



IPPR

IPPR Activity Report January 1 – June 30 2023



Youth activist and researcher Suzie Shefeni makes a point at the IPPR's panel discussion on Foreign Policy & Human Rights

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In the first half of 2023, the IPPR produced 14 publications, 25 fact check pieces and one video, held seven activities/events, and organised six focus group discussions.

In addition, IPPR researchers gave presentations or addresses to 15 conferences, workshops, and public meetings.

IPPR Publications 2023:

January 7 2023: Parliamentary Perspectives bulletin: Thinking About Data Protection (Democracy Report)

January 23 2023: Namibia QER Quarter 4 2022; special focus on public debt (HSF)

January 23 2023: Blog: Questionable Harvesting of Biometric Data

February 1 2023: Procurement Tracker 1 2023: CPBN In Crosshairs Over Health Tender (no donor)

February 14 2023: Parliamentary Perspectives bulletin: MPs' Assets Register (Democracy Report)

February 21 2023: Parliamentary Perspectives bulletin: Party political funding (Democracy Report)

February 26 2023: Parliamentary Perspectives bulletin: Changes to Electoral Law (Democracy Report)

March 16 2023: Parliamentary Perspectives bulletin: Agenda for Change (Democracy Report)

March 16 2023: Procurement Tracker 2 2023: Investigating Procurement (HSF)

March 21 2023: Parliamentary Perspectives bulletin: Parliament in the Budget (Democracy Report)

March: 22 2023: 2023-24 National Budget Review (HSF)

May 5 2023: Namibia QER Quarter 1 2022; special focus on Namibia's electricity supply (HSF)

May 17 2023: Procurement Tracker 3 2023: TransNamib Irregularities (HSF)

June 20 2023: Blog: Quality of Democracy Under Threat

25 Fact Check pieces and one video were published on key issues in Namibia during the first half of 2023 including on fake recruitment drives at the Electoral Commission of Namibia and the Namibia Statistics Agency, fake competitions at MTC, a fake Samherji apology on Fishrot, an explainer on the right to protest in Namibia, and a review of Namibia's youth unemployment figures.

The 25 Fact Check pieces published consisted of 12 Fact Check articles, 13 news items plus one video:

Fact Check articles:

06 June 2023: No, the electoral commission is not recruiting staff via a WhatsApp link

06 June 2023: No, there is no ‘\$750 million donation to eradicate poverty’
11 May 2023: Fake Samherji Fishrot apology circulating
03 May 2023: No, Bill Gates is not poisoning your fruit
02 May 2023: SCAM ALERT: There is no Hage Geingob Hichilema cash grant
31 March 2023: No, there’s no recruiting happening for the population and housing census
31 March 2023: No, there is no ‘Hustlers Empowerment Fund’
31 March 2023: No, there is no Covid-19 phone scam currently going around in Namibia
31 March 2023: No, a ‘World Court of Human Rights’ did not rule on same-sex marriage
22 March 2023: No, MTC is not giving away 10GB free data
21 March 2023: No, electric rocks from Congo are not real
24 February 2023: SCAM ALERT: There is no student laptops and smartphones scheme

News Items:

14 June 2023: Beware of scholarship scams
31 May 2023: Job scams flood Namibian online spaces
31 May 2023: Another scam statistics agency recruitment ad circulating
17 May 2023: We’re Sorry’ artist comes into the open
02 May 2023: WPF 2023: ‘Shaping a Future of Rights’
02 May 2023: State media fumble basic reporting and misinformation dogs jobless rate
02 April 2023: Marking International Fact-Checking Day 2023
30 March 2023: MEDIA MONITOR: Misleading use of words and terms rife in reporting
25 March 2023: How High is Namibia’s Youth Joblessness Really? (video)
(<https://namibiafactcheck.org.na/video/how-high-is-namibias-youth-joblessness-really/>)
23 March 2023: EXPLAINER: The right to protest in Namibia
28 February 2023: MEDIA MONITOR: Missing N\$60 billion and problematic presidential utterances
28 February 2023: Debunked claim of conspiracy to depopulate Africa resurfaces
14 February 2023: SCAM ALERT: Looking for a place to rent?
09 February: EXPLAINER: Satire and parody

IPPR events and activities 2023:

February 21 2023 - Namibia’s Foreign Policy and Human Rights - Presentation & Panel Discussion. Speakers: Kitty Mcgirr (IPPR research associate), Ambassador Tuliameni Kalomoh (former Assistant UN Secretary-General), Gwen Lister (founder of The Namibian newspaper and veteran journalist), Uendjiundja Black (Social Policy Analyst), Steven Gruzd (South African Institute of International Affairs).

March 6 2023 - The IPPR and CIVIC +264 facilitated a consultation between a visiting team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and civil society and development partner representatives. Issues discussed included public debt, corruption, the Basic Income Grant, and green hydrogen proposals.

March 15 2023 - The second edition of Procurement Tracker Namibia for 2023 was launched. The issue looked at strengthening the investigative capacities of the procurement system should be a priority in the light of recent controversies such as the

NSFAF HQ construction. IPPR research associate Frederico Links presented on the theme of publication, while Francois Brandt, head of the Procurement Policy Unit in the Ministry of Finance spoke in response. Venue: House of Democracy.

March 23 2023 - The IPPR's annual national budget review was launched at an event which addressed the topic 'Budget Transparency: Where Are We Now?' IPPR Executive Director Graham Hopwood presented on the theme and Helvi Fillipus, Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance, spoke in response. Venue: House of Democracy.

April 5 2023 - The IPPR collaborated with CIVIC +264 on organizing a briefing meeting for civil society on green hydrogen developments - with German green hydrogen envoy Rainer Baake and Namibia's Green Hydrogen Commissioner James Mnyupe.

May 10 2023 - The IPPR's Integrity Namibia project held its second regional conference in Gobabis. Speakers included Environmental Commissioner Timo Mufeti, ACC Deputy Director General Erna van der Merwe, Peter Watson and Chloe Brandt from the Legal Assistance Centre, and Rob Parker from the Economic and Social Justice Trust. Gobabis Mayor Melba Tjonzongoro opened proceedings. Venue: Goba Lodge, Gobabis.

May 17 2023 - The third edition of Procurement Tracker Namibia for 2023 was launched. The issue looked at concerns arising out of an official report on irregularities at TransNamib and procurement issues raised by the draft local content policy on oil and gas. Frederico Links presented on TransNamib while Graham Hopwood spoke about the local content policy. Venue: House of Democracy.

In addition, between February and May, six focus group discussions were held as part of the Integrity Namibia project with the media, lawyers, youth, private sector, labour, and churches about corruption-related issues.

Speaking engagements/presentations 2023:

January 19 2023 - Graham Hopwood gave a presentation to the NIPDB Policy Advisory Committee on the WEF global competitiveness report.

January 20 2023 - Graham Hopwood spoke at the Landless People's Movement (LPM) leadership consultation meeting on how the oil and gas discoveries can deliver for Namibia.

February 3 2023 - IPPR research associate Kitty Mcgirr addressed the annual conference of LPM elected councillors on local and regional governance risks arising out of the HSF-backed report of 2022.

February 10 2023 - Graham Hopwood facilitated a half-day discussion on media viability in Namibia with the Editors Forum of Namibia.

February 23 2023 - Graham Hopwood spoke at a conference on the 30th anniversary of the National Council on the role of the National Council vis-à-vis civil society.

March 1 2023 - IPPR research associate Frederico Links addressed the Countering Transnational Organised Crime in Africa conference which took place in Johannesburg South Africa on the issue of Transnational Corruption in Namibia. The conference was organised by Good Governance Africa and the Attorney General Alliance-Africa.

March 15 2023 - Graham Hopwood addressed the Namibian French Business Association (NFBA) on Namibia - Political Prospects 2023-24.

March 17 2023 - Graham Hopwood addressed the Namibia Institute of Corporate Governance annual conference on the issues of 'Transparency & Whistleblowing'.

March 27 2023 - Graham Hopwood addressed a workshop on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative at the invitation of the Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA).

April 26 2023 - Graham Hopwood addressed an Integrity Summit organised by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on the issue of Public Integrity. The summit looked at the role being played by Integrity Committees within the offices, ministries, and agencies of government.

May 16 2023 - Graham Hopwood and Frederico Links spoke at the launch of the EU-funded New Voices, New Narratives project of which the IPPR is a part about the role of the project and the state of civil society.

May 29-June 2 2023 - IPPR research associate Frederico Links participated in a SADC, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Government of Angola conference on combating corruption in Luanda, Angola, held under the theme 'The challenges of regional cooperation in the implementation of the UNCAC'. He gave a presentation on the Namibian CSO perspective. Links was part of the official Namibian delegation led by the Anti-Corruption Commission as UNODC had requested that delegations include a civil society representative.

June 28 2023 - IPPR Research Associate Frederico Links addressed a workshop on 'Assessing Cybersecurity and Digital Surveillance in Botswana,' via an online link. Links gave a regional perspective on the topic of 'Cyber security and the surveillance of citizens, civil society and media: What laws are being passed & why should we pay attention?'. The workshop was organized by international media support organisation InterNews.

June 29 2023 - IPPR Research Associate Frederico Links gave a presentation on 'State surveillance practices and trends across Southern Africa' at a virtual conference organised by MISA Lesotho, Advancing Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA), and InterNews. The conference addressed the topic: "Exploring the exposure of the media and citizens to state surveillance in Southern Africa".

Notable issues:

*The IPPR continued to be an active member of the UNCAC Coalition Sub-Saharan Africa group and the UNCAC Coalition Asset Recovery Group.

*The IPPR is a member of the Civil Society EITI Working Group.

*The IPPR is a member of the Southern African Anti Corruption Network (SAACoN).

*The IPPR continues to serve as a member of the Cluster 3 group for the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan which is coordinated by the Anti-Corruption Commission. Research associate Rosevitha Ndumbu is the IPPR representative.

*The IPPR continues to serve as a member of the steering committee for the Enhancing Participatory Democracy (EPDN) in Namibia project based at parliament. Research associate Rosevitha Ndumbu is the IPPR representative.

*IPPR Executive Director Graham Hopwood was elected as the Chairperson of the Civil Society Information Centre (CIVIC +264) for 2023.

*Since September 2022, the IPPR had sold 644 copies of the Guide to the Namibian Economy publication.

Projects and funding:

As of June 30 2023, the IPPR received funding from the following partners:

HSF (various project activities)

HSF (institutional support)

US Embassy (Integrity Namibia project)

European Union (New Voices, New Narratives project alongside DW Akademie and NMT)

International Budget Partnership (Open Budget Survey)

World Economic Forum (Executive Opinion Survey)

The IPPR has so far been unable to locate a new funder for its parliamentary monitoring work that was supported by the Embassy of Finland until the end of 2022. The long-running civil society sustainability project funded by USAID via FHI360 also came to an end in 2022.

Social media statistics:

8 284 people liked or followed the IPPR Namibia Facebook page on June 30 2023 (compared with 8 167 at the end of 2022)

18 197 people followed the IPPR Namibia Twitter account on June 30 2023 (compared with 17 702 at the end of 2022)

2 933 people liked or followed the Namibia Fact Check Facebook page on June 30 2023 (compared with 2 896 at the end of 2022)

2 731 followed the Namibia Fact Check Twitter account on June 30 (compared with 2 663 at the end of 2022).

Media coverage:

There were 104 media reports, interviews, and citations featuring the IPPR in the first half of 2023. This compares with 111 in the first half of 2022. The media coverage included featuring in a documentary on Fishrot on the BBC World Service, a Reuters report on green hydrogen, and a mention in Yale University's environmental magazine (see table below).

Media	No. of articles/reports
Print/online:	
The Namibian	17
Namibian Sun	10
New Era	6
Windhoek Observer	5
Republikein	4
Allgemeine Zeitung	4
The Brief	4
The Villager	2
BBC News	1
Reuters	1
Yale 360 magazine	1
Helmidlin (Iceland)	1
Good Governance Africa	1
Biometric Update	1
Sub-total	58
Television:	
NBC TV	13
One Africa	1
Sub-total	14
Radio:	
Eagle FM	3
Future Media	12
NBC National Radio	4
Desert FM	6
Kosmos FM	5
Power Talk (South Africa)	1
BBC World Service	1
Sub-total	32
TOTAL	104

Website statistics:

ippr.org.na

Overall, there were 7 019 users of the IPPR website between January 1 and June 30.

Total page views for the same period: 22 329

Total sessions for the same period: 9 537

Device breakdown: Desktop (65%), Mobile (33%), Tablet (2%)

Top countries visiting the IPPR website (January 1 - June 30):

	Users
1. Namibia	6 048
2. US	728
3. South Africa	519
4. Germany	284
5. UK	279
6. India	170
7. China	147
8. Australia	139
9. France	102
10. Netherlands	94

Most viewed publications on the IPPR website (January 1 - June 30):

	Page views
1. Role of the Ombudsman (blog)	1 278
2. Harvesting of Biometric Data (blog)	789
3. 4IR faces fundamental issues (blog)	509
4. QER Quarter 4 2022	205
5. QER Quarter 1 2023	197
6. National Budget Review 23/24	194
7. Procurement Tracker (CPBN)	158
8. Unpacking the Cybercrime Bill paper	151
9. Thoughts on the Pandemic (blog)	147
10. Time to Reward the Vaccinated (blog)	145

namibiafactcheck.org.na

Overall, there were 12 716 users of the Fact Check website between January 1 and June 30.

Total page views for the same period: 16 110

Total sessions for the same period: 14 387

Top countries visiting the Fact Check website (January 1 - June 30):

	Users
1. South Africa	2 758
2. Namibia	2070
3. USA	1755
4. Nigeria	1 465
5. UK	593
6. Canada	302
7. Kenya	283
8. Australia	244
9. Philippines	228
10. Netherlands	218

Most viewed publications on the Fact Check website (January 1 - June 30):

	Page Views
1. No evidence that PW Botha uttered viral racist statements	5 269
2. Bill Gates is not poisoning your fruit	999
3. Unknown	809
4. There is no financial aid for orphans who drop out	563
5. There is no Nuremberg-2 trial over Covid 19 interventions	491
6. We will not be experiencing an aphelion until August	432
7. Paracetamol p-500 does not contain deadly virus	412
8. US Supreme court did not rule that brothers & sisters can marry	377
9. The UN did not issue an organ trafficking alert	370
10. A world court of human rights did not rule on same sex marriage	367

Graham Hopwood
IPPR Executive Director
July 5 2023