

## Which media whistleblowing mechanisms exist?

In this article, we focus on the media industry in Namibia.

There is a saying: if you do not read, you are uninformed, if you do read, you are misinformed. The latter situation contain some truth, especially in countries where the print media is under strong regulatory control by government. In order to prevent such situations, the media need to regulate itself.

If you are dissatisfied with incorrect and subjective reporting by the respective print media (e.g. newspapers and magazines), radio, television and other media, you can report it to the media institution. If they do not rectify and apologise for the oversight, you can report your issue to the Media Ombudsman that has been created together with a Media Complaints Committee and an Appeals Chairperson.

These mechanisms have been created by the Editor' Forum of Namibia, a voluntary association which established a self-regulatory process in respect of grievances and complaints by members of the public against members of the media. The said Forum encourages investigative journalism that is of critical importance for developing informed readers who verify information, think critically, and engage in public debate for improving society.

### **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

If you experience a violation of free expression, report your issue to the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Chapter Windhoek.

The right to express oneself is a



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fundamental human right outlined in International Law that governments and individuals tend to abuse for political, business and/or personal interest.

MISA is the watchdog of media freedom and freedom of expression.

Technical issues about electronic communication services (which include broadcasting and telecommunications), and communication by postal services, can be taken up with the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).

Given the context of whistleblowing mechanisms as discussed to protect the public against exploitation by the media, Namibia is one of the countries with an excellent track record of media freedom, freedom of expression and media self-regulation. Indications by Government to create a Government controlled whistleblowing mechanism in the form of a media regulator to protect the public against subjective and incorrect reporting does not augur well with media freedom and freedom of expression.

### **REFERENCES**

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*The Republicain 20 May 2016*