



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MICT

Ministry of Information and
Communication Technology

**SPEECH BY HON. EMMA THEOFELUS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE WPF 21 – THE SIDELINES JOURNALIST TRAINING ON
DIGITAL RIGHTS AND SAFETY ONLINE**

28 MAY 2021

ROOF OF AFRICA

Thank you Programme Lead, all protocol observed.

Let me first and foremost congratulate you all for the successful hosting of this journalist training on Digital Rights and Safety Online. As journalists, I don't think I should preach to the converted about the importance of recognising Digital Rights and Online Safety, however I will say that it would be ideal to extend this training to all Namibians because as a Ministry responsible for ICTs in Namibia, we are fully aware of the lack of digital literacy that exists and all interventions are welcomed by us in closing this gap.

Secondly, I would like to commend the partners responsible for hosting this training on the sidelines of a very important and recently successfully held conference it being the WPF and the eventual adoption of the Windhoek +30 Declaration once again in the birthplace of press freedom. This training not only focused on the place of democracy in the digital space or digital security and rights of journalists, it also looked at the responsibilities of journalists in reporting and the ever growing need to fact check in journalism to ensure media ethics are promoted.

Yes, innovation in journalism is growing, reporting on science and technology is becoming complex however, as journalists, being the torch bearers of the fourth estate of our democracies, we trust you practice the non-partisan, fairness and truthful principles of true and pure journalism.

As a government that has always prided itself in the fact that our Constitution safeguards the right to free speech including of course the right to media freedom and freedom of expression, we urge you to continue doing the work that you are doing and further hope that you will at the same time safeguard the principles of democracy and principles such as truth and accuracy, independence, fairness and impartiality, accountability and most important of all in my opinion, humanity.

We hope the gems of knowledge and skills you have gained in this training will add value to the work you do. I thank you.

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