celebration, which was celebrated in about 194 countries around the world, as well as the 30th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration. Moussa-Elkhadum spoke on the coloration of the Windhoek declaration and how it has played a key role in press freedom, as it builds on commitment to a pluralistic press. There is also recognition that digitalization has also added new obstacles to press freedom, especially on aspects of fake news, disinformation and other online attacks.

Mr Moussa-Elkhadum also highlighted the discussions at the world press freedom day events, which deliberated on three imperative for this ecosystem, namely: 1. Steps to ensure the economic viability of news media, 2. Mechanism for ensuring transparency of internet companies and 3. Enhance media and information literacy capacities.

Moussa-Elkhadum also emphasised on the rise of journalist attacks and harassment since 2015. In his concluding remarks, Moussa-Elkhadum also touched on some of the outcome on the survey which UNESCO conducted in 2020, on journalist and safety, as well as the recommendations that came from the survey. Lastly, Moussa-Elkhadum emphasised on the need to commit to the Windhoek Declaration and its future, and that he trusts that journalists will take ownership of the Windhoek Declaration and its future.

When asked about their expectations, the participants responded as follows:



Figure 5: Visual Indication of the participants expectations of the training

- Presenting the first session of the actual training was **Panduleni Nghipandulwa**, an independent consultant under NID, who spoke on **“Democracy in a digital landscape”**. The



session focused on 1. What is digital democracy? 2. How Technology Helps Democracy, 3. Digital democracy in action, 4. The dangers of fake news, and, 5. Promoting Civic Engagement through Digital Platforms. The interactive presentation narrated the importance of digital democracy and how technology, even with its pros and cons has been contributing to democracy, highlighted that the internet has become the platform for civic engagement, even in Namibia. Nghipandulwa also discussed the different types of fake news and how they pose a danger to democracy. In his conclusion, he highlighted the importance of civic engagement and the role it plays, especially in the digital space.

- **Nashilongo Gervasius**, Managing Consultant at NamTshuwe Digital, presented her first session titled **"Internet Ecosystem, Players & Policy Processes"**. In this session Gervasius covered five main issues, namely, 1. Digital connectivity data, 2. Ecosystem, 3. ICT Policy History, 4. Challenges with Policy implementation and 5. Growth and opportunities. Through her presentation, Gervasius took the participants through the statistics of internet users on the continent, as well as Namibia, where she highlighted the timeline of internet development in the country, to the current statistics and painting the picture of policy existence and development in the country, as well and how these function within the global policy landscape and governance. She also painted the picture of internet activities through the "This is what Happens on the Internet every minute" an annual depiction of E-Discovery today. In regards to the ecosystem, Gervasius provided insight on all players and layers of the internet from policy to infrastructure and also highlighted the current challenges facing internet development, ranging from infrastructural challenges to digital skills. Gervasius also highlighted the internet governance processes as key, where users, including the public and journalists, have an opportunity to shape policy.
- **Session 4** of the day was presented by **Dr Hu Xianpong**, Head of Programs at UNESCO, who presented on the **"Internet Universality ROAM Principles and Indicators (IUIs)"**. In setting off her session, Dr Xianpong began by presenting the results of the 38th UNESCO General Conference that agreed that the Internet should operate in a way that is: 1. Human Rights-based, 2. Open, 3. Accessible to all and, 4. Nurtured by Multistakeholder participation. In detailing the ROAM principles, Dr Xianpong informed the participants of this 303 indicators across 33 themes framework that 21 countries have so far taken part in a national voluntary assessment, which of late, has gone on to include Artificial Intelligence. Dr Xianpong specified that the AI Governance review, in particular, features cross-cutting issues such as Gender in AI and Africa amongst others. Dr Xianpong left a call that Namibia could take the voluntary national ROAM assessment.
- **Session 5** of the training was titled **"Digital Rights 101"**, and was presented on behalf of the Internet Society by Nashilongo Gervasius, who laid the foundation of Human Rights online and what this means in journalism. In addition, Gervasius also highlighted why Digital Rights matter, within the context of Data Privacy, surveillance and interceptions and within the context of freedom of expression and association as well as opinion and association. Through providing details, Gervasius provided a detailed status of where Namibia lies in regards to Digital Rights from a policy perspective, and highlighted key concerns by policy blinds that currently exist. In conclusion, Gervasius also highlighted strategies for journalists to protect themselves, as well as possible win-win scenarios from a rights perspective between state actors and journalists and human rights activists.
- **Session 6**: Prof Admire Mare -Acting Head of Media Technology Department at NUST presented a session on **"Digital Security Toolkit for Journalists in Namibia"**. This presentation has outlined, Risk Assessment, Digital Security and towards a comprehensive toolkit for journalists. In this presentation, Prof Mare engaged the journalists through a quiz developed by Google on digital security, from which he highlighted the importance of protecting oneself online and the consequences arising from NOT protecting oneself online. Prof Mare highlighted the role that Social media plays in digital security and urged participants to use strong security to protect information that one gives away freely online. He further emphasised on the Do's and Don'ts of protecting oneself online against potential hackers and human traffickers amongst others. In sharing these tips, he added that amongst the dos includes utilizing two factors authentication, encrypting data as well as getting a virtual private network on which to share information. While the don'ts included reusing passwords across services and not treating all data the same. In his conclusion to the journalist specifically, Prof Mare highlighted and spoke on the importance of:

1. Preventing your data from being used against you.
  2. Building trust online.
  3. Protecting your sources.
  4. Protecting your reputation
- **Session 7: Nomonde Gongxeka-Seopa**, Head of Public Policy, Facebook and Southern Africa Region spoke on **“Facebook Safety for Journalists”**. Her presentation touched on: Facebook safety approach, Community standards, Tools to safeguard sensitive information as well as Safety resources for Journalists. Amongst many of Facebook tools and resources, Gongxeka-Seopa spoke on policies used by Facebook, where she highlighted aspects such as “direct threats, bullying/harassments, sexual violence, child exploitations, fake accounts, identity theft, hacked accounts and hate speech amongst others” being some of the issues that their policy governs. Additionally, Gongxeka-Seopa also spoke of the tools used by Facebook such as: Security Tools (for protecting one account), Profile Privacy Tools (which touched on protecting one privacy and visibility online), Safety Tools (for reporting or blocking people from your accounts), and finally, Tools for facebook pages. Gongxeka-Seopa also spoke on measures to prevent harassment online as well as how to protect one’s Facebook Messenger and Whatsapp communications. Gongxeka-Seopa also spoke on the **“Facebook Journalism Support Programs & the Facebook Accessibility Program for Journalists”**. The presentation touched on the support rendered by facebook to journalists, as well as highlighted opportunities for growth and entrepreneurship for journalists. In her presentation, Gongxeka-Seopa spoke about Facebook’s (automatic photo description technology) innovation that assists people who are visually impaired as well as Automatically Generated Captioning to assist deaf people. Seopa also spoke about the facebook accessibility developments in sub-Saharan Africa where she touched on the support given by facebook to the 2020 **Inclusive Africa Conference**, as well as the commemoration of the 2021 **Global Accessibility Awareness Day** of which facebook partnered up with **inABLE** to host a roundtable discussion. In her conclusion Jocelyne opened the floor for questions and answers and this session closed the day. In conclusion, Gongxeka-Seopa unveils resources offered by Facebook on safety tips for journalists.
  - **Session 8: Dr Attlee Gamundani**, Senior lecturer at the Namibia University of Science and Technology Faculty of Computing and Informatics, presented a session on **“Practical Digital Security for Journalists”** which outlined the following areas:
    1. The State of Tech
    2. Digital Security
    3. The Right Mix
    4. Digital Skills Development Philosophies
    5. Digital Security Tips
    6. Digital Security Tools and ended with Hands on Exercises

Dr Gamundani’s presentation began with a foundation of technology and its various uses; and then proceeded to highlight Digital Security issues, placing emphasis on ensuring a digital footprint, that reflect to the brand of the individual from safety and interactions on mobile devices, on social media platforms, safety through emails, online behaviours and digital deluge. In providing insight on the Digital pace, Dr. Gamundani introduced participants to the right mix in dealing with the evolving threats in the digital landscape, which amongst others demands for continuous development of skills. Dr. Gamundani took the participants through the loops of controlling their presence online, by investing in self-learning and self-development. “The constant changing of the digital space requires learning, unlearning and relearning” Dr. Gamundani advised. In presenting the digital skills development philosophies, Dr. Gamundani shared step by step ways of keeping oneself safe online, which raised a lot of interest in the room.
  - **Session 9: Jocelyne Muhutu-Remy**, Strategic Partner Manager-Media Partnership at Facebook, rounded off day 1 of the training. Her session provided Facebook’s work on supporting the journalism trade globally while also highlighting opportunities for growth and entrepreneurship for the journalists. In more details Muhutu – Remy started off by laying a foundation of the Facebook Journalism Project which the Platform has partnered with Reuters to provide training on Digital Journalism. This is open for all interested to participate. She also introduced the

participants to the Facebook “Instant articles” that allows journalists to get paid immediately for the work they publish online as one of their initiatives in Innovations in Journalism. In conclusion Muhutu Remy also laid down Facebook’s monetization strategy for journalists and media content projects that she hopes to be available in Africa soon.

### End of the Day Review

When asked to provide a review of the previous day’s training, participants’ responses regarding what stood out the most for them is depicted in the graph below.

### Recap of Day 1 - Interests

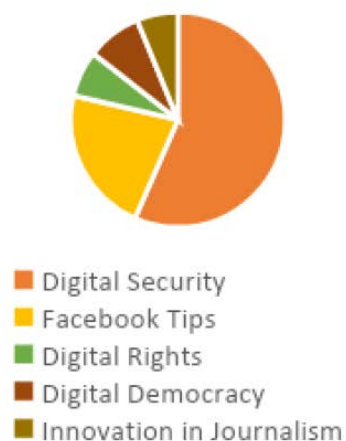


Figure 6: Visual depiction of what was of most interests to participants on the first day of training.

Briefly, participants enjoyed the sessions presented by the Facebook team on reporting and blocking online, instant articles as well as the Facebook monetisation strategy. In addition, the biggest hit of the first day’s training was the practical skills on securing oneself online.

- **Prof. Admire Mare**, the Acting Head of Department at NUST, also took on the topic of “**Innovation in the Media**” starting by painting a picture of a need for media disruption globally as well as locally, and highlighting emerging opportunities, for, especially journalism graduates, to pursue entrepreneurial media start-ups. In detail, he explained the concept of innovation in journalism and laid down a timeline of the innovation hype in journalism, and also narrated the changes of media landscape and media consumption trends. Prof. Mare also highlighted the challenges of the world media dominance, by specifically Google and Facebook, where ad-based content is prioritised by the platforms.  
In sharing case studies of Innovations in Journalism in Africa, Prof. Mare started with CITE, a media innovation platform from Zimbabwe, unWrap a media innovation from Namibia and Ground Up from South Africa. He also shared the increasing number of WhatsApp platforms as news outlets, and detailed the business model thereof. He also shared other examples of how community reporters are coming together to create news. In addressing the issue of monetisation of media start-ups, Prof. Mare indicated membership and affiliations to more established platforms as a means of income. In conclusion, Prof. Mare advised the journalists to adapt or sink, as the media landscape changes are not slowing down and disruptive innovations in journalism seems to be the way.
- **Frederico Links**, The Editor of Namibia Fact-Check presented on “**Fact Checking in Journalism**” on which he began to explain the project is an IPPR project and funded through local donors such as the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) and DW Akademie; and illustrated the organisation’s affiliations in the Southern African Region and beyond. Speaking about fact-

checking, Links painted the picture of the need which gave birth to fact-checking and how the practice originated globally and its presence on the African continent. Of note, Links emphasised on the role of fact-checking news in a global infodemic, brought about by digitalisation and social media in particular.

- **Dr Philip Santos**, a Media and Communications Lecturer at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, took on the last session of Science Journalism. Dr. Santos' presentation began with the definition of science, especially in journalism, and how science is largely imagined in terms of European modernity. The presentation also touched on the blind spots in reporting science, where Dr. Santos highlighted some key factors that lead to blind spot in reporting science, namely:
  - News Values
  - Tight deadlines
  - Jargon and clarity- on the news being reported
  - Ethics amongst the other issues

Dr. Santos also highlighted other factors which play a role blind spotting in reporting science, with some examples referencing to the current Covid19 pandemic, especially on the political economy of science as well as the social justice of science, with regards to some of the diseases and why certain communities are prone to such diseases more than the others. In conclusion, Dr. Santos spoke on how misinformation, disinformation and information overload contribute to blind spot of reporting science news. Dr. Santos concluded his session with tips on reporting science.

- The training was officially closed by **Hon. Emma Theofelus (MP), Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology ICT**, who congratulated the working group, for hosting the successful training for journalists on digital rights and online safety and touched on the training being ideal for taking to other parts of the country, in order to raise awareness on digital rights. Hon. Theofelus made an example of how Covid19 came with a lot of mis/disinformation, which had an impact on lives that could be saved. The Deputy Minister also spoke on the assurance from the government on the freedom of expression, as it is highlighted in the constitution of the country. She further urged the organisers to continue with the good work and further safeguard democracy and principle of humanity amongst others.

## Conclusion

Overall, the event has met the goals and the expectations of the training which was to raise awareness about human rights online and empower journalists with safety tips on how to protect themselves. A participant specifically said "Digital Security session stood out for me. Accepting TCs. There is so much I don't know about the digital space." Participants were also successfully introduced to the Facebook safety tips and tools as well as new means of doing journalism especially on the Facebook platform. Almost all participants felt that "most information was new and it looks like there is still so much to learn".

Amongst others, the journalists said "the training was mind opening" the fact-checking component was necessary from the process itself to "emails and websites". One journalist said "innovation training was necessary, since attitudes are changing constantly and so is media consumption" and one participant added "everything learned here is unique – much of the content was foreign to me". The participants also made a variety of suggestions that are important for programming such as venue, content and duration.

The partners event enjoyed support from the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology through cross sharing the side events through their various social media platforms which showed the true extent of joint effort in making the WPF 2021 a success.



*Figure 7: Participants for the Digital Rights and Online Safety Training pictured with some of the facilitators and Hon Emma Theophelus at the closing of the event.*