

# Freedom of the press: ethics more important than law

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Last Thursday evening, the President's office and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) as well as the Namibian Editors' Forum held a lecture by the award-winning BBC as part of World Press Freedom Day, which Namibia will host on May 3, 2021. Reporters, Milton Nkosi, invited. In a NUST auditorium that was well attended in line with the COVID-19 measures, Nkosi spoke to media students and employees of various media about ethics and freedom of the press.

“I don't even know what to talk about? I can't add Eskimo's ice cream,” said Nkosi at the beginning and emphasized how much Namibia is in a unique situation in Africa, as it has been in the top echelons of press freedom in Africa for years. “We in South Africa are trying, but we cannot compete with Namibia. In 2020 you are in first place in Africa for the second year in a row and are 23rd worldwide,” he said happily for Namibia.

However, this should not lead to arrogance. It is important to take on a better status worldwide. It is important to put moral values in the foreground and not always the law: “Apartheid was morally wrong, but it was a law. Then you have to show character in good time and advocate ethically correct moral values and not the law,” he warned.

Nkosi can have a say in the matter, because he has every important African president as well as personalities such as Walter Sisulu, Harry Belafonte, Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, FW De Klerk, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Desmond Tutu, Jacob Zuma and Thabo Mbeki as well as Cyril Ramaphosa, and many more interviewed. For years he was the BBC office manager in India and later South Africa.

Dr. Hugh Ellis, media lecturer at the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) spoke about the media landscape in Namibia and mainly criticized the unequal gender presence in the Namibian media.