

# South African National Editors' Forum

Programme for 2018



# Overview of presentation

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# Who we are

- The South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) is one of the most influential groupings in South Africa.
- It consists of title editors and senior editorial executives operating in print, broadcasting and digital mainstream and certain regional and community media, as well as media trainers from major journalism training institutions. A big focus now on community media.
- The organisation seeks to address media freedom:
  - On a day-to-day 'fighting on the front-lines' basis.
  - At a deep structural level through research, education and training programmes and influencing policy and legislation.
  - SANEF is involved in organisational renewal.



## Programmes – media freedom campaigning

- ▶ SANEF campaigns to stop media freedom violations from the side of **government, political parties, citizens,** inside the **media** itself and even the **courts**.
  - ▶ In terms of government SANEF condemned the raid on the house of award-winning investigative journalist, Jacques Pauw.
  - ▶ In terms of political parties SANEF condemned the attack by the Deputy President of the EFF, Floyd Shivambu on Netwerk 24 multimedia journalist, Adriaan de Kock.
  - ▶ In terms of citizens we condemned the remarks made by ex-PRASA boss Lucky Montana that he would “beat up” Media 24 journalist, Pieter Louis Myburgh.
  - ▶ In terms of the media itself we strongly condemned Independent newspapers front page ‘Stratcom’ attack.
  - ▶ In terms of the courts we have seen violations particularly at the magistrates court level.

# Long-term structural work: Education and training

- ▶ SANEF's education and training subcommittee tackles education and training issues to deepen the professionalism of the media industry. SANEF has been developing a "journalism occupational qualification" that deals with, amongst a number of issues, new developments in online journalism. SANEF has put together a consultative committee to provide technical and subject matter expertise.

# Long-term structural: Diversity and ethics

- ▶ SANEF's diversity and ethics subcommittee tackles issues of race and gender inequalities in the newsroom and in the media industry as a whole, as well as provides guidelines for fairness and professionalism for editors and journalists.
- ▶ The sub-committee's focus for 2018 is a "Glass ceiling" research study examining sexism and patriarchal practices in the newsrooms and in the media industry as a whole.
- ▶ The survey and research are being conducted in collaboration with Gender Links and it is being overseen by SANEF Council member, Prof Glenda Daniels from the Media Studies Department.

# Policy and legislative change

- ▶ A central focus for 2018 is a project that promotes “access to the internet as a basic human right”. SANEF met with the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to assist the SAHRC to promote the concept of free WiFi and zero rated online content.
- ▶ SANEF is making submissions on a number of pieces of legislation going through Parliament. These include but are not limited to:
  - ▶ The Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill.
  - ▶ The Film and Publications Amendment Bill.
  - ▶ The Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill.
  - ▶ We are keeping an eye on the “Secrecy Bill”.

# Elections 2018

- ▶ SANEF has put in a proposal to the Open Society Foundation
  - ▶ To update election training material for journalists
  - ▶ To create an online journalist source book
  - ▶ To run a series of training workshops for journalists across the country looking at election legislation and policy (with the IEC), safety of journalists and ways to counter fake news (with MMA).
  - ▶ To launch a marketing campaign including public service announcements looking at the importance of credible media in elections.



# Organisation renewal

- ▶ SANEF has held its AGM and has elected new leadership, including new members for its sub committees. The sub committees include a media freedom, diversity and ethics, education and training, digital and broadcasting and fundraising committee. We are recruiting new members to these committees.
- ▶ We will be holding an important fundraising dinner in October and we hope to get support from corporates and media companies.
- ▶ In terms of fundraising SANEF will be strengthening its three sources of funding – funding from members, funding from media companies and funding from donors and corporates.