



IJHub

SERVING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2020/21

CONTENTS

About us

People and governance

Organisational milestones

Editorial support and capacity building

Organisational support and grants

Our supporters

The IJ Hub NPC, company registration number 2019/285016/08, is a shared services centre which supports and builds investigative journalism in the SADC region.

This is our narrative report for the 12 months ended 31 March 2021.

Published June 2021.

ABOUT US

The IJ Hub NPC was born of a realisation that though investigative journalists in the SADC region may face substantial challenges individually, collectively they hold huge potential to change their societies for the better. Investigative journalists and journalism centres are a prospect worth networking and nurturing, to increase their impact, to multiply their force. That is what the Hub has set out to do.

The amaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism NPC, the South African investigative non-profit, spun off the Hub in 2019 following consultations with investigative journalists regionally and potential grant-makers.

The Hub was incorporated as a non-profit company domiciled in South Africa, with this objective:

To support investigative journalism in the SADC region in the service of a free, capable media and open, accountable democracy. This object shall be achieved by, inter alia –

Raising and de-risking philanthropic funding for investigative journalism in the SADC region;

Supporting and building the capacity of organisations practising investigative journalism in the SADC region, at administrative and organisational levels; and

Supporting and building the capacity of organisations and journalists practising investigative journalism in the SADC region, at an editorial level.

The Hub currently has seven investigative centre members:

- MNN Centre for Investigative Journalism (Lesotho)
- The investigative unit of The Namibian (Namibia)
- Platform for Investigative Journalism (Malawi)
- Inhlase Centre for Investigative Journalism (eSwatini)
- INK Centre for Investigative Journalism (Botswana)
- Makanday Media Centre (Zambia)
- amaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism (South Africa)

AmaBhungane is incubating the Hub with an administrative sunset currently envisaged no later than the next AGM in August/September 2021.

PEOPLE AND GOVERNANCE

The Hub appointed **Hamadziripi Tamukamoyo**, a sociology PhD who previously held operational management, strategy, applied policy analysis and research roles in South African non-profits, as permanent managing partner: organisational effective 1 August 2020. He succeeded **Charmeela Bhagawat**, who acted in the position during the Hub's founding phase.

The Hub's founding managing partner: editorial, **Andrew Forrest**, retired in April 2021 after a distinguished career as a teacher, journalist and editor.

Vicki Robinson, a former political and investigative journalist with extensive subsequent experience in corporate/financial investigations, succeeded him effective 1 May 2021.

These changes have put in place a solid permanent management team.

As incubator, amaBhungane has continued to support the Hub administratively. AmaBhungane operating coordinator **Lizel Shepherd** has been a stalwart in this regard.

The Hub's MOI determines that it is governed by a board of three to five elected directors and up to two non-voting ex-officio directors. At least one third of the elected directors are up for rotation annually, but may be re-elected for two further terms.

The board comprises:

- Non-executive Chair, **Prof Dumisani Moyo**. He is an Associate Professor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at North-West University, South Africa. Dumisani ran the media and research programme at the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa before moving back to academia.
- Non-executive director, **Mantoe Phakati**. She is an eSwatini communications practitioner.
- Non-executive director, **Stefaans Brümmer**. He is a founder and joint managing partner of the amaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism.
- Non-executive director, **Adv Steven Budlender**. He is Senior Counsel specialising in constitutional and media litigation.
- Ex-officio executive director, **Dr Hamadziripi Tamukamoyo**. He is joint managing partner (organisational) for the IJ Hub.
- Ex-officio executive director, **Vicki Robinson**. She joined the Hub as the joint managing partner (editorial) on 1 May 2021 and was appointed an ex-officio executive director on 11 May 2021.

Andrew Forrest was an ex-officio director in a non-voting capacity until 30 April 2021, when his employment ended.

ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES

Organisation-building steps during the review period included:

- May 2020: Obtained clearance from the SA Reserve Bank to disburse grants outside of the Rand monetary area. For completeness, this was renewed again in April 2021.
- July 2020: Achieved a clean audit and no control weaknesses identified.
- July 2020: Obtained public benefit organisation status and tax exemption from the South African Revenue Service.
- August 2020: Appointed a permanent managing partner: organisational.
- September 2020: Awarded a ZAR2-million 12-month grant by Millennium Trust.
- November 2020: Awarded \$280 000 18-month grant by Open Society Institute.
- Year to March 2021: Disbursed grants totaling ZAR 2.9-million to six member centres.
- May 2021, after the review period: Appointed a managing partner: editorial.

EDITORIAL SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Hub facilitated eight three-month fellowships during the review period. These were all based at the various IJ Hub member centres outside South Africa due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While we originally envisaged that fellows would be “on the ground” in South Africa, they gained as much working alongside our member centre editors in their own countries. See below for further detail.

The Hub has also organised or supported eight training workshops and workshop series in collaboration with member centres across the region. Many of these took places virtually, and while not without their technical challenges, were largely a success. See below for further detail.

The Hub edited and/or provided mentorship for numerous stories for publication – some were produced by journalists on Hub fellowships and others by journalists based with member centres. All the stories were published in the regional journalists’ home countries. Where appropriate, they were also pitched for publication in South Africa, where publishing platforms have included the Daily Maverick and the Mail & Guardian.

In future, and subject to the availability of resources, the Hub hopes to facilitate collaborative regional investigations and syndication of stories between member centres.



April 2021: Staff from The Namibian Investigative Unit pose for picture after bagging three awards at the Editors' Forum of Namibia Journalism awards.

Fellowships: The approach with fellowships is to offer in-service training and support for fellows while they work on real stories for publication. Although it is the interaction with experienced colleagues that presents the greatest opportunity for skills transfer, some “classroom” elements are included in the programme, for example:

- An introductory session on the nature and typical pitfalls of investigative journalism;
- Guidance on media law, with particular reference to the law of defamation; and
- Exercises requiring the fellows to analyse flawed stories to drive home the need for focus and legal-proofing.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, fellows were placed at various entities in South Africa such as the Daily Maverick and amaBhungane. A consequence of the pandemic was that over the review period the fellowships were largely hosted by member centres, to avoid cross-border travel. The fellows hosted were:

- March–May 2020: Sipilisiwe Ncube, from Zambia, hosted by the Daily Maverick (remotely after lockdown) in South Africa;
- June–August 2020: Eliaser Ndeyanala, hosted in-country by the investigative unit of The Namibian;
- June–August 2020: Rose Moremoholo, hosted in-country by the MNN Centre in Lesotho;
- July–September 2020: Victoria Wolf, hosted in-country by the investigative unit of The Namibian;
- September–November 2020: Tumelo Mouwane, hosted in-country by the INK Centre in Botswana;
- September–November 2020: Gabriella Nyambe, hosted in-country by the MakanDay Centre in Zambia;
- January–March 2021: Enoke Kaumba, hosted in-country by the investigative unit of The Namibian; and
- January–March 2021: Matiisetso Mosala, hosted in-country by the MNN Centre in Lesotho.

Workshops: During the review period, the Hub facilitated and sponsored various workshops, mostly virtual due to Covid-19.

- May 2020: AmaBhungane digital coordinator Sally Evans conducted an online workshop on digital security, social media and journalism during Covid-19 in association with the Platform for Investigative Journalism Malawi.
- June 2020: AmaBhungane's Evans conducted a similar online workshop but with an emphasis on Covid-19 era disinformation in association with the MNN Centre In Lesotho.
- June 2020: The MkanDay Centre presented a face-to-face workshop in Lusaka on the principles and tools of investigative journalism.
- June and July 2020: The Namibia Media Trust/Namibian investigative unit hosted two live workshops in Windhoek, led by amaBhungane investigative journalist Dewald van Rensburg and Namibian expert Graham Hopwood, on mining sector corruption.
- August 2020: The Hub hosted 2-hour virtual sessions over four separate Fridays for participants region-wide. The sessions focused on economics and finance for investigative journalism and were led by Kevin Davie, a South African finance editor.
- November 2020: The Hub hosted virtual training sessions for four member centres with a focus on the Xero accounting software. This was led by Ziyo, a South African accounting firm with a focus on non-profits.
- January 2021: Using the same format as the August 2020 sessions, the Hub hosted two sessions on "finding the story in financial statements" led by Reg Rumney, a South African economics journalism academic and editor.
- February 2021: The Hub hosted a virtual workshop for member centres on writing investigative stories. This was led by Andrew Forrest.



June 2021: A team from the MNN Centre for investigative Journalism crossing Khubelu River in Lesotho to investigate water pollution incidents in a nearby village.

Story editing: During the period under review, scores of investigative stories done by member centre journalists and fellows benefited from Hub editing and mentoring. This represents an important form of supplementary training, as it involves a consultative, two-way exchange, sometimes over several weeks.

ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT AND GRANTS

During the period under review, the Hub significantly accelerated the critical work of providing core financial support through its own grant-making to member centres. Grants were made to six centres totalling over ZAR 2.9-million. The Hub continued to refine its application, due diligence, approval and contracting and reporting processes to ensure smooth operations and accountability.

Direct financial grants aside, the Hub is also ready to provide legal, accounting and website support to member centres by contracting with suitable service providers – important to create an appropriate compliance and publication environment for the expenditure of grant funds.

These were the centre disbursements during the review period, in ZAR:

19 Apr 2020	MNN Centre, Lesotho	304 610
30 Apr 2020	Namibia Media Trust/The Namibian investigative unit, Namibia	396 000
07 May 2020	Inhlase Centre, eSwatini	261 122
08 May 2020	INK Centre, Botswana	352 088
08 May 2020	Platform for Investigative Journalism, Malawi	81 000
08 May 2020	Makanday Centre, Zambia	238 407
19 Aug 2020	Makanday Centre, Zambia	37 614
20 Oct 2020	MNN Centre, Lesotho	98 500
02 Nov 2020	INK Centre, Botswana (underspend)	(4 244)
18 Dec 2020	Platform for Investigative Journalism, Malawi	300 000
18 Dec 2020	Makanday Centre, Zambia	245 642
23 Dec 2020	Inhlase Centre, eSwatini	215 188
29 Dec 2020	Namibia Media Trust/The Namibian investigative unit, Namibia	114 797
27 Jan 2021	Namibia Media Trust/The Namibian investigative unit, Namibia	281 203
Total		2 921 927

OUR SUPPORTERS

The formation and work of the Hub was made possible by charitable foundations.

We acknowledge these grants applicable to the review period with much gratitude:

- **Millennium Trust:** ZAR 2 000 000, September 2019 to August 2020;
- **Foundation to Promote Open Society/Programme on Independent Journalism:** USD 200 000 (ZAR 3 102 610), September 2019 to December 2020;
- **Millennium Trust:** ZAR 2 000 000, October 2020 to September 2021; and
- **Open Society Institute/Programme on Independent Journalism:** USD 280 000, January 2021 to June 2022.