



National Assembly MP Patience Masua addresses the IPPR's Strengthening Democracy conference on 22 June 2022

# **Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)**

## **Annual Report 2022**

*Windhoek  
NAMIBIA*

## IPPR - Annual Report 2022

During 2022, the IPPR produced 31 publications, five press releases, and 31 fact check articles.

27 activities/events were held, mostly in conjunction with publication launches.

In addition, IPPR researchers gave presentations or addresses to 24 conferences, workshops, and public meetings in Namibia and internationally.

The IPPR was cited in 211 media reports during 2022.

Highlights of the year included:

- The holding of the Strengthening Democracy conference at Safari Court Hotel in June 2022 - which was enthusiastically attended by over 120 mainly young Namibians.
- The launch of the new edition of the Guide to the Namibian Economy book in September. The proceeds of the sales of the book go to covering the IPPR's overhead expenses. By the end of 2022 over 500 books had been sold. This is the only publication that the IPPR sells.
- The holding of the first Integrity Namibia conference at Walvis Bay in December - which was attended by 60 people from the local community including local and regional politicians, private sector representatives, and trade unionists.
- Organising a sideline panel discussion at the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva (on human rights and corruption) - which strengthened IPPR's international profile.
- The launch of a new local and regional governance assessment report which focussed a spotlight on a level of government that is often overlooked.
- Much of the IPPR's work is about consistent monitoring and evaluation of policies and laws rather than simply holding high-profile events. In this sense work on cybersecurity and human rights, public procurement, and anti-corruption strategies was vitally important during 2022.

In terms of **influence on public policy**, there were several highlights including the passage of the Access to Information Act through parliament and its gazetting at the end of the year (the culmination of ten years of advocacy spearhead by the ACTION civil society coalition of which IPPR has been a leading member) and the amendments to the Public Procurement Act which aligned with a number of IPPR's key proposals. In addition, significant progress was made on consultations on the national budget with the Ministry of Finance agreeing to establish a formal calendar of consultations with civil society and other sectors. This started in June with a well-attended CSO consultation that was jointly organised by IPPR and the Civil Society Information Centre (CIVIC +264)

As regards **funding** for the Institute - several significant projects were completed in 2022 including the work on cybersecurity and human rights, which had been funded by Global Partners Digital (GPD). In addition, the Embassy of Finland’s long-running support for the IPPR as the Democracy Report project, which monitored parliament, came to an end. (After a short no-cost extension, the Democracy Report project ceased activities at the end of February 2023).

However, the IPPR was successful in obtaining EU funding for 2023 as a joint project with Deutsche Welle Akademie (DWA) and Namibia Media Trust (NMT) was approved towards the end of the year. The EU-funded project, New Voices, New Narratives in Public Policy Discourse, will run for 30 months from early 2023 to mid 2025. and will focus on strengthening the capacity of civil society and media to explain and express concerns on public policy issues.

### **IPPR Publications and Activities**

#### *Publications*

The following table indicates the number of publications supported by each donor partner:

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Publications</b>	<b>Types</b>
HSF	18	Bulletins, briefing papers, research reports
Finland	8	Bulletins, briefing papers
B2 Gold	1	700-page book
International Budget Partnership	1	Briefing
FHI360	1	Briefing
Global Partners Digital	1	Briefing paper
Unfunded	1	Blog

In 2022, 31 Namibia Fact Check articles were published on the Namibia Fact Check website - with HSF funding. The articles consisted of 14 fact checks and 17 news items.

#### *IPPR Activities and Events*

The IPPR organised 27 activities and events ranging from publication launches, presentations, workshops, and conferences. Of these 27 activities/events, six were held solely online while most of the others were hybrid events with physical and online participation possible. Three of the activities were organised in collaboration with CIVIC +264.

During 2022, IPPR research associates delivered addresses or presentations at 24 events organised by other institutions including at conferences in Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa. In addition, throughout the year IPPR research associates met with and briefed a range of

government officials, diplomats, donors, business representatives, labour leaders, and civil society activists on the work of the IPPR.

The following table shows which partners/donors supported IPPR activities and events during the year:

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Types</b>
HSF	8	Bulletins, briefing papers, research reports
Finland	1	Conference
US Embassy	6	Media launch, workshops, conference
DW Akademie	2	Fact-checking training courses
B2 Gold/RMB	1	700-page book launch
International Budget Partnership	1	Open Budget Survey launch
FHI360	2	Civil Society Sustainability Index experts meeting & launch
Global Partners Digital	4	Cyber security and human rights events
Unfunded	4	Events with CIVIC + genocide memorialisation

## **Staffing**

In 2022, HSF gave institutional support for three IPPR posts - Executive Director, Accountant, Office Assistant. During 2022 Graham Hopwood was employed as a full-time Executive Director, Johanna Wolf as an Accountant (2 days per week), and Ndeshi Fikameni as Office Manager (half-time).

On top of the three salaried staff, 16 research associates were employed on a part-time, freelance basis during 2022. Four interns also assisted the IPPR in 2022.

## **Projects and Funding**

The table below outlines the IPPR's 2022 projects and sources of funding. It should be noted that the Embassy of Finland ceased its funding for the Democracy Report project, at the end of 2022, due to a change in the Embassy's funding priorities. The Civil Society Sustainability project has also come to an end after being a feature of the IPPR's work for the past five years (USAID stopped their support for this global project - hopefully on a temporary basis). New funding was obtained from Africa Check for Namibia Fact Check for 2022. Funding is expected from the European Union (EU) in 2023 for a project in which the IPPR is a partner with DW Akademie and the NMT. The IPPR will also commence work on a new Open Budget Survey in 2023 as well as a new Executive Opinion Survey for the World Economic Forum.

Description	Period	Donor	Total Funding N\$
HSF Activities**	2022	HSF	921,297
HSF Institutional	2022	HSF	760,200
Integrity Namibia	2021-2024	US Embassy	4,000,000
Democracy Report*	2021-2022	Embassy of Finland	1,700,000
Cybersecurity & Human Rights*	2020-22	Global Partners Digital	800,000
Namibia Fact Check*	2022	Africa Check/Osisa	440,000
Political economy papers*	2021-22	Irish Embassy	170,050
CSO Sustainability Index*	2022	FHI360	167,463
Guide to Namibian Economy*	2020-22	B2 Gold	350,000
Open Budget Survey*	2020-22	International Budget Partnership	134,243
Executive Opinion Survey*	2022	World Economic Forum	40,372

\*Project completed

\*\*HSF Projects for 2022 included: Procurement Tracker, Public Enterprise Index, Namibia Fact Check, Quarterly Economic Review, Media & Digitalisation Study, Climate Change Impacts, Tourism & Covid paper, SME Financing, and Local & Regional Governance Rankings. In addition, HSF project funding also covered support for a pastel software upgrade and website hosting, and maintenance, and redevelopment for both the IPPR and Namibia Fact Check websites

## Role in Civil Society

The influence of the IPPR in being able to bring civil society together was mostly clearly shown in the Minister of Finance's decision to remove VAT from sanitary pads. Although the issue had been raised by various politicians and CSOs over the years, it was the intervention of the IPPR in early 2021 that proved to be a catalyst for action. In his budget speech of that year (delivered on March 17) Minister of Shiimi said "following on our extensive consultation with the civil society and thanks to the facilitation by the Institute for Public Policy Research, I wish to announce that the supply of sanitary pads will be VAT zero-rated to enhance affordability by the girl child." The change to the tax system was subsequently implemented in 2022 and came into effect in early 2023.

The IPPR has played an important role in advocating that the Ministry of Finance consult various sectors of society when formulating the national budget. After several informal meetings, the Ministry agreed to introduce a schedule for such meetings and held its first formal consultation with civil society at the end of July 2022 - a meeting organised by the IPPR in conjunction with CIVIC + 264. Apart from a series of meetings on budget matters, the IPPR also collaborated with CIVIC +264 on organizing a civil society consultation meeting with the Ministry of Finance on the draft Sovereign Wealth Fund bill.

The IPPR continued to serve on the Board of CIVIC +264 and also on the steering committee of the EU-funded Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia project at parliament. Late in 2022 the IPPR was also involved in discussions on whether there should be a formal partnership policy between civil society and government.

By undertaking the annual Civil Society Sustainability study, the IPPR was also able to position itself as an expert organisation on the role of civil society in Namibia and the constraints that CSOs face.

### **Other Achievements**

- The IPPR in tandem with Transparency International-Iceland coordinated a joint media release, signed by over 20 Namibian CSOs and Transparency International chapters around the world, calling for restorative justice in the Fishrot case. The media release was covered in media in Namibia and Iceland, as well as in South Africa and several European countries.
- The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) carried a special feature on the IPPR's anti-corruption work on its website in April - see <https://whatson.unodc.org/whatson/en/featured-human-story-ippr.html>
- On March 31 the IPPR coordinated a consultation meeting with visiting academics from the Harvard Growth Lab and leading economists and other analysts in Namibia.
- In April 2022, Namibia Fact Check was mentioned as an initiative countering disinformation on the African continent in the global report 'Meeting the Challenges of Information Disorder in the Global South', edited by Prof. Herman Wassermann at the University of Cape Town.
- On May 31, Frederico Links, representing Procurement Tracker Namibia, and Graham Hopwood, representing IPPR, had a positive and productive online meeting with the management and senior staff of the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU) in the Ministry of Finance about various aspects of the work of the PPU.
- IPPR research associates led by the Executive Director took part in a review of the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in Namibia on August 24 and 25 at the invitation of the Ministry of Justice. The reviewers from France and Uganda were coordinated by the UNODC.
- The IPPR was appointed to serve on the steering committee for the National Anti-Corruption and Strategy Plan 2021-25.
- Graham Hopwood was also appointed to serve on a policy advisory committee for NIPDB (Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board).

### **Way Forward**

Although the general funding situation remains turbulent, the IPPR envisages that it will be able to maintain and develop its work in the public interest in 2023.

Graham Hopwood

IPPR Executive Director

May 2023

## APPENDIX A: MEDIA COVERAGE 2022

Media	No. of articles/reports
<b>Print/online:</b>	
The Namibian	41
New Era	22
Namibian Sun	15
Allgemeine Zeitung	7
The Villager	6
Windhoek Observer	5
Other	30
Sub-total	<b>126</b>
<b>Television:</b>	
NBC TV	11
One Africa	15
Sub-total	<b>26</b>
<b>Radio:</b>	
Future Media	19
Kosmos	14
Desert Radio	11
Eagle FM	9
NBC National Radio	4
Other	2
Sub-total	<b>59</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211</b>

There were 211 media reports, interviews and citations featuring the IPPR during 2022 as compared to 241 in 2021 and 125 in 2020. Despite the drop in media coverage from 2021, the IPPR was still averaging over four reports per week. The majority of media reports featuring the IPPR are comments on political, economic and social developments in Namibia.

## APPENDIX B: SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES IN 2022

### Social media

8 167 people liked or followed the IPPR Namibia Facebook page as of January 13 2023 (compared with 7 023 at the start of 2022) - an increase of 21 percent over the calendar year.

17 702 people followed the IPPR Namibia Twitter account on January 13 2023 (compared with 13 907 at the start of 2022) - an increase of 27 percent over the calendar year.

2 896 people liked or followed the Namibia Fact Check Facebook page on January 13 2023 (compared with 2 866 at the end of 2021) - an increase of 1 percent over the calendar year.

2 663 people followed the Namibia Fact Check Twitter account as of January 13 2023 (compared with 2 276 at the start of 2022) - an increase of 17 percent over the calendar year.

A new IPPR social media account - Integrity Namibia - was launched in late August. By the end of the year the Integrity Namibia Facebook page had 83 followers/likes. The Twitter page had 106 followers.

It is the intention of the IPPR to develop its presence on LinkedIn and Instagram during 2023.

As of January 13 2023, the IPPR Instagram page had 813 followers, while the IPPR LinkedIn page had 679 connections.

### Websites

*2022 statistics for ippr.org.na*

The website recorded 51 854 users during the year. This is an increase of 161% on 2021 when the figure was 19 895.

The most viewed publications in 2022:

1. Blog - Role and Responsibilities of the Ombudsman -	2 068 page views
2. Blog - Fourth Industrial Revolution -	1 090
3. Green hydrogen - Almost Everything -	585
4. Unpacking Cybercrime Bill -	446
5. Procurement Tracker - Largest tender -	444
6. Curt von Francois - Time to Go -	384
7. 22-23 Budget Review -	375
8. QER Q4 -	365
9. QER Q1 -	353



10. Landscaping GBV -	349
11. Countering Disinformation -	346
12. Integrity Namibia launch -	333
13. Changes to Procurement Law -	308
14. State of Economy -	302
15. Public Enterprise rankings -	297
16. Tourism & COVID brief -	294
17. Blog: National Flag -	274
18. Executive order in parliament paper -	264
19. MP Assets Register concerns -	269
20. Civil society sustainability -	255
21. MYR Budget review -	255
22. Climate change - why care? Fact sheet -	242
23. QER Q2 -	240
24. Agriculture overview -	237
25. Guide to Economy promo (2017) -	234

#### Website audience during 2022:

1. Namibia	7 299 users
2.. USA	1 505
3. Germany	1 486
4. China	1 213
5. Hong Kong	1 176
6. South Africa	785
7. UK	461
8. Netherlands	245
9. India	196
10. France	143

#### *2022 statistics for [www.namibiafactcheck.org.na](http://www.namibiafactcheck.org.na)*

The website recorded 13 385 users during the year. This was the first year covered by analytics. The website had an average of 1 100 visits per month.

1. Namibia	3 629 users
2. South Africa	2 841
3. USA	1 533
4. Nigeria	736
5. Canada	466
6. UK	440
7. India	425
8. Australia	274
9. Kenya	228
10. Ghana	226

## **APPENDIX C: RESEARCH ASSOCIATES IN 2022**

There were 16 research associates working on various projects in 2022:

Tia-Zia Garoes (Namibia Fact Check)

Titus Haiduwa (Anti-corruption)

Teneal Koorts (Climate Change)

Frederico Links (Namibia Fact Check, Democracy Report, Cybersecurity, Procurement Tracker)

McElory Maltesky (Namibia Fact Check)

Kitty McGirr (Regional Governance, Foreign Policy)

Tileni Mongudhi (Anti-corruption)

Martha Nangolo (Open Budget Survey, SME Financing)

Rosevitha Ndumbu (Anti-corruption)

Dietrich Remmert (Tourism & COVID, Media & Digitalisation)

Esther Shakela (Democracy Report)

Nangula Shejvali (Open Contracting)

Robin Sherbourne (QER, Public Enterprise Rankings, Guide to Economy, budget reviews)

Salmi Shigwedha (WEF survey)

Bradley Tjongarero (Democracy Report)

Donovan Wagner (Climate Change)