
Call for applications:
A grant to monitor, investigate and report on
digital disruption of the 2024 elections

The Henry Nxumalo Foundation is offering a grant to journalists to investigate and report on digital disruption of South Africa's 2024 elections.

There have been numerous warnings of the potential for serious disruption of the vote. The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024 ranked Artificial Intelligence-derived misinformation and disinformation as the biggest global risk in this election year, ahead of climate change, war and economic weakness. The Independent Electoral Commission has said: "The burgeoning use of digital media in recent years has seen a corresponding surge in digital disinformation, particularly on social media platforms ... Left unchecked, this phenomenon stands to undermine the conduct of credible elections."

The grants are intended to enable journalists to have the time and resources to fully and properly investigate this phenomenon in all its forms, to monitor it in the election period and to investigate and expose any incidents that occur. We hope to raise public awareness of the problem, encourage vigilance and proactive prevention on the social media platforms and those how monitor our elections, and expose those responsible for any disruption. We will expect grantees to publish or broadcast multiple stories mainly in the campaign period but also through the voting and results announcement periods.

Any journalist or team of journalists may apply, and the work may be done in any media. Applicants are encouraged to team up with digital and social media forensics experts or access sophisticated tools for social media analysis and should explain in their application how they will use these experts and tools.

We favour work which is in the public interest, aims to reveal new information, is in-depth and investigative in approach and uses innovative techniques or tools.

Grant decisions are made by an independent panel of experts and are treated confidentially.

It will be the grantee's responsibility to ensure the material will be published/broadcast and the applicants should indicate where they intend to publish/broadcast. An expression of interest from the publisher/broadcaster will assist the application.

Applicants should submit a short proposal (not more than two pages), a CV, a budget and where possible an expression of interest from a publisher/broadcaster. These should be sent to: henrynxumalofund@gmail.com. Closing date: February 23, 2024.

See: www.henrynxumalofoundation.co.za for full grant rules and guidelines.