



Tokyo Sexwale CEO, Mvelaphanda

The man who found Chris Hani's body on national television is an unlikely media mogul, but Sexwale's Mvelaphanda now owns big chunks of SA's media. He owns 50 per cent in Avusa (publisher of the *Monday Times*), ITweb and the now-defunct *Business Century* (*Maverick*). His presidential ambitions at Polokwane in 2007 were thwarted by a lack of grassroots support, the former Gauteng premier, who has won his lot in with Jacob Zuma, has significant business interests to distract him.

Murphy Morobe CEO, Kagiso Media

Morobe was former president Thabo Mbeki's head of communications when he took over Kagiso. His media stable includes radio stations like East Coast Radio, Starand and Heart. The soft-spoken former chair of Ernst & Young demonstrated his fearlessness when, as a United Democratic Front (UDF) leader, he fronted a press conference in the late '80s to announce the party from Winnie Mandela's ties with the Mandela Football Club. Kagiso's 2008 acquisition of online media agency Acceleration significantly boosted digital presence in the arena.

German Heunis CEO, MXit

Heunis is the founder of MXit, and if *Die Son* and other tabloids are to be believed, the devil is in the details. He is the antichrist who is corrupting our youth with coke-fuelled sex parties. He's the clever entrepreneur who created a successful and cheap cellphone messaging platform that allows millions of people (even those with incredibly bad grammar) to talk to each other for peace. So traumatised is he by the media that he no longer gives live interviews. The son of a Namibian sheep farmer, he decided he preferred hi-tech. He also founded Swist, a high-tech services group that provides Vodacom's techie bodies.

Anton Harber

Professor of journalism, media blog publisher and crash young *Rand Daily Mail* reporter

who started what would become the *Mail & Guardian* is now the de facto media authority in South Africa. The founding professor of journalism at Wits University, he is the go-to guy for the media when it wants comment on itself. He readily supplies it through a *Business Day* column and his superb *The Harbinger* media blog. Erudite and deep-thinking, Harber is training a new generation of journalists who will hopefully learn some of his fearlessness and bravery.

Vincent Maher

Head of Social Media, Vodacom
Maher was the strategist for the M&G Online, co-founded Amatomu and Thought Leader and is now responsible for Vodacom's social media strategy. There's no doubt that mobile phones and social networking are the two biggest things right now. Maher, who is a skateboarder and gaming editor, is at the nexus of both.



Toby Shapshak Editor, digital publisher and technology commentator

An unrepentant gadget fiend, Shapshak has become the most high-profile technology journalist in the country. A former sports editor for the *Mail & Guardian* (he broke the Hansie Cronje 'the devil made me do it' story), the over-enthusiastic Shapshak has a passion for new technology and is the de facto commentator on everything tech. A GQ contributing editor for 10 years, Shapshak is now the editor of *Stuff* and digital publisher of Avusa's 50-something magazine titles.

Branko Brkic Media entrepreneur

He was the largest independent publisher in Yugoslavia until an uncomplimentary book on Slobodan Milosevic saw him hounded out of the country in 1991. Brkic arrived in South Africa with just \$1 000, two jerseys and no English. The industry noticed him when he launched and edited *Brainstorm* for ITweb. His took a fearless – and dare we say it – maverick approach as editor of *Maverick* and *Empire*, two quality, albeit short-lived,

magazines. New things are afoot online, so watch this space.

Brian Herlihy President, Seacom

South African Internet users may not know who Brian Herlihy is, but they are eagerly awaiting his undersea cable that will liberate the country from Telkom's stranglehold. Seacom promises to bring in 10 times more broadband at a significantly lower price and will (thankfully and irredeemably) change the telecoms landscape. The happy day is 27 June. Mark it down somewhere.

Trevor Ncube

Owner, Mail & Guardian
A fearless former journalist who runs the only independent newspapers in Zimbabwe, Ncube was the surprising choice when London's *Guardian* sold its stake in the *Mail & Guardian's* parent company M&G Media. He's also bought back the M&G Online from MWEB. With a new distribution company to boot, circulation is growing. Ncube still fights Mugabe's regime even after they confiscated his passport and continue to harass his Zimbabwean employees.

Ben Wagner CEO, Stonewall+

Ben Wagner has been at the helm of Stonewall+, a digital marketing agency that serves world-class companies and marketers, for four years now. As strategic and marketing head, he's grown and nurtured it to be one of the leading digital agencies in the southern African industry. Wagner leads clients through a strategically centred approach. He's known for his ability to develop technologically sound, creatively driven solutions that create positive business outcomes. He's done business with everyone from 5FM, Red Bull and Jack Daniel's to First National Bank, Lowe Bull and News24.

Nic Haralambous GM, Zoopy.com

Here's another ex-Rhodes journo who's found fame, fortune and glory (sic) in the SA Web 2.0 space. Haralambous runs the Gauteng office of Zoopy, South Africa's answer to YouTube mashed up with Flickr. He's another alumnus of M&G Online and a regular blogger on why South Africa rocks (www.sarocks.co.za). Zoopy now features Zoopy TV to provide a web TV platform for semi-professional content. Now, to make some money out of it...

Angus Hay

Chief technology officer, Neotel

Much of Neotel's success will depend on whether Angus Hay is right. Having been executive head of strategy at Neotel and CTO at its precursor Transtel, much of what Telkom's long-awaited competitor will achieve will be based on his cleverly devised strategy. Hay, who is also the vice-president of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE), may well prove to be an unlikely (and most welcomed) hero in South Africa's telecoms liberalisation.



Thulani Mbatha Editor, Isolezwe and Isolezwe NgeSonto ('On Sunday')

Independent Newspapers' *Isolezwe* was the first modern Zulu tabloid and the first news site to communicate in Zulu on the worldwide web. Mbatha now runs the biggest daily newspaper in KwaZulu-Natal, a newly launched Sunday title and also oversees content on the rapidly growing IOL-powered online version. With literacy among KwaZulu-Natal adults as high as 97 per cent, Mbatha's already powerful voice is poised to grow significantly from his daily reach of about 700 000 readers.

Justin Hartman

MD and co-founder, Afrigator

You're a new media entrepreneur and you want create a blog aggregator for Africa. You're coming up with lame name after tame name, and then your wife pipes up, 'Why not Afrigator?' Business 2.0 voted it one of their top 30 'non-US start-ups to watch'. MIH (Naspers) just bought it. They've spread to podcasts, videos and pics. See you later 'gator...

Richard Came

Director, Dark Fibre Africa

Came is a director and public face of Dark Fibre Africa. They handle the headache that comes with getting permission to cut holes in our main roads, lay fibre and then sell access to the likes of Vodacom, Telkom and Neotel. Genius.