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| F:\Drive\24852142_325002057978970_1147780836746008375_n.jpg  computer applications technolgy  PAT TOPIC: FAKE NEWS  NAME: NKUNA BRIDGET CHRIS  SCHOOL: SAMORA MACHEL MSTA | Abstract  In this document I am going to investigate more about the effect of fake news at a national, provincial and local level and with possible solutions to solve this problem. |

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## INTRODUCTION

* In South Africa relevance of fake news has increased in post-truth politics. For media outlets, the ability to attract viewers to their websites is necessary to general online advertising revenue. If publishing a story with false content attracts users, it may be worthy of producing in order to benefit advertisers and ratings. Easy access to online advertisement revenue, increased political polarization, and the popularity of social media, primarily the Facebook News Feed, have all been implicated in the spread of fake news, which has come to provide competition for legitimate news stories. Hostile government actors have also been implicated in generating and propagating fake news, particularly during elections.
* Fake news has a huge effect on the country and people in such a manner that mislead the citizens more especially on politics.
* In this report I am going to discuss the effect of fake news in the community and implement or teach people how they can protect themselves from becoming victims of trusting and spreading unreal news, also including ways to identify fake news.
* The main purpose of this investigation was to research more about the effects of fake news and implement strategies to fight against fake news because many people are lacking
* I have investigated the use of social media network by people, how fake news spread and what is the effect of fake news in the community, country, worldwide

## TASK DEFINITION

The relevance of fake news has increased in post-truth politics. For media outlets, the ability to attract viewers to their websites is necessary to general online advertising revenue. If publishing a story with false content attracts users, it may be worthy of producing in order to benefit advertisers and ratings. Easy access to online advertisement revenue, increased political polarization, and the popularity of social media, primarily the Facebook News Feed, have all been implicated in the spread of fake news, which has come to provide competition for legitimate news stories. Hostile government actors have also been implicated in generating and propagating fake news, particularly during elections.

Fake news have affected the country when it comes to politics, news accuracy because of the fake news which mislead the people to corruption. For an example in South Africa rumours and lies have been spread about the former president Jacob Zuma which have caused many people to change political parties, this problem is getting worse each and every day and is corrupting the dignity of the country. So the purpose of my investigation is to find possible ways to stop the spreading and publishing of fake news in our country.

**The focus of my investigation**

The focus of my investigation was based on finding how fake news affects the country and the people living in the country.

How I went about the investigation considering the PAT requirements?

I went on about doing the investigation by doing the following: for Phase 1 – I created a suitable folder structure, formulated a task definition and focus questions, drew up questions that guided my research, identified sources that were to help me to find quality information and also identified research methods that I used to find information, performed background research then from there I critically assessed information sources. After I have completed all my research then I began writing the final report,

For Phase 2- the first I did was to draw and conduct a questionnaire/ survey, then I designed and use the database and spreadsheet to analyse the survey results. After that I will continued refining my final report. For Phase 3- I will draw up my findings and recommendations then compile a word processing report to report on the process, findings and recommendations.

What was my target audience?

My target audience is the community members at a local level, provincial and national more especially to those who use internet.

## FOCUS QUESTION

The focus of my investigation will be on finding how fake news affects the country and the people living in the country.

## QUESTIONS TABLE

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NO. | QUESTION | QUESTION LEVEL(1,2,3,4) | CATEGORY | TYPE OF SOURCE |
|  | What is the effect of fake news in the country? | 1 | Economical | Website source |
|  | How long has fake news been around | 2 | Social | Website source |
|  | What is being done about fake news | 1 | Social | Website source |
|  | Which ways may be used to identify fake news | 2 | Social | Website source/internet |
|  | What can be done to stop fake news websites | 2 | Social | Website source |
|  | In which ways does fake news affects the local community | 3 | Economical | Website/internet |
|  | What can social media sites do to avoid the spread of fake news? | 2 | Social | Website source |
|  | Why do fake news spread faster than true news. | 2 | Social | Website source |
|  | Why fake news are bad | 1 | Social | Website source |
|  | As an internet user what can you do to expose and stop fake news | 2 | Social | Website source |

## QUESTIONS AND SOURCES TABLE

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Question | Question level(1,2,3,4) | Category | Type of source | Bibliographical information | | Quality of information found | | Summary of information found |
| 1 | What is the effect of fake news in the country? | 1 | Economical | Website | Authors(s) | Dominik Specula | Authority | Dominik Specula has a PhD and is a candidate in political science, studied at the university of British Columbia | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\QUESTION%201.docx) |
| Name of website | The conversation | Currency | 26 July 2017 |
| Date created | 26 July 2017 | Accuracy | This information corresponds with other sources. |
| Date accessed | 27 Mar. 18 | Objectivity | The information is presented in a factual objective fashion and the is no bias on the webpage |
| URL | [www.theconversation/au/politics](http://www.theconversation/au/politics) | coverage | The authors provide the extensive coverage on fake and its effects. |
| 2 | How long has been fake news around | 2 | Social | Website | Authors(s) | Mike Wending | Authority | BBC Trending is | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\QUESTION%202.docx) |
| Name of website | BBC Trending | Currency | 22 January 2018 |
| Date created | 22 January 2018 | Accuracy | This website corresponds with other sources. |
| Date accessed | 01 April 2019 | Objectivity | The information is presented in a factual objective fashion and the is no bias on the webpage |
| URL | <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-42724320> | Coverage | This website covers the topic in a very extensive way |
| 3 | What is being done about fake news | 1 | Social | Website | Authors(s) | Elizabeth Schumacher | Authority | The author is a journalist @downers. Domestic politics. | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\QUESTION%203.docx) |
| Name of website | Wikipedia | Currency | 01 April 2018 |
| Date created | Last edited 01 April 2018 | Accuracy | This website correspond with many sources and websites |
| Date accessed | 01 April 2018 | Objectivity | The information is presented in a factual objective fashion without bias in the website. |
| URL | <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/fake_news> | Coverage | The website provides an extensive coverage on fake news and social media. |
| 4 | Which ways may be used to identify fake news? | 2 | Social | Website | Authors(s) | IFLA | Authority | This file is licenced under the creative commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\PHASE%201\question%204.docx) |
| Name of website | Wikipedia | Currency | 27 January 2017 |
| Date created | 27 January 2017 | Accuracy | The following other wikis use this file:  Usage on ca.wikipedia.org  Usage on ms.wikipedia.org  This file corresponds with other sources. |
| Date accessed | 02 April 2018 | Objectivity | The information is presented in a factual objective fashion and the is no bias on the webpage |
| URL | <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/fake_news#Identifying> | Coverage | The author provides an extensive coverage on the ways of identifying fake news, it actual covers the whole topic of fake news |
| 5 | What can be done to stop fake news websites | 2 | Social | Website | Authors(s) | Amy Wilson-chapman | Authority | The author is ICIJ’s community engagement editor. Amy previously spent 3 years at the Australian Financial Review in Sydney Australia where she was responsible for developing social media, newsletter etc. | [summary](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\PHASE%201\quest%205.docx) |
| Name of website | ICIJ | Currency | 03 October 2017 |
| Date created | 03 October 2017 | Accuracy | This information correspond with many sources and websites. |
| Date accessed | 02 April 2018 | Objectivity | There is no bias in this information |
| URL | <https://www.icij.org/blog/2017/10/six-tips-spot-stop-fake-news/> | Coverage | This website distinctively covers the whole topic on ways to spot and stop the spread of fake news. |
| 6 | In which ways does fake news affect the community? | 3 | Economical | Website | Authors(s) | Ben Nimmo | Authority | The author is senior Fellow for information Defence at the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab *(@DFRLab)* | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\Question%206.docx) |
| Name of website | Digital forensic research Lab | Currency | 12 January 2018 |
| Date created | 12 January 2018 | Accuracy | This information correspond with many sources in the internet. |
| Date accessed | 03 Apr. 18 | Objectivity | The author offers the information without any bias. |
| URL | <https://medium.com/dfrlab/south-africa-fake-news-finacial-impact-3f0599e6bfd8> | Coverage | The author provides an extensive coverage and covers the whole topic |
| 7 | What can social media sites do to avoid the spread of fake news | 2 | Social | Website | Authors(s) | Cayley Walls | Authority | The author studied media at the university at Mount Saint Mary College | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\QUESTION%207.docx) |
| Name of website | ODYSSEY | Currency | 27 February 2017 |
| Date created | 27 February 2017 | Accuracy | This webpage corresponds with various websites. |
| Date accessed | 03 Apr. 18 | Objectivity | The author provides the information with no bias to viewers. |
| URL | <https://www.theodysseyonline.com/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-fake-news-on-social-media> | Coverage | The author provides an extensive coverage concerning all the ways social media can do to stop the spread of fake news |
| 8 | Why do fake news spread faster that true news | 2 | Social | Website | Authors(s) | Alice G. Walton | Authority | The author is a contributor in the Forbes website and studied health, medicine and neuroscience | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\QUESTION%208.docx) |
| Name of website | Forbes | Currency | 08 March 2018 |
| Date created | 08 March 2018 | Accuracy | This website corresponds with other sources. |
| Date accessed | 03 April 2018 | Objectivity | The information is presented in a very factual way and there is no bias. |
| URL | <https://www.forbes.com> | Coverage | This website actually provides all the facts about the reasons of spreading fake news |
| 9 | Why fake news are bad | 1 | Social | News paper | Authors(s) | Slight Ramaphaka, Florida | Authority | Daily sun is well- known newspaper which provides Daily news in South Africa and is registered | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\Question%209.docx) |
| Title of source | Fake news | Currency | 19 April 2018 |
| Date published/issued | 19 April 2018 | Accuracy | The information on this newspaper corresponds with other sources |
| Publisher | Daily Sun | Objectivity | The information is presented in a factual objective fashion and the is no bias on the newspaper |
|  |  | Coverage | This website provides an extensive coverage on fake news. |
| 10 | As an internet user what can you do to expose and stop fake news | 2 | Social | Website | Authors(s) | Brett William | Authority | Mashable is a global multi-platform media and entertainment company. | [summary of information](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\Desktop\NKUNA%20BRIDGET%20PAT%202018\QUESTION%2010.docx) |
| Name of website | Mashable | Currency | 04 October 2017 |
| Date created | 04 October 2017 | Accuracy | This website corresponds with numerous of sources. |
| Date accessed | 03 April 2018 | Objectivity | The information is presented in a factual objective fashion and the is no bias on the webpage |
| URL | <https://mashable.com/2017/10/03/how-to-avoid-spreading-misinformation-online/#Iwww2SxnNdomqY> | Coverage | This website provides an extensive coverage and covers the whole topic on fake news. |

## FINDINGS

Figure :graph that shows use of social media

While doing my research I have asked 25 individuals concerning how do they use social media network in their lives. The purpose of this question was to analyse the number of people who use internet/ social media daily. This graph above gives their responses regarding how they use social media network.

From the 25 people I have asked 50% use social media on a daily basis and this reveals that there are more chances for people to become victims of trusting and sharing fake news since they spend most of their time in social media.

The research only shows 43% of people who don’t make use of social media and 7% use social media partially or sometimes. I can conclude that the cause of people to spread fake news is that the majority of people spend most of their time in social media networks such as Facebook, twitter, Instagram etc.

I recommend that people must reduce their time on social media and develop the skill of becoming responsible internet and social media users, and should avoid the tendency of sharing unreal news/ fake news.

[..\PHASE 2\DATA ANALYSIS.xlsx](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\PHASE%202\DATA%20ANALYSIS.xlsx)

Figure :graph that show the victims of trusting fake news

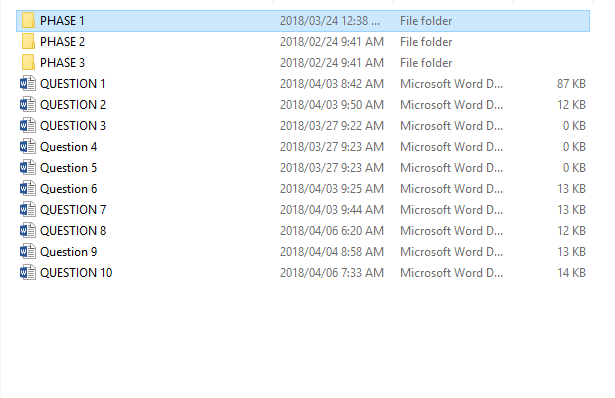
* The next question I have asked is that how many of them have ever became victims of trusting fake news and this graph represent their response. The research shows that 48% of people have become victims of trusting fake, people often believe fake news just because they lack knowledge of how spot/identify fake stories that seems to be trending on the internet.
* Then 4% of the people are not sure whether they have ever trusted fake news or not.
* The research shows that the majority of social media users are the ones who become victims of trusting fake news and they are the ones who contribute to the spread of fake news.
* To view some way to identify fake news click the link below.

[..\PHASE 1\quest 5.docx](file:///C:\Users\GRADE%2012\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\PHASE%201\quest%205.docx)



Figure :picture of fighting fake news logo

## APPENDICES



picture :FOLDER STRUCURE

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Walls, C. (2017, February 27). *about fake news*. Retrieved from ODYSSEY: http://theodysseyonine.com

Wending, M. (2018, january 22). *blogs-trending*. Retrieved from BBC Trending: http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending

Wilson-chapman, A. (2017, October 03). *TIPS-TO-SPOT-FAKE=NEWS*. Retrieved from ICIJ: http//ww.icij.org

## CONCLUSION

I have done my investigation which was based on the topic ‘FAKE NEWS’ and I have find that fake news has been affecting the country for a very long time and is still doing a lot of damage in the lives of people. Firstly, I have find that the spread of fake news in social media or internet have affected the economy, Fake news have affected the country financial due to the fake stories that are spread about Jacob Zuma’s resignation.

My research shows that high percentage of people have become victims of fake news and the main reason of that is because of lack of knowledge, people had less/no knowledge on how spot/identify fake news and this became the reason for them to share all the unreal news that they saw on social network mostly Facebook and twitter.

Most people approximately 50% use social media on a daily basis and that’s why they became victims of trusting fake news.

I have find that fake news creates division amongst people, more especially on the politics field by spreading fake stories about other political parties and leaders and this affects the country’s politics quality.

I highly recommend that people should read and understand stories before sharing them, and reduce the level of using social media because it plays a big part when it comes to the spread of fake news.

Social media is the best tool for interacting with people who are far and best for meeting new people but it must be used responsibly.



Figure :picture of fighting fake news