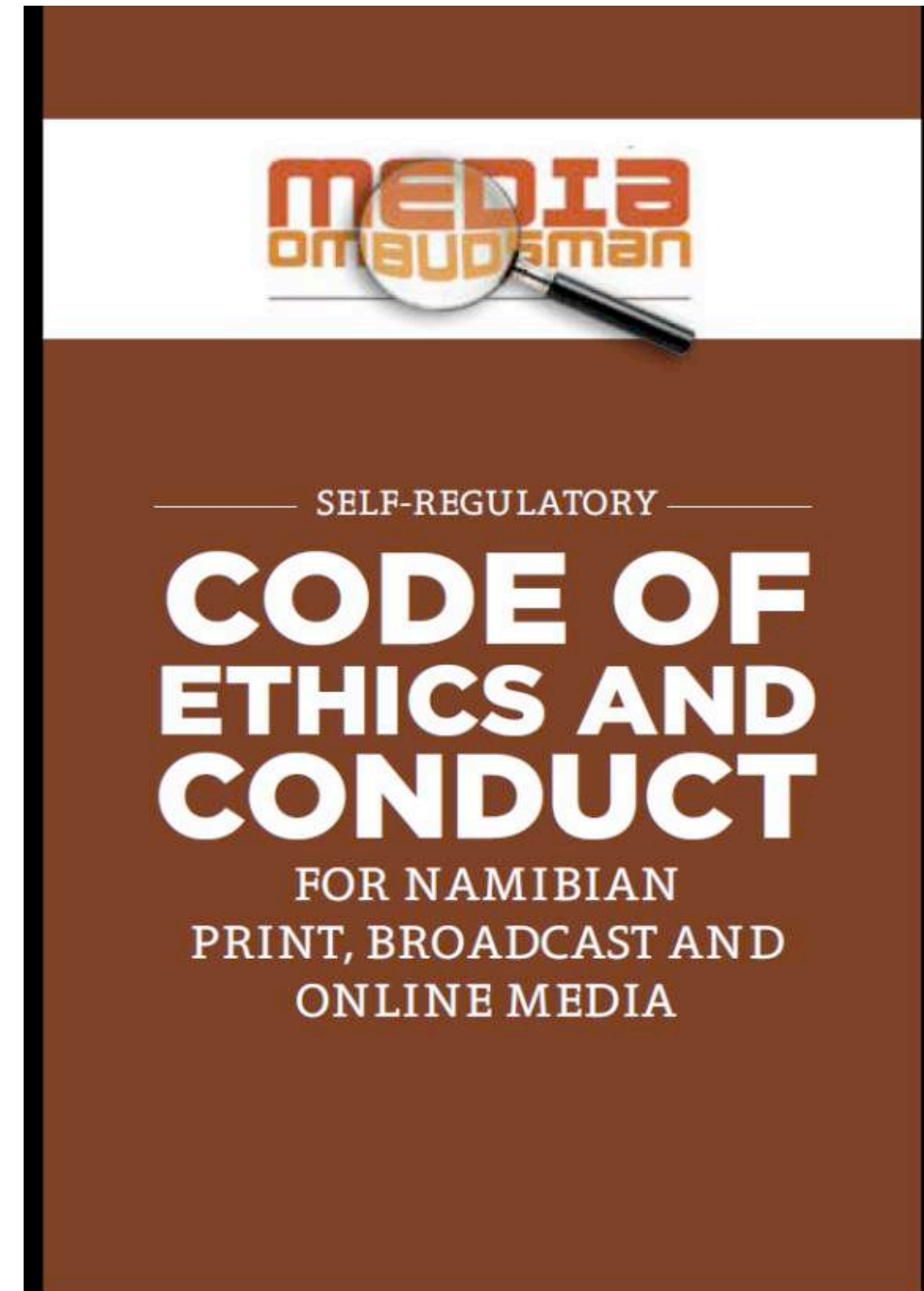


Upholding Journalistic Standards

- ☐ To ensure accountability & adherence to ethical journalism standards in Namibia.
- ☐ The Code provides a structured path for addressing public complaints.
- ☐ Despite capacity challenges the framework for resolution remains vital
- ☐ **The adjudication process:**
 - ✓ Complaint Lodging & Eligibility
 - ✓ Initial Assessment & Acknowledgment
 - ✓ Referral to Media House
 - ✓ Adjudication (MOM or MCC)
 - ✓ Finding and Formal Ruling
 - ✓ Appeal
 - ✓ Publication of Ruling
- ☐ Judicial Review



Media scrutiny - A necessary irritation

- ❑ High levels media freedom
- ❑ Not benevolence though!
- ❑ Fundamental right and freedom
(Art. 21(1)(a)), Namibian Constitution
- ❑ Per Justice Uiteitele:

“[...] public and media scrutiny of the exercise of political and economic power is essential for the promotion of the values of democracy, development and human rights [...] – NBC v The Media Ombudsman, Mr John Nakuta case, par.25.



Adjudication Statistics

CATEGORY	AVER. STATISTIC
Number of Media Complaints	3 per/ month = 94 months×3 complaints/month=282 complaints
Profile of Complainants	Across the spectrum i.e. The Presidency, judiciary, ministries, politicians, SOEs, general public, TAs; FBOs; NGOs, etc.
Types of Complaints	Truthfulness, accuracy , bias, fairness, right to reply; sensational reporting (headlines);
Media Houses against lodged (EFN members)	90% against The Namibian; Followed by The Namibian Sun
Lodged against non-EFN members	Mostly against Informante
Total Rulings by Media Ombudsman	90%
Total Rulings by Media Complaints Committee	3
The number of Appeals	3
Compliance Rate	99.9%
Number of cases taken on Judicial Review	1

Funding Media Self-Regulations

❑ Per Justice Ueitele:

“[...] the Media Ombudsman, the Complaints Committee and the Appeals Committee, though a private voluntary association, [...] discharge public functions.” – NBC v The Media Ombudsman, Mr John Nakuta case, par.27.

❑ Calls for serious **introspection**

❑ Going beyond rhetoric i.e.:

i) **Legislative recognition** of media self-regulation (The German Good Practice)

ii) The National Budget to provide for a **budget vote** for media self-regulation (social contracting)

iii) Private sector to incorporate media self-regulation into their **CSR**

❑ My Call for Action:

"Ending Dependency: Funding Media Freedom from Within."

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT



FINAL REPORT ON MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE 2024

PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS



WATCHING THE WATCHDOGS: MEDIA COVERAGE AND ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN NAMIBIA'S 2024 ELECTIONS

Data gathered by: Namibia Media Monitoring

Authored by: Christie Keulder

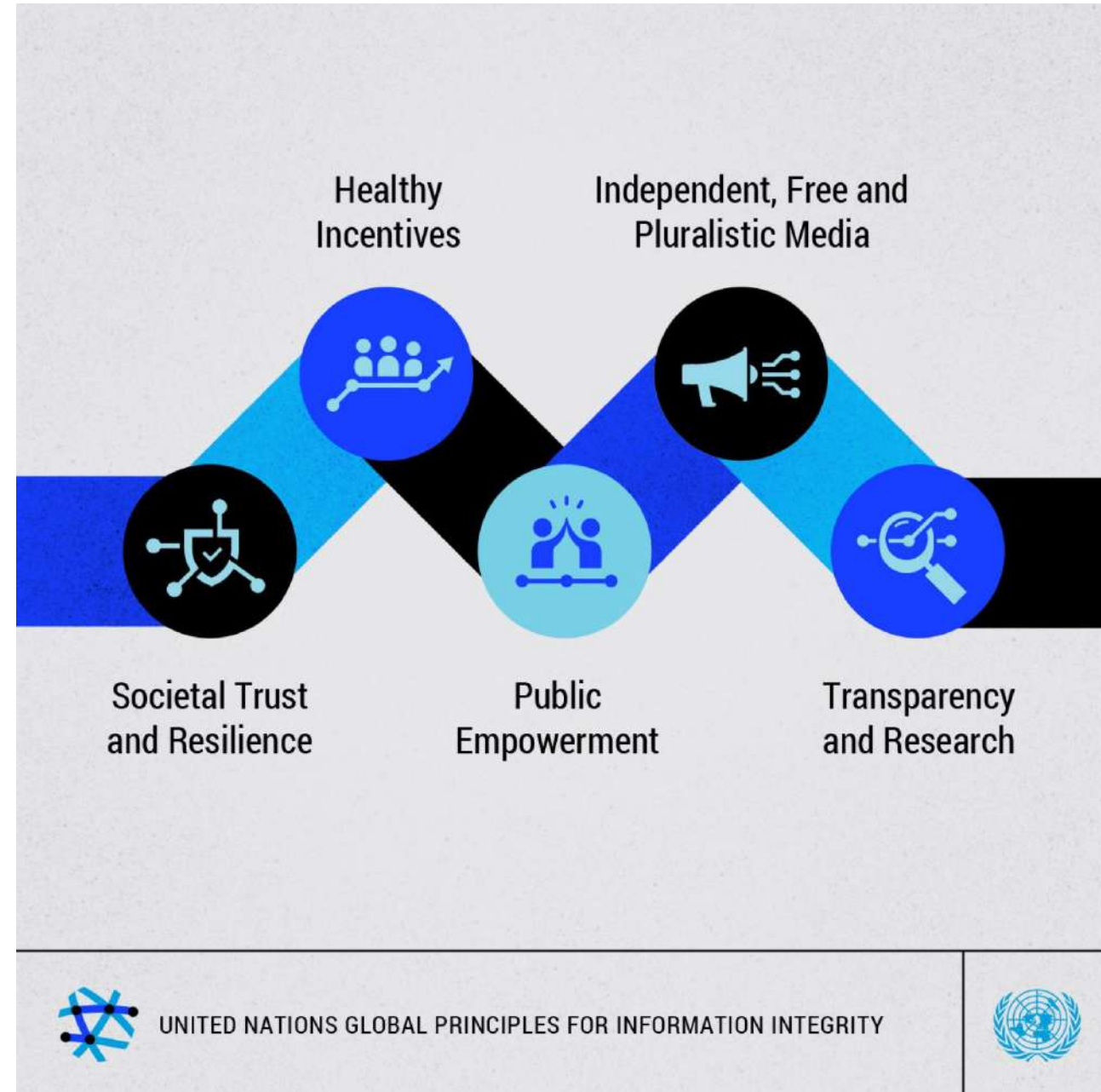
Edited by: John B. Nakuta



INFORMATION INTEGRITY

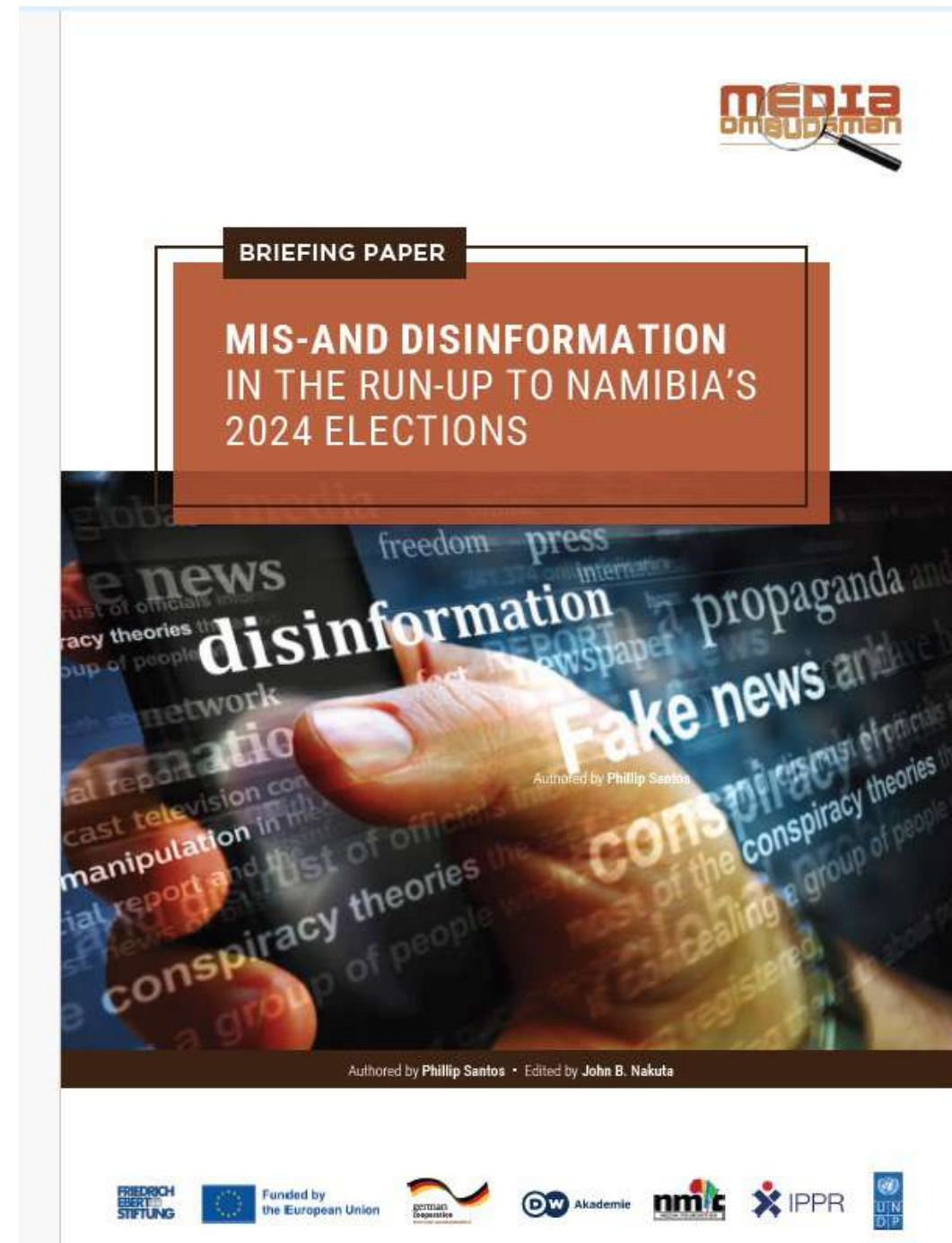
❑ Applied more broadly, information integrity is determined by:

“[...] the accuracy, consistency, and reliability of the information content, processes and systems to maintain a healthy information ecosystem.” - Yonder, 2019.



INFORMATION POLLUTION

[...] “verifiably false, misleading and manipulated content on- and offline, which is created, produced and disseminated intentionally or unintentionally, and which has the potential to cause harm.”



Disinformation

Information that is false and deliberately created to harm a person, social group, organisation or country.



Misinformation

Information that is false, but not created with the intention of causing harm.

"I heard it on a television show..."

DISTORTION (#etc#) MISQUOTE
misstatement half-truths deception
inaccuracy OBFUSCATION lying

Misinformation

unverified ambiguous outdated unproven
chicanery falsification sophistry
fraud INCOMPLETE DATA faked

"Someone told me that it was true..."

Mal-information

“Information that is based on real facts, but manipulated to inflict harm on a person, organisation or country.”



Dis-mis-mal-Information?



Student union proposes gender-neutral toilets at Nust

• TRACY TAFIRENYIKA

THE Student Union of Namibia (SUN) has called on the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) to consider installing gender-neutral toilets. This comes after some women students last month complained about gay men using women's toilets. The issue also stems from discussions that gay students should use toilets meant for people with disabilities. SUN president Bechara Kavua yesterday said gender-neutral toilets would offer a solution and ensure dignity for all students. **TOILETS:** continued on page 2

Nekundi tells RA to deal with high cost of tenders, consulting

• TIMO SHIHEPO

MINISTER of Works and Transport Velko Nekundi has instructed the Roads Authority (RA) to address the rising costs of road construction and the increasing reliance on external consultants. Nekundi raised these concerns at a meeting held on 9 April at the Ministry of Works and Transport's headquarters. While welcome, Nekundi denied this had anything to do with the instructions. **NEKUNDI:** continued on page 2

State hospitals run out of anaesthetics

Told to cater for emergency operations only

• TRACY TAFIRENYIKA, MATTHEW PALATA, ELLEN ALBERTZ and PUYEPANA HAKASHOLE

SOME of the country's state hospitals have been forced to cancel operations and only permit emergency surgery due to a lack of anaesthetics. So far, the shortage has affected Windhoek Central Hospital, Katutura Intermediate Hospital, Keetmanshoop Hospital, and Rundu State Hospital.

Deputy executive director of health and social services Theo-Ben Kanda says the issue requires consultation. "It is a big case that needs consultation with the regional directors of the regions involved," he said earlier this week. The ministry could not provide more comment on the matter before going to print. Prime minister Hage Geingob said he would need to consult with the Ministry of Health and

Social Services before providing comment on the matter.

COUNTRYWIDE ISSUE

The most affected facility is Rundu State Hospital, which is currently forced to perform emergency surgery only.

ANAESTHETICS: continued on page 2



JUSTICE ... Hundreds of Oshana residents took to the streets yesterday to hand over a petition demanding justice for the murders of Ingrid Masekongo, Rosewinda Fabian, and Elyseone Khanxai, and calling for urgent government action to protect children and combat gender-based violence. See report on page 2.



REMEMBRANCE ... The family of Eddie and Linda van der Merwe, who died in a road accident last week, say they will always remember the couple's passion to win souls for God.

Missionaries killed in crash remembered as 'soul winners'

• TAATI NILENGE

EDUAN van der Merwe recalls the moment he heard the news of the accident that claimed the lives of both his parents - Christian missionaries Eddie and Linda van der Merwe (both 63) - between Karibib and Okavango last Thursday. "I received a call from a friend at around 18h00. He asked me if I had heard any news. I said no," Eduan (34) says. "He gave me the number of a police officer and I called him. My first thought, funny enough, was that my parents were arrested or given a traffic fine. I called and asked the police officer about 10 times what the problem was, the network was bad. He mentioned my parents' car's registration number and later broke the news to me. After a while I asked about their belongings and heard that everything burned. The word 'burned' shocked me," he says. Eduan's parents travelled on a business trip from Usakos to Windhoek, with plans to return. Their return trip ended with their deaths, with news reports on the collision that claimed their lives sending shockwaves through Namibia.

MISSIONARIES: continued on page 2

Rundu hospital crisis: 'No medicine, no bandages, no malaria test kits'

• MATTHEW PALATA

RUNDU State Hospital has run out of essential medical supplies, forcing patients to buy their own medicine, including malaria test kits, amid a regional malaria surge. This comes after *The Namibian* last week reported that some operations at Windhoek Central Hospital, Katutura Intermediate Hospital, Keetmanshoop Hospital, and Rundu State Hospital

have been put on hold due to a lack of anaesthetics. Anaesthetics are used to induce a temporary loss of sensation or awareness while a patient is being operated on. Executive director of health and social services Penda Ithinda yesterday told *The Namibian* that the ministry is, however, not aware of the situation. "I will find out on the ground to verify the level of stock and we will give the dam-

ative," he said. Ithinda said this as the ministry released a press report saying stocks countrywide are sufficient. The ministry last week blamed the shortage of anaesthetics on poor coordination and monitoring between the its different functional units in the region and the Central Medical Stores. **CRISIS:** continued on page 2



PEACE TALKS ... The Namibian Police on Saturday embarked on a mission to have peaceful talks with Angolan nationals who trade in illegal fuel.

Shikongo lashes out at 'ngungula' traders' 'disrespect'

• HELEN NEMOZWAYA

POLICE Inspector general Joseph Shikongo on Saturday lashed out at illegal Angolan fuel traders, whom he accused of disrespecting him as the chief of the police. This follows a meeting with the group of traders at Okavango in an effort to caution them against their illegal activities. Shikongo, who was accompanied by Okavango regional police commander/commissioner Ousile Kashupolwa and other police officers, were parading the porous fence at the border kwa. **DISRESPECT:** continued on page 2

CHOPPIES *South Africa's favourite*

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- TOP SCORE MAIZE MEAL 15KG
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OPEN GOVERNANCE

- ❑ Transparency in government and business practices
- ❑ Analogies on sunlight's disinfecting properties
- ❑ Transparency and exposure can eliminate corruption and wrongdoing
- ❑ Exposing wrongdoing to public scrutiny purifies it, much like sunlight disinfects.



THEREFORE....

- ☐ Information Act, 2022 (Act No. 8 of 2022)
- ☐ Proactive disclosure of information (Section 33) on public entities
- ☐ Why the delay in implementing the ATIA?
- ☐ Business as **usual**?
- ☐ The **Business Unusual mantra** demands the speedy implementation of the ATIA!!!



Lest We Forget....

❑ Per the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights:

"[...] public bodies hold information not for themselves but as custodians of the public good."

- ❑ Access to information **Not benevolence**
- ❑ Neither a favour nor charity
- ❑ But, an **actionable fundamental right!!!**



Public Good
[pə-blik 'gud]

A commodity or service that is made available to all members of a society, typically administered by governments and paid for collectively through taxation.

 Investopedia

DANK JE WEL!