



BREAKING NEWS



Directors Note

Welcome to the third leg of BTM'S Electronic Quarterly Newsletter! The period from July to the end September was characterised by the

Women's Day and the Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Pride March festivities. BTM's team of journalist had the opportunity of covering these August and September events as they took place in Gauteng, South Africa. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community of South Africa sadly lost an icon, Jeff Moyo who was with a gay musical group called 3Sum on the 5th of August. 3Sum is the only openly gay and vocal musical group in South Africa that has put the LGBTI community on the map as far as mainstream entertainment is concerned. Other politically remarkable happenings in the continent within this period include the Ugandan government's proposal of the law that confines and regulates public meetings of its citizens. This stance, Amnesty International contends, violates rights to freedoms of peaceful assembly and expression. Amnesty International also published a report that was presented to the media that denounces the use of torture to extract confession and convict alleged homosexuals in Senegal.

The Trans-movement in Gaborone, Botswana is on the move, Skipper Mogapi recounts how his personal experiences as a transman inspired the idea to start up a Transgender organisation called the Rainbow Identity which boasts a membership of at least 30 transgender people.

You will note that this quarter's newsletter layout has been modified a bit to a more stylish, vibey and contemporary look. Our news team saw the need for this, just for the fun of it, and besides change is also good.

Enjoy our newsletter and remember to always visit our website www.mask.org.za for more news on LGBTI people in Africa!!!

The struggle continues
Thuli Madi



Health minister urges partnership with LGBT Community

<http://www.mask.org.za/minister-of-health-urges-partnership-with-lgbt-community/>

Proposed law on regulation of public meetings by the police threatens human rights

<http://www.mask.org.za/uganda-proposed-law-on-the-regulation-of-public-meetings-by-the-police-threatens-human-rights/>

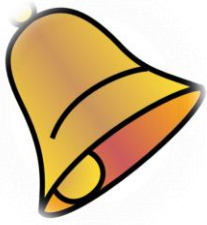
Trans movement in Botswana through Skipper Mogapi's eyes

<http://www.mask.org.za/trans-movement-in-botswana-through-skipper-mogapi%e2%80%99s-eyes/>

Amnesty International denounces torture – Senegal

<http://www.mask.org.za/amnesty-international-denounces-torture-senegal/>





FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

Astraea funds lesbian organisations and cultural media projects that directly address the depth and complexities of lesbian and trans issues. They also support LGBTI organisations, women's organisations, and progressive organisations that have lesbians and trans people in leadership roles and include lesbian and trans issues as an integral part of their work.

Visit: <http://www.astraeafoundation.org/grants/>

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation works to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation and advance human achievement. Sexuality is one of their interest areas.

Visit: <http://www.fordfoundation.org/>

Levi Strauss Foundation

The Levi Strauss Foundation has a focus on HIV/AIDS and supports policy advocacy, law reform and other efforts to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS are treated with dignity and respect and have access to critical services.

Visit: <http://www.levistrauss.com/about/foundations/levi-strauss-foundation>

Mama Cash

Dutch foundation fund and support women and girls' human rights groups that push beyond the status quo to transform unjust systems and relations and bring about fundamental change for themselves and their communities.

They also fund and support local and regional women's funds so that they can build the capacities of emerging, grassroots, and established women's and girls' human rights organisations in their countries.

Visit: <http://www.mamacash.org/>

EVENTS

Gay Socialite Jeff Moyo Laid To Rest

On 13 August this year, Behind The Mask attended the moving memorial service of Jeff Moyo, member of flamboyant music trio 3sum who was laid to rest on Saturday 14 August following his sudden death on 5 August at his Rustenburg home allegedly due to ulcers.

Womens Focus Hosted by Probono

In celebration of Women's Day, ProBono.Org hosted a Women's Day Focus event inviting advocates and attorneys to assist women with legal problems and Behind The Mask was part of the celebration.

The event invited NGOs to refer clients for this event, to also attend a lunch with us, to set up stands to publicise services and hear an address on some aspect of women's rights by a prominent women's rights speaker.

Amnesty International Women's Event

With August being women's month Amnesty International Africa hosted the women's day event aimed at voicing out concerns and challenges experienced by women and also to make policy makers aware of such challenges and adopt and implement laws, policies and practices that will end deprivation, insecurity, exclusion, and voicelessness of women. "we are demanding that all states adopt and implement the laws, policies and practices that will end deprivation, insecurity, exclusion, and voicelessness. Women are always at the centre of all these human rights violations", said Nokuthula Magudulela, director of Amnesty International South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRIDE MARCHES ARE WE LOSING THE PLOT?

Rainbow flags, pink everything, alcohol and loads of fun or perhaps just another frivolous event for homos to flaunt their stuff or should I say themselves? Men in pink tutu dresses...an eye sore to some, or maybe confusion and a field day for mockery to our hetero counter parts, I beg to differ! Pride marches in South Africa date back to the early 90s, with the first ever African gay and lesbian Pride parade taking place in Johannesburg in 1990. This year's offering of Joburg Pride which takes place on 02 October, according to organisers will be "highlighting the deteriorating human rights landscape for LGBT people across Africa, Joburg Pride 2010 will be reminding the continent's people, politicians and religious leaders that: We're ALL African."

Threading with caution, I would like to note that it is so unfortunate, for the lack of a better word, on how pride parades over the years have lost the political poignant element seemingly with parade revelers attending the parade for "fun", but I must laud the organisers of Ekurhuleni pride parade which saw a number of people marching the streets of KwaThema.

Themed "Just let me be", Bontle Khalo communications officer for the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project said, "The theme speaks for itself as we want to have a fun colourful display in Ekurhuleni and send a message, let us live our lives and be who we want to be, as some people in this township are still not open minded towards gay people", and colourful it was.

Another pivotal event on the gay calendar is SOWETO Pride taking place on 25 September, which according to organisers (FEW) Forum for the Empowerment of Women "is aimed at expressing publically and celebrating, our identities, activism and resilience as black lesbian women. It is also a space to express our outrage at the violations that we still face in South Africa because of our sexuality together with the broader lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community."

According to Wikipedia, pride parades are events "celebrating the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) culture. The events also at times



serve as demonstrations for legal rights such as same-sex marriage" a fitting and laudable definition I must add but over the years Pride marches revelers attend such events for entertainment reasons, so notes a dear friend of mine who says "considering that I am not out back home, I go there to meet people and potential partners and also to have fun", in a clandestine and homophobic environment, such spaces might just be the only possible social spaces for those who mimic the perceived normal heterosexual lifestyle (in the closet) to affirm their sexuality.



With a constitution that affirms and protects human rights regardless of sexual orientation, it remains unsettling that human rights violation are still on the increase and seemingly the government is not doing enough. Perhaps as parade revelers we need to use such parades as platforms to advocate and make decision makers aware of such violations and not just another day to play dress up, go out there and claim what is rightfully yours, your pride and your constitutional rights!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

How diverse is our media

The Media Development & Diversity Agency and Durban University of Technology Journalism Department, in partnership with the Mail&Guardian Critical Thinking Forum, are hosting a discussion forum on the theme 'How Diverse Is Our Media', on 26 October 2010. For more info contact: Tamarin Marshman: 011 250 7420/tamarinm@mg.co.za

The fifth annual EISA symposium

The Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa, a NGO striving for excellence in the promotion of credible elections, participatory democracy, human rights culture and the strengthening of governance institutions for the consolidation of democracy, is hosting its **Fifth Annual Symposium** from 23-24 November 2010 in Johannesburg.

For more info visit: <http://www.eisa.org.za/events/symposium.htm>

Excellence in media award for global health

The Global Health Council, the world's largest membership alliance dedicated to saving lives by improving health throughout the world, invites entries for the **Excellence in Media Award for Global Health**. The submission deadline is 1 February 2011. For more information contact: Alexandra Fedorova, Global Health Council, 1111 19th Street, NW - Suite 1120

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[Global Health Council website](http://www.globalhealth.org)
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The Global South-South Development Expo 2010

The Global South-South Development Expo 2010 (GSSD Expo) is designed as a concrete response to the strong commitment made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations Development Programme Administrator to help the Global South realise its shared aspirations for achieving sustainable and equitable development through the sharing and transfer of Southern-grown development solutions.

For more information visit: <http://www.southsouthexpo.org>

The Sol Plaatje Institute scholarships

The Sol Plaatje Institute for Media Leadership (SPI) at Rhodes University's School of Journalism and Media Studies invites Southern African candidates who wish to register for the SPI's Postgraduate Diploma in Media Management.
Contact: Monique Senekal
PDMM Course Coordinator and Marketing-Communications Officer
Tel: +27(0)46 63 8949
Cell: +27(0)79 391 5881
m.senekal@ru.ac.za

The FitzGerald Prize

Thomson Reuters is offering a scholarship for a promising, young (under 30) African journalist or aspirant journalist. The scholarship is to do a post graduate BA hon's degree at the University of The Witwatersrand 's Journalism Programme in Johannesburg and to join Reuters News thereafter for 6 months' work experience.
For more information, contact: Matthew Tostevin
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Journalist study tour to India

The Fahamu Emerging Powers in Africa Programme is pleased to announce a call for applications for its Journalist Study Tour to India. Four successful applicants will be chosen to participate in a 6 day study tour. African media professionals in print, broadcast, radio and online for a throughout Africa are encouraged to apply for this study tour. African lecturers from journalism schools and media programmes on the continent may also apply.
The closing date for applications for the Emerging Powers in Africa Programme's Study Tour to India is October 1, 2010.

For more information visit: Emerging Players in Africa:
http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/africa_china/

CDS: Masters in Development Studies Programme

The Centre for Development Support within the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of the Free State is presenting a two-year, multi-disciplinary Masters in Development Studies Programme that combines distance-based learning with five one-week contact sessions held at the University of the Free State.

Contact: email: olivierd@ufs.ac.za.