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FXI-MISA MEDIA SYMPOSIUM



On the 14th of August 2014, the Freedom of Expression Institute hosted a successful Media Symposium on how South Africa can ensure that it regains the status of a free media environment. The Media Symposium was made possible through support from the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA).

With the recent decline in several South African media freedom ratings, the FXI found it pertinent, to bring together key media stakeholders to critically engage on the issues that currently threaten the state of a free media in South Africa. The keynote address was given by Zoe Titus, Regional Director of the Media Institute of Southern Africa, with expert contributions from Cathal Gilbert (Project Director, Freedom House), and Latiefa Mobara (Public Advocate, Press Council). Zoe Titus emphasized the need for greater focus on how the findings from the various available media freedom indices can be incorporated in development plans as opposed to interrogating the rankings thereof. The Media Symposium brought into perspective findings on media freedom in South Africa according to the 2014 Freedom of the Press report by Freedom House and highlighted how the media regulatory framework falls short in terms of advancing diversity and transformation. The Media Symposium began an introspective discussion that will carry forward the issues raised towards the development of innovative approaches by all stakeholders to ensure media freedom in South Africa and the region.

Executive Committee: Anton Harber (Chairperson), Raymond Louw, Nobuntu Mbelle, Indra de Lanerolle, William Gumede, Oupa Lebogo, Sam Radebe, Franz Kruger. **Executive Director:** Tusi Fokane