

**Izwi labahlali (The Voice of The Citizens) – Episode 3 (aired on Radio Grahamstown on 18 November 2009) Transcription from Xhosa to English by Zimkhita Mbunge, new media intern, Grocott’s Mail.**

*This program is proudly brought to you by the John S. and James L Knight foundation, JMS and Radio Grahamstown.*

“Jingle”

Khaya: It is so / like that listener, when you hear that sound you just know that the show has started and the snake has stretched. With those words I greet you listeners where ever you are, whether at home, driving, even if you're passing by. The mane of our show is “Izwi labahlali, the voice of the citizens” and this is the third in four programs that will be taking place.

My name is Khaya Thonjeni; I greet and welcome you once more on our show.

As usual, I say I'm not alone, I am not alone, I'm with four other citizen journalists, Wandipha, Wandisa, Sinesipho and Tracy. Lest you don't believe me; let's give them a chance to greet the listeners.

Sinesipho: Hello citizens

Wandisa: Hello listeners, this is Wandisa

Khaya: Alright

Tracy: Hello listeners, this is Tracy

Wandipha: Hello listeners, I'm Wandipha

Khaya: Alright, these are learner, from Mary Waters, they were part of the Citizen Journalists course, where they were trained to become Citizen Journalists and they're now putting the training into practice by collecting news for this radio show. They have helped us a lot on producing this show.

Proceeding with our show, as usual, we've brought you news overview, called yesterday, today and tomorrow with Kwan.

We will also have our competition where you can stand a chance of winning yourself R30 airtime, by sending us a sms, we'll tell you what today's topic says, it's a hard hitting issue.

The other thing I can tell you is that, we also have arts and culture news, sports and events that will be happening around Makana.

Let's get to our first program, yesterday, today and tomorrow with Kwan. Kwan, we welcome you on the show.

Kwan: Thank you Khaya, I greet the listeners at home.

Khaya: you can hear that Gaba's grandson is in one peace, Kwan, tell us what have been happening around Makana Municipality for the past week?

Kwan: On Friday, at the municipal offices, Makana municipal spokesperson Ntombi Baart signed an agreement of working with the Makana tourism board and Grahamstown foundation as the municipality. This agreement is about edu tourism where the municipality uses, tourism to make money and create job opportunities.

Moving on: The College of transfiguration students have taken an early Christmas break after their end of year tests were cancelled for one of their teacher's funeral, Clive Newman. Newman will be buried in Port Elizabeth on Monday. According to Domires, Newman was due to be promoted to the post of college chaplain in January 2010. Domires says Newman had a different and attractive way of conducting his church services.

Khaya: Contravening you before you get to today's news, zooming into this issue. This issue has caused concern around Grahamstown, particularly in Pot Alfred and Port Elizabeth; people are still shocked by the cruel murder of the pastor.

Kwan: It is like that, everyone was aghast by this cold murder of the priest because it is said that eight years ago, the priest attacked and almost killed by a gay couple because of the brawl they had against people of the same sex getting married, but the perpetrators were found. What amazes and terrify people, is the fact that the person who did this did not force entry or break-in but the pastor opened for him or her. The schools chaplain had to use the master key to enter the pastor's room where he got him departed.

Khaya: The Grocott's Mail had an opportunity of interviewing the police about the investigation of the pastor's murder; tell us what the police said about this?

Kwan: the police are still investigating on this as no one has been arrested yet, and the pastor's navy Hyundai car has not yet been found but then the car registration has been announced to the public so that whoever may see it can alert the police. The weapon that was used to kill the pastor is also not identified as yet; the police are still waiting for forensics from Port Elizabeth to give report.

Khaya: Let me allow you to go further, with today's news.

Kwan: The investigation of the famous Port Alfred businessman, Raymond murder is still going on as no one has been found yet. Raymond was manufacturing and selling boats, his body was found at his friend's game reserve with a bullet wound. Interviewed by the police, game reserve owner and Raymond's friend, who arrived first at the scene, emotionally said Raymond was a good, kind and cheer giver, he doesn't know who could have guts to do such a horrible thing to this good man. As the police first suspect, the game farm owner says he wouldn't do anything like that, but if the police want to arrest him, they can go ahead and do so. You must remember that there was no gun found where Raymond's body was found even though he had a bullet wound and the security guards were also not around during the time of the incident.

Khaya: Alright, isn't there something we can end with, I heard that Robby and the Plum tree mall are progressing, we're still going to eat chicken in Grahamstown.

Kwan: Yes that is true, KFC will soon have a drive thru; this is place where one can while still in the car or without going out of the car, buy over the window where customers will be served. This will be near where the Paper groove and Rob B's mall.

Khaya: Alright, we hope that we'll also see donkey carts buying Kentucky through the drive thru window, and it will be that nice and it will be so in Grahamstown. You're still listening to the nice show, voice of the citizens; we promised you earlier on that we will have

a competition on the show, a competition about a head hitting issue, a competition where you could win yourself R30 airtime. You'll remember that there was a soccer match between France and Amabhoko-bhoko on Friday. There is a well-know man lately but he would have never got this fame if it wasn't for this match. This man is called Ras Dumisani, Ras Dumisani was asked to sing the national anthem, which he sang in a very interesting way that quivered the whole house (country). We will give the house of Grahamstown (Grahamstonians) an opportunity to send us a sms and tell us what you think about the way Ras Dumisani crooned this anthem. By sending that sms you could stand a chance of winning yourself R30 airtime, explain this to the listeners Tracy.

Tracy: you can call 078 1173 402.

Khaya: No Tracy, they're must sms.

Tracy: Yho! Sorry listeners, you can sms to 078 1173 402, CellC, MTN, Vodacom, you can all get this airtime, remember MXit.

Khaya: Don't forget, 078 1173 402, but before we ask you to sms and tell us how do you about the manner he crooned this anthem, let's first replay it so that we could all hear before we comment.

*Sing, sing, sing! "Ras Dumisani's chant of the National Anthem" Sing, sing, sing!*

You heard it listener, that was Ras Dumisani, this was published online, Ras Dumisani's video was on YouTube. On Tuesday, this video was viewed by 300 000 and it's estimated that by the end of the week it will have just over a million visits. There is also a facebook group that says Ras Dumisani must be expelled in the music industry that group has about 300 members already. We also interviewed two to three Grahamstown citizens about this matter and they have raised their views on Ras Dumisani's new way of singing the national anthem.

Interviewee 1: Our anthem conjures such emotion because it comes from such a deep seeded place in each South African's heart and for him to have reaped our anthem like that and worst of is that the French nation with their fancy and band made a little attempt of finding a proper singer, the French person could have probable sang it better if he was given the sheet itself.

Interviewee 2: As a black people, the national anthem we take it as something that makes us proud of our nation, the national anthem is for us black and white South Africans to make us proud, it was so embarrassing to look at someone playing and making a joke out of our National anthem in front of all nations who came to watch the rugby match. Rugby is a national team of the nation and suppose that everything that they do should be done in high respect and reverence, now when we see them playing with our national anthem and making it a joke in other nations that hurts us.

Khaya: Okay, let's hold it there; we have had that Ras Dumisani sang the national anthem very beautifully.

You can now send us your smses and stand a chance of winning R30 airtime for Vodacom, CellC and MTN. Tracy please repeat the cell no. to our listeners

Tracy: 078 1173 402, 078 1173 402.

Khaya: Alright, here is the first Message that we have received from the listeners

Message: For me, he sang very well though he couldn't pronounce some words properly as I presume that he is not a Xhosa speaker.

Khaya: We hope that you'll keep sending those smses and stand a chance of winning yourself R30 airtime but now we're going to have our first bulletin about arts and culture in Grahamstown, we'll ask one of our twins to lead us on this. Take over my twin.

Wandipha: Let me greet you once more listeners, my name is Wandipha Teki I've brought you some news about Arts and Culture, as Christmas is approaching and I know that everyone loves the season, Ubom drama company brought us a drama show that say Bhuti the bokkie and the Christmas Beetle. We spoke with one of the drama characters, Nomathamsanqa Baba and Silulami Lwane.

Grahamstonian: Because it gives publicity.

### *Apologies*

Nomathamsanqa: We chose the name of the drama show when we were at a game farm in Takastard, looking at the beauty of the livestock, as the writer of this show was looking at this young sheep or lamb... he saw the beauty of this young creature that we normally overlook and he thought of writing something about it, something that today we perform on stage. The play writer though that there should be someone who would be bokkie's friend and that is how it was done.

Wandipha: Who are the actors of this show?

Silulami: The character we have on this drama show is, Bhuti, Bokkie, sis Bruella who is played by me, we also have mama Christmas and others

Wandipha: What language is the show presented, is it Xhosa, English or Afrikaans?

Nomathamsanqa: The dominating language on the show is English, but we do add Xhosa here and there so that people could hear what we're saying and we use a lot of sign language so that even if people don't understand that languages we speak they might still understand what the show is about.

Wandipha: Is this show suitable to old people or everyone?

Nomathamsanqa: I'd say it's for everyone, because there places that can be hilarious for children, it doesn't have a specific age, it's for everyone, and anyone can enjoy it. It's a family show.

Wandipha: As the show is about the Christ's birth, is it only for Christians or anyone?

Silulami: The show is for everyone, because when you talk about Christmas, you talk about the end year and Christ's birth celebration but we take it beyond that, we don't only stick on celebrating Christ's birth but we say to everyone let's celebrate and have fun. We also take this show to hospitals, Fort England,

Old age homes, and invite everyone to celebrate; black or white for now we have ended this year let us look forward.

Wandipha: How much is the administration?

Nomathamsanqa: For children it's R10 and for adults it's R15 but it differs because on Thursday the show will take place at Rhodes and the admission will be R55 as we're are expecting people from Foundation who work with Ubom to develop little dancers so they're trying to raise funds. There is another show that will take place at B. B. Zondani; on that show we will accept any donation. We request people please bring something as we would like to have all kids around and we know that some of the kids won't have R10.

Khaya: Our lines are still open, its 078 1173 402, people are still sending their smses, read them to us Tracy.

Tracy: This listener says,

Message: I was a disgrace and he was off key that's a big mistake. From Sivuyile Ndawoni, Ext 6

Tracy: Here is another one

Message: He can sing but his voice is not so good. From Dlamini

Khaya: Thank you Dlamini, continue with other Tracy. Those who are listening at home can stand a chance of winning R30 worth airtime, here's our number 078 1173 402. We'll listen to other listener we interviewed around, we'll get back to you Tracy.

Interviewee: I think Aya man hit it (sang) according to his own personal style and I don't think people should link it to reggae necessarily it has not caused any stain on reggae because it's his personal style. Yes he can sing reggae but even if that was done by a pop singer, I don't think it should give stain to pop music but it should be taken as it's his own personal style of singing and I think that not necessarily bad but it's something different from what people are to, the key was correct but he wasn't keeping the same pace as other people and I think that is his style of singing. I think he should be given a chance and be told if people don't like the way he sings and if he should change he style of singing as a person.

Interviewee: What is important despite of where you come from and who gave birth to you, if you have something it should not be diluted, I'm done.

Khaya: That's what the old man say, if you have something it shouldn't be diluted. The smses are still coming in; give us two or three Tracy.

Tracy: Okay, this is what the other listener says,

Message: No ways, he just can't sing, he was just playing and that is why the springboks didn't win it is because that was not the manner of singing the national anthem.

Khaya: Alright, give us the last sms so that we could move to our next bulletin.

Tracy: No, he just can't sing and that is why the springboks lost the game, the national anthem was never sung like that, he humiliated South Africa, he has failed. From: Lunga Kiti.

Khaya: Give us the last one.

Getting near to our news, if you'd like to know what's happening on the next week at Makana district, Grahamstown and surrounding, Mr. Skoti get near the microphone.

Skoti: Hello listeners, its Sinesipho Skoti speaking

Khaya: Alright Skoti's son, what news have you brought us? Get closes to the pipe (microphone).

Skoti: I've brought you the events that will be taking place at Grahamstown.

Khaya: Alright, get near Skoti; don't keep a distance as if you're taking pictures of unfenced lions.

Skoti: lol... Oakland pre primary school will be hosting a play called Mamma mia at Rhodes Theater on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, tickets are R30.

If you're interested on gardening, there will be a gardening and home club workshop, where is this one, you wonder, it will be taking place at Atlantic casino and Lebone Center, they will be talking about organic vegetable gardening presented by well known Jane Griffiths, author of Jane's Delicious Garden, the cost is R160 per person.

There will be sundown concert at Kingswood college music school, Albany meeting on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm.

The local ones; Big Nuz will be coming to Grahamstown at Makhaya's place; tickets are available at Radio Grahamstown.

Khaya: Alright, we have heard him; you've seen it for yourself that Mary Waters did not disappoint us in any way.

Message: Basically it is said that Ras Dumisani has disappointed us as South Africans because the National Anthem is one of the respected songs in South Africa must just stop singing.

Khaya: And another one says,

Message: The National Anthem is a prayer to us and not a joke, if you don't respect it you're not going anywhere so we must make a joke out of it, please, please, he mustn't sing it again, he sings it for money after all.

Khaya: Here's another one saying,

Message: That guy sang beautifully but he must fix the Afrikaans part.

Khaya: The listeners are talking, the other one say,

Message: He sang nonsense, and was out of tune, he lowered our dignity. He must really be dismissed.  
From: Kid, Matric 2009.

We'll call upon the other twin to render us sports news. Come close to the microphone and give us what

you have on sports. But before that, let's take the last Message that says, ... "beep beep" we're still getting more and we see that Makana residents like being given the opportunity of raising their views on things that affect them.

Message: He sings, but his voice is not nice, he loses the key. From Lira, say Hi to those girls. Thank you Lira. The last one before we get our sports news.

Message: He mortified us on other countries, he's a South African, he should have done better, he knows how to sing the National Anthem. From Sinazo, Extension 6.

Take the lines and greet the listener and tell us what you have for us on sport.

Wandisa: I also greet the listeners. We have a triples challenge game where George Ivrad won where they were running on the Devils peak, Table mountain and the Lions head his time was 9hours 19 min and he was the 49<sup>th</sup> person, when asked if he will run again he said he is not sure, we congratulate you Goerge.

Khaya: That's Professor Ivrad from the department of education at Rhodes, bring us another bullet.

Wandisa: There's an iron man, a game where people ride 1, 9 kilometers by bicycles 90 km and 21 km by foot, where Gale Ferrows said there is space for other people who want to join but there is space for 200 people, so if you want to join in then you can. There were also about 34% and there is also one from Grahamstonians.

Khaya: Alright we hope they will bring us glory, let's continue.

Wandisa: There was EP cricket where Grahamstonians got selected, Mark Lambard from Kingswood college was selected for the under 13A squad, Nicolas Zummerman from Graeme and Jimmy Shawl Douglass from Kingswood was selected for the under 11 squad and Daine Kruger from Kingswood and Kareem Mwini from Kingwood were also selected. Badley Christian and Craig Williams both from Graeme and Christopher McCarthy from St Andrew's prep. That's all for today.

Khaya: Alright, let's thank Wandisa Teki, one of our presenters, we're still continuing with our show saying thank to our listeners for spending their time with us, we have it every Wednesday at 5pm till 5:30pm, this show is Voice of the citizens. The hard hitting issue was about Ras Dumisani and his new and different way of singing the national Anthem, God bless South Africa. Let us hear once more what our interviewees said about this, as we about to host the World Cup, will mistakes like these happen again? I wish we could learn from Ras Dumisani's blunder. Let's hear them.

*Dead air*

Khaya: 3, 2, 1, let's go ....

*Dead air*

Khaya: We won't give up because of that, let's read more of our Messages, as we have asked the citizens to send us Messages. We're about to choose our winner for today. We want to follow O. O. M, O. O. M put it very nice, she / he says, "God bless South Africa (National Anthem) is our prayer not a joke, if we

don't respect it we are not going anywhere so we mustn't make it a joke, please! Please! He mustn't sing it again he can only sing it for money / business.

This is the lesson we gain from the National Anthem and Ras Dumisani.

Let's take a glance at the time for you might need it at home as you are listening to our nice show called the voice of the citizen, made by the citizens for the citizens, the time is now 17:28.

We've come to an end of our show, we thank you for spending your time with us, hope you'll be with us next week, same time, same place. I'll give the lines to my group to say goodbye before we give back the lines to DJ Luvo. Again, O. O. M is our winner for today with her Message that you have heard, we thank everyone who took part on the competitions hope they'll continue doing so even next week.

Tracy say goodbye.

Tracy: I'd like to thank everyone and say hi to my mom, I love you

Wandisa: It's Wandisa, I'd like to say goodbye to all listeners and hello to my mother and Wanele our little brother.

Bye listeners, I would like to shout a hello to Lombo and my family at large and the residents of Transit.

Wandipha: I'm Wandipha and would like to greet the Kwanes and Cirha families.

Khaya: Alright, they say so, remember that it's exam time and you know that Grahamstown has many schools maybe my presenters forgot to wish other students luck for to DJ Luvo but I can't leave without giving you this comment.

Interviewee: That man took our National Anthem and made it his toy and don't see anything wrong with that, but then why did they allow it in the first place, how could they allow someone like that to do that to us we're now a laughing stock because of him.

Khaya: (interrupting) Alright

Interviewee: English one the organizers should make sure they have a right singer, not only for that one. The way we expect the national Anthem to be sang is not like that and also they must fully comprehend that they should know that this is the symbol of the nation

Khaya: Let's give them time to wish their friend all the best for the exams, DJ Luvo is already here.

Chaos, all speak at the same time: My friend Zikhona, Nontle and Babalwa good luck for the exams hope you get all the luck in the world.

You'll all pass

Khaya: Alright, that's all the excitement in the studio, hoping that the excitement will be maintained next week, DJ Luvo is going to be on your dial. The urgent announcements commemorate the 21<sup>st</sup> World AIDS Day 2009 universal treatment and ...

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November at 11am there will be a commemoration of those we lost and those who infected with HIV/AIDS at the Cathedral. Hope you'll support this.

