



Press Statement for Immediate Release

April 4, 2016

Windhoek, Namibia

NMT hails ‘Panama Papers’ exposé as showcase of journalism excellence

The Namibia Media Trust (NMT) commends the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) for coordinating the groundbreaking global investigation, known as the 'Panama Papers - Politicians, Criminals and the Rogue Industry that Hides Their Cash', and which exposes a system of crime, corruption and wrongdoing by the rich and powerful, hidden by secretive offshore companies.

An estimated 400 journalists from over 100 news agencies in over 80 countries undertook the investigation into a massive leak of more than 11.5 million financial and legal records. The 12-month long investigation culminated in what is probably the largest collaborative journalistic investigation in history, and has taken the social media world by storm and caused shockwaves around the world.

A series of extensive reports reveal the hidden financial dealings of politicians, fraudsters, drug traffickers, billionaires, celebrities, sports stars and more.

In the words of the ICIJ: “ICIJ’s data and research unit indexed, organized and analyzed the 2.6 terabytes of data that make up the leak, using collaborative platforms to communicate and share documents with journalists working in 25 languages in nearly 80 countries” in this mega investigation.

NMT Chairperson, Gwen Lister, a founder member of the ICIJ in 1997 and a member of the Advisory Committee, notes with pride that *The Namibian* newspaper and several of its journalists are part of the investigation. She said this is a “great example of professional cross border, collaborative, multi-platformed investigative journalism that holds power to account” and illustrates the increasing need for good journalism that exposes corruption and makes a difference in the world.

The NMT, publisher of *The Namibian* newspaper, congratulates the project managers and team of journalists and partner publications worldwide which took part in this

pioneering media initiative, the biggest data leak in offshore history, which has had reverberations far and wide.

Issued by:

Zoé Titus
Strategic Coordinator
Namibia Media Trust (NMT)

cc. International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)

Gerard Rile
gryle@icij.org
watchdog@publicintegrity.org

/ENDS