

3 MARCH 2018
MISTRA/INDULAMITHI

STATE OF MEDIA / JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

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LIKE A BAOBAB ON LIQUID SANDS



SOLID BUT THE FOUNDATIONS ARE SHAKY

- CHANGE IS THE NEW CONSTANT IN THE NEWSROOM AND THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE
- THE TREE SHEDS BARK EVERY DAY

*INVESTIGATIONS SHINE SHINE SHINE

*SO WHAT – YEAR AFTER YEAR, BUT IMPACT?

IN ONE YEAR THERE WERE 1000 – THE YEAR 2014...

- FAKE NEWS ENABLED BY FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REV – HUGE PROPAGANDA MACHINES HAVE STARTED ...WAS ANN7 NEWS OR ...
DOWNSIZED NEWSROOMS – DECIMATED NEWSROOMS
RETRENCHMENTS EVERY YEAR
- JUNIORISED STAFF – THOSE WHO CAN DO STORIES ON MOBILE...INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY IS LOST BUT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE INFO SPREAD THROUGH TECH – IF GOVT WOULD STICK TO ITS PROMISES OF CHEAPER AND BETTER BROADBAND...

PREDICTIONS

- INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM WILL SURVIVE AND THE REST AI
- MASSIVE CHANGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK, AND TWITTER STEALING MARKET SHARE FROM MAINSTREAM --- ONE FIFTH OF ALL AD SPEND.
- CHANGE EVERY YEAR — IS THE NEW CONSTANT...

TRADITION CHASING SOCIAL MEDIA

- ACCORDING TO STATE OF THE NEWSROOM RESEARCH IN 2013 AND 2014 (WWW.JOURNALISM.CO.ZA/STATEOFNEWSROOM) 15 MINUTES OF EVERY HOUR SPENT ON TWITTER
- CHASING HASHTAG 25 – SOMETHING ELSE IS LOST...

STATE/GOVERNMENT AND RULING PARTY THREATS

- ARE REAL – SURVEILLANCE HAS INCREASED/TAPPING OF PHONES/ ISA OFBOSS ETC OF THE PAST
- BUT TODAY? WHERE THERE IS POWER THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE FEAR AND INSECURITY....
- WE HAVE A JOURNALIST'S HOME BEING RAIDED – JACQUES PAUW THIS WEEK - - NEXT WEEK?
- HE WROTE A BOOK – ABOUT HOW THE FORMER PRESIDENT LOOTED AND WHO ENABLED HIM...

TODAY ITS CALLED A BREACH OF "NATIONAL SECURITY"

- HE EXPOSED THE HORROR STORY OF SARS AND ZUPTA.

PESSIMISTIC SCENARIO

- POSIB
- MAT
- SABC 8 — BUT THAT TURNED — STILL ITS LIKE A SEE SAW AND IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE CONTESTED...

ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS ARE INCREASING

- AT THE ANC CONFERENCE –IN DECEMBER 2017 SAM MKOKELI – SANEF'S MEDIA FREEDOM CHAIR ...
- BUT PHOTOGRAPHERS ESPECIALLY
- ACCORDING TO THE CPJ – WORLDWIDE TREND – BUT SA DOES NOT HAVE ANY JOURNALIST IN JAIL – 262 THIS YEAR LAST YEAR 259
- WORST OFFENDERS AT PRESENT: TURKEY, CHINA EGYPT,
- SA DOES NOT FEATURE IN THE WORST TOP 10 – BUT WE MUST ALWAYS BE VIGILANT AND REMEMBER ...
- SECRECY KEEPS THE PUBLIC IGNORANT OF INFO AND THEREFORE OBSTRUCTS DEMOCRACY – THE MEDIA ARE MEANT TO BE CONDUITS OF INFO – AND SOMETIMES THEY GET IT DAMN WRONG – SUNDAY TIMES AND SARS 9 STORIES 😞

OPTIMISTIC PART

- THE CONSTITUTION
- PAIA
- THE INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY
- ROBUST CIVIL SOCIETY
- FIGHTS AND CONTESTATIONS
- EDITORS FOUGHT IN PARLY WHEN THE SIGNAL WAS SWITCHED OFF TWO YEARS AGO AT SONA – AND THE SPEAKER WAS WARNED – CASE WAS WON IN THE SCA ---
- INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM HAS CREATED WAVES INTERNATIONALLY – AMB, NEWS24, SCORPIO, SUNDAY TIMES

HIGH HIGH NO OF CIVIL SOCIETY BODIES

- MMA
- FXI
- R2K
- SANEF
- MISA
- IAJ
- SECTION 27
- GENDER LINKS

ROBUST DEMOCRACY

- MESSY AND NOSEY AND NOISY (COULD BE DISRUPTED BY A MAT)
- FIGHTS AND CONTESTATIONS PART OF A DEMOCRACY TO COME...AND MEDIA IS AN INTRINSIC PART OF THIS
- ALAS – NEWSROOMS THEMSELVES ARE UNDER THREAT – NOT SO MUCH FROM RULING PARTY AND STATE AT PRESENT BUT MORE FROM THE CHANGES TECH, AND LACK OF REVENUE...ADVERTISING GOES ONLINE AND PRINT LOSES OUT
- PRINT IS YESTERDAYS NEWS – AND COMPLAINTS ARE THAT THERE IS OPINION ENOUGH BUT ANALYSIS NOT SO MUCH....
- COMMERCIAL IMPERATIVES ARE KILLING AND YET SHOULDN'T JOURNALISM BE A PUBLIC GOOD?

RADICAL DEMOCRACY ALWAYS BECOMING AND
NEVER FULLY REALIZED...

- ONE OF THE KEY PILLARS OF THIS IS A MEDIA THAT STANDS OF SOLID GROUND...BUT

THERE ARE FORECLOSURES

- CHARGING OF JOURNALIST WITH TAX ACTS...?
- CLOSURES SIGNIFIED BY A POSIB- THAT'S NATIONAL INTEREST IS TOO BROAD WITH INADEQUATE PUBLIC INTEREST DEFENSE AND JAIL TERMS FOR DISCLOSURES

YET IF IT WASN'T FOR JOURNALISTS

- GUPTA LEAKS
- BELL POTTINGER
- MCKINSEY
- KPMG
- TRILLIAN

SPACE IN A DEMOCRACY

- SYMBOLICALLY OCCUPIED BY LEGITIMATE ADVERSARIES AND NOT ENEMIES— THAT'S THE MEDIAS SPACE...
- STRONG DISSENT
- AMAZING SPIRIT OF ACTIVISM
- BUT VIGILANCE/IN FACT HYPER VIGILANCE IS NEEDED EVEN WITH ANEW PRESIDENT — MAYBE EVEN PARTICULARLY WITH A NEW PRESIDENT WHO IS HIMSELF ON SHAKY GROUND, OR LIQUID SANDS ...WHEN THE POWERFUL GET INSECURE PARANOIA SETS IN...

RELIEF THAT THE ZUMA REGIME IS OVER

- SHOULD NOT MEAN THAT THE MEDIA SHOULD REST OF ITS LAURELS.
- HOPEFULLY THE RAMAPHORIA OR THE HONEY MOON IS OVER – A WEEKEND IS LONG ENOUGH...
- WE HAVE TO WATCH THAT THERE IS NO CLOSURE OF VOICE, THAT SECRECY BILL IN ITS CURRENT FORM DOES NOT GET SIGNED, THAT MAT GETS WITHDRAWN FROM THE ANC'S RESOLUTIONS, THAT JOURNALISTS STOP BEING TAPPED, THAT PHOTOGRAPHERS STOP BEING ATTACKED, THAT JOURNALISTS DON'T GET BOUGHT AS WE NEAR THE NEXT ELECTION....

BUT THINGS WILL KEEP CHANGING AS DIGITISATION CONTINUES ASPACE

- I LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK....
- PUBLIC NEED INFO AND THEY NEED RELIABLE AND HONEST INFO – NOT PROPAGANDA
- THE FUTURE IS THAT THE SPACES ARE OPEN....

I THANK YOU FROM ALL MY MULTIPLE SUBJECTIVITIES

- GLENDA DANIELS
- DISCLOSURE – FORMER M&G JOURNALIST, R2K ACTIVIST, SANEF COUNCIL MEMBER, IAJ BOARD MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE PROF MEDIA STUDIES AT WITS --- AND ONCE UPON A TIME ANTI-APARTHEID ACTIVIST IN THE UDF.
- THESE ARE MY VARIED GAZES UPON THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN A DEMOCRACY.