



Annual Report

July 2023

This report covers the period from 1 March 2022 to 31 February 2023.

Introduction

The Henry Nxumalo Foundation (HNF) has since 2007 (originally as the Taco Kuiper Fund) given grants and other support to investigative journalists in South Africa. Over the 16 years of its operation, it has made over 80 grants to the value of over R5-million.

HNF is an independent non-profit company, registered with SARS as a tax exempt Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) for the support and promotion of investigative reporting.

Grants

During this financial year, HNF gave seven new grants for a total of R643 768.

These grants fell into two groups:

- General applications to our main fund. We received nine applications and gave four grants ranging from R36 000 to R130 000, totaling R270 000. The subjects included the maritime environment, assassinations and land and they were for video/television, podcasting, print and online. One grant was for Roving Reporters in Durban who trained and mentored a group of young reporters in environmental investigations.

- We issued a call for applications dealing with the spate of kidnappings for ransom. We received 8 applications and granted three to the amount of R373 768.

We also paid out project completion grants (grant funds held until project is completed) from previous years of R46 950. We hold R30 000 in completion grants from this year.

We paid for four mentors to the tune of R15 931. Mentors are offered to less experienced grantees who could benefit from advice and guidance.

Of these seven projects, three have been completed and published/broadcast, one is completed and awaiting broadcast and three are due before the end of July.

Partnership Grants

During the year, we wrapped up our agreements with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GITOC) and WITS/African Investigative Journalism Conference, paying out completion grants of R145 578.88 and R165 095.36 respectively.

Highlights of published work

Some of the highlights of recent work published with our support:

Jacques Pauw: [Our Poisoned Land: Living in the Shadows of Zuma's Keepers](#) (NB Publishers)

Dianne Hawker: [How to Steal a Gold Mine: The Aurora Story](#) (NB Publishers, 2023).

Lenina Rassool published her [Child Abuse: Has the early warning system broken down?](#) (GroundUp, 2 June 2022)

Nechama Brodie's [Farm Killings in South Africa](#) (Kwela, 2023).

Bheki Mashile's land scandal exposé – [Umjindi's modern-day force removals](#) – was published in his online newspaper, Umjindi Guardian, in April 2023.

Lucas Ledwaba published his "[A Desire to Return to the Ruins](#): A look at the contentious issues of land reform and restitution in post-apartheid South Africa".

For a full list, see our website: <https://henryxumalofoundation.co.za/previous-grantees/>

Awards

Two of our grantees received major awards:

- Mignonne Breir won the Sunday Times Non-Fiction Award for her book *Bloody Sunday*.
- Ray Joseph was named Sekuvile Journalist of the Year and he won the Taco Kuiper Award for Investigative Reporting for his lottery exposé.

Incomplete work

We have three grantees who have not delivered from 2022 and two from 2021 . Of the 2022 projects, two were long-term projects, one due later this year and one early next year.

These two have reported good progress on their work.

The third, one of those given for an investigation in the July 2021 KZN uprising, has been partly repaid (R80 000) and the balance is due to be used to publish material before the end of July 2023.

Of the two from 2021, both are books that were delayed by Covid. One is due out in the next few months, the other early next year. Both report substantial progress.

Over our lifespan, we have had a very low level of non-delivery. We had one grantee who died, one who became too ill to do the work and two who have paid back the money because they were unable to do the work.

Late delivery is a bigger problem, though this might be expected given the nature of the projects we are funding. This last year we tightened up the management of slow delivery. We now require a brief monthly progress report from grantees. If it looks like a grantee will not make their deadline, we take quick action, if necessary renegotiating the deadline.

Funding

We increased our funding base this year. Apart from our previous funders, Millenium Trust and Jonathan Beare, we brought in Laurie Dippenaar's family trust, who agreed to back one project as a trial. The family of journalist John Paterson, who died in London in January,

asked friends to make a donation to us and this brought in a significant contribution (spread over this reporting year and the current year).

The Wits Partnership Agreement

Since this project was started in Wits Journalism, we have had a partnership agreement with the university in terms of which we have worked on some grants with them. Wits has now given notice that they are terminating their agreement with us. While we are sorry to lose the connection, the termination has no material effect on the Foundation.

The Board

The HNF has had a four-person board:

- Thabo Leshilo, chairperson. Thabo is a former newspaper editor and currently Politics and Society editor at The Conversation.
- Thandeka Nxumalo, who represents the Nxumalo Family.
- Dr Franz Kruger, former editor, appointed to represent Wits
- Prof Anton Harber, who runs the Foundation.

The 2023 AGM appointed another Nxumalo family member, Josephine Norwood, to replace Thandeka Nxumalo and Franz Kruger was reappointed in his personal capacity.

The Grant Panel

We have four senior journalists on our grant-approval panel. For the first few months of the year, these were Thabo Leshilo, Lizeka Mda, Sarah Carter and Anton Harber. During the course of the year, Lizeka Mda withdrew and Mahlatse Mahlasi joined the panel.

Journalists' safety

There is rising concern over journalists' safety, particularly when investigating organized crime and corruption. The Foundation felt this in early 2023 when a grantee investigating the corruption mafia withdrew because of security concerns. The Board is introducing safety protocols for grantees which are intended to increase security awareness and minimize risk.

Administration

The Foundation has no staff. We hire an administrator for occasional part-time support on an hourly basis, and a financial consultant to manage our financial records and reporting (who, in fact, did not charge for her time this reporting year). We pay a web developer by the hour to keep our site updated. Our admin costs are less than 2% of our expenditure – a figure we can be proud of.

The Future

Since the end of the financial year, we have issued a call for proposals to investigate The Construction Mafia and have commissioned two projects. We will experiment further with thematic calls for applications, as this draws new applicants into our pool.

We will be spotlighting our and our grantees' work at the African Investigative Journalism Conference in November 2023, and give financial assistance to those who need it to attend. We will also use this event for a publicity drive, as it draws our target audience.

Anton Harber

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