

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: When you hear that sound it means come closer to the listeners, it’s time for the voice of the citizens’ show. This is the first show where citizens are gathered together to produce their own show with their own content.

I’m not alone as usual I’m with citizen journalist; let me give them a chance to greet you. Asemahle, greet the listeners.

Asemahle: Hello Grahamstown listeners, my name is Asemahle Khephe and I’ll be doing sport news.

Khaya: Alright, number one. There is two more, get closer to the mike and greet the listeners.

Thandokuhle: Hello listeners of Grahamstown, I’m Thandokuhle Qhakamfana; I’ve brought you the upcoming events.

Khaya: Zintle, get closer

Zintle: Hello, I’m Zintle Veto from Marry Waters and I’ll be talking about Arts and Culture.

Khaya: Okay listeners, the program is rich, as it is the last one. If you remember we started at the beginning of this month, bringing you such programs, we’re back with the last one, hoping that you’ll also enjoy it as you did on the previous ones.

As usual we’ll be bringing you news as it is.

Khaya: Apologies about that sound. We also have an interview with Professor Dugmore from Rhodes University about next year plans of the show. We also have Abongile with Yesterday, today and tomorrow. We took a glance at the citizen where Chuma Ngxakala, one of our citizen journalists brings us report about the 16 days of activism; she had an interview with Nomvuyo Peter.

We’ll go further and give you an interview with Bongani, we all know him, and he’s one of the local artists. We will continue and tell you our competition for today. Maybe you’ve been listening to this show for the past 3 weeks or maybe you’re listening for the first time, tell us what do you think of this show? Whether it’s a compliment or critic, maybe you like it or you think DJ Luvo would be playing nice music at this time, what do you think of this show? You can send us your opinion and stand a chance of winning yourself R30 airtime. Zintle will give you the number to send the sms.

Zintle: its 078 1173 402

Khaya: Repeat it

Zintle: 078 1173 402

Khaya: You have heard it; this is the number you can send us a sms about what you think of this show. We'll take this opportunity and have an interview with Prof. Harry Dugmore from Rhodes University; he'll tell us few interesting things about show. He is more of my colleagues than boss, we work very well together. Harry please tell us about Izwi Labahlali.

Harry: Thank you very much Khaya

Khaya: We have heard that this show is sponsored by Knight Foundation and we know that you are the MTN Chair of the Media and Communication; can you take us through and introduce those titles to the listener out there?

Harry: Sure, I'm very excited about the project we're working on, Indaba Ziyafika project sponsored by the Knight Foundation project. The Knight Foundation is a foundation that sponsors journalism particularly the USA but also elsewhere in the world. We won a grant because of Guy Berger at Rhodes University, Journalism School won a grant because of this project, Indaba Ziyafika, the News is coming, we really want to bring citizen journalism in South Africa and I have been given the job of project managing that.

Khaya: Now that we have the Citizen Journalism, it end up to a project like Izwi Labahlali Radio project pilot, is there any future hope or prospects of this show next year, or is this the end of the Indaba Ziyafika, maybe you are a better person to know.

Harry: We've been very encouraged by these four episodes; I really believe that we're starting to hear great response from the listeners. There's a need, not only to see, cellphone journalism coming through on the website, coming through on the Grocott's but to have a close working relationship with the radio Station. Radio is right now, live, that is the most amazing thing about it. I would like to see this very show continuing, but that I will have to discuss with the management and I would like to see it going for an hour rather than half an hour.

Khaya: We are experimenting with this radio show using citizens and journalists and at the same time using and we also using a platform that is community radio, is there any help you would be lending to the radio in terms of the resources or transfer of skills in a short or long term?

Harry: I think definitely Khaya, we are looking at this partnership, we wish to have a long term partnership with Radio G to see how we can work together to connect people to power , I think what we seeing in so many of our societies in South Africa, is that people are feeling a little bit alienated from the council and from other people like school boards and community police forums ,so we wanting to introduce not just much more citizen journalism but citizen journalism that help people understand where are the resources where are the services coming from who can they talk to if they see a problem, if the is a problem with waste disposal or the is a problem with noise or lighting the issues that people have voted government in to deliver what can they do If there is no delivery so citizen journalism the citizen part is all about reconnecting people to power, so in terms of Radio G we wanting to work together with them and potentially help out with some equipment , a few things here and there I think it is a very impressive radio station and we want to see if we can partner them further.

Khaya: Alright that sounds s interesting and promising, lots of good prospects for Radio Grahamstown, you will also be allowing and training a lot of citizens to participate in creating media and media content as we have been doing on the show?

Harry: That's exactly right, there are two things that we must observe and something we want to take seriously in Grahamstown as we know that in Grahamstown has high levels of unemployment and people are looking for skills so we've been running at Grocott's a new Citizen Journalism room. We've been running trainings with high school learners, as they've been the ones who've been contributing wonderfully to the show. We also doing training, training adults in the afternoons where people can learn what it means to be a journalist and I think community radio station and community papers have realized that we can't cover all the news, we only have few hands so to really find out what's going on street by street, block by block, area by area, you need a lot of trained people on the ground who can see what's going on, write about it, and come onto the air like this and say this is what's happening in my block today. Training is a big part of what we going to be doing next year, we're hoping people by the end of 2010 we would have been able to train about 3 – 400 people might and be able to do the six weeks course.

Khaya: Alright, thank you very much Harry for your elaborate answers and your explanation.

Harry: Thank you Khaya, thank you so much, bye-bye.

Khaya: Thank you Harry. That was Harry Dugmore from Rhodes University, JMS Department; he is the MTN Mobile Chair Media and Communication. He has given to the Station equipment that will be dispatched very soon.

Okay, the next agenda is going to be Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow at Makana, here is Abongile Mgaqelwa bringing us this report.

Don't forget about Veliswa's concert on the 16th of December, admission will be R40 for adults and R20 for children.

Khaya: Let's move to another episode of our program, which says, Grahamstown yesterday, today and tomorrow, with Kwan, but we've left Kwan today, we have Abo, Abongile Mgaqelwa.

Abongile: ummm Khaya let's start with the murder of a prominent Port Alfred businessman, Andrew Reynolds. Reynold was found dead at a friend's farm near Grahamstown on Monday morning, (two weeks back) with a gunshot wound in his head. No arrests have been made yet, police are still investigating.

Khaya: Please tell us the latest of this story.

Abongile: police are still investigating; they got a gun near the water tank near where he was shot and two cellphones.

Khaya: It is clear that crime does not only happen on places surrounding Grahamstown but there's crime in High Street as well, tell us more on this?

Abongile: There was a break-in at Lewis furnisher shop, at the corner of High Street. Seven cellphone were stolen at Legit clothing store, we do not know the total amount of the cellphones cost. But this shows that as December and the festive approaches people are desperate for money that is why we think the crime rate is increasing and we're asking the citizens to take note of this.

Khaya: They must open their eyes widely.

Abongile: There is something that happened at Nathaniel Nyaluza, where there is no principal.

Khaya: It's been a while since Mr. Mushwana is away; tell us about the current news on that.

Abongile: There is a predicament of electing a new principal, which is why the regional Department of Education said they will deploy ANC leaders to take a closer look on this matter, to ensure tuition continued uninterruptedly at the school as nothing can be done well without the principal. So the department intervenes on this.

Khaya: Let's go to the last ones, the events that will be taking place very soon at Makana.

Abongile: The department of Social Development will be hosting campaigns about the 16 days of activism around Grahamstown and around South Africa as a whole.

Khaya: Lets thank you for your time; it was your first but we put you in the burning furnace.

Abongile: Thank you Khaya for including me in your show, yes it is hot, but we had to do it, I wish the listeners a lovely day.

Khaya: That was Abongile Mgaqelwa with yesterday, today and tomorrow at Makana. We said today we have changed, we're not offering R30 airtime for one person, but we have multiplied the number to three. Instead of giving the airtime to one person, we're giving it to three people today, so three people can stand a chance of winning that airtime. Tell us what you think about this show as it has come to an end. Tell us what you liked or didn't like and also give your advice where we can improve. I'll give the lines to my friend, Zintle.

Zintle: The time is not 17:17; we'll now listen to an interview done by Chuma Ngxakala and Nomvuyo Peter about the 16 days of activism.

Khaya: Let's quickly go to Chuma and hear what they have to say about the 16 days of activism.

Chuma: Hello Grahamstown listeners you're with Chuma bringing you news about the 16 days of activism. The 16 Days of Activism is a campaign that fights against children and women abuse, men not abusing woman and vice versa and.

The Social Development will be hosting a 16 Days of activism campaign here at Grahamstown in different areas. We spoke to the organizer of this event, Nomvuyo Peter. Nomvuyo we welcome you to our show.

Nomvuyo: Thank you

Chuma: Our first question is, what do you think about the rate of women abuse here at Grahamstown?

Nomvuyo: I would say that there is a high rate of abuse in Grahamstown as people come every day to the office to report cases of women and children abuse.

Chuma: What will you be doing for the 16 days of activism?

Nomvuyo: This year will be having campaigns in different clinics in Grahamstown and around Grahamstown. We will be at Raglan Road clinic on the 25 of November that is Wednesday at 10:00, on the same day we will also be at middle terrace clinic, at the same time. On the 29 we will be at Fort Brown hall at 12:00, on the 30 of Nov at 10:00 South Well hall, 02 Dec we will be at Tanti clinic, on the 03 of Dec we will be at Extension 7 clinic, on the 08 we will be at Joza clinic, but on the 10 of December we will be marching hope we will be joined by everyone, women children as we will be marching from Nolutshando hall to the Magistrate court and hand in our memorandum to fight violence against women that is the training we have at social development, but won't be doing it alone as social Development we have other stakeholders, like the municipality will also be involved, SAPS, Department of Health and the development of Arts and Culture will also be involved.

Chuma: I hear you, so what is your aim for these campaigns.

Nomvuyo: Our aim is to stop the abuse and to tell people where they can go when they have such problems, instead of sitting at home with the kids knowing that they're abused. We want them to be aware of where they can get help. And will also want to educate them about different kinds of abuse.

Chuma: In all that you'll be doing these days, what changes are you expecting?

Nomvuyo: We're expecting a great change as people will now be aware of where they can take such problems. If anyone experiences any abuse in their homes, will know that the social workers are there for them and reporting those cases will help eliminate that bad habit.

Chuma: Who is invited to speak to the communities?

Nomvuyo: All departments will have a role to play, as social development we'll be telling the community where to go when they have such problems, SAPS, will tell the community what they do with such cases when you take it to them. Health, because we'll be doing this at the clinics we're not only expecting patients but anyone who's also interested to go to the clinics at 10:00.

Khaya: Alright, you all have heard, you're being call, please respond. Lets remind you before we leave with this airtime, the sms number is 078 1173 402. We're asking just a basic question, if you have been listening to this show or you're listening it for the first time and tell us what you liked or didn't like about the show and where it can be improved when we bring it back next year, as you have heard Prof. Harry Dugmore saying that it shall be brought back again next year. Zintle it's your turn.

Zintle: Listeners I have brought Arts and Culture topic, our music Khaya Thonjeni will be giving you this.

Khaya: Tell us what kind of music do you sing?

Sarha: I can say my music its pop traditional music like the mixture of Stompzi Mavi and Ntando.

Khaya: Which one do you think you are close to?

Sarha: I would say, I'm not that far from Ntando, but I'm a bit far from bra Stompza.

Khaya: When did you start singing?

Sarha: Around the 60s

Khaya: How many albums do you have?

Sarha: 4 – 5 albums

Khaya: Tell us a bit about your albums, when did you record your albums?

Sarha: I recorded the first one, which you saw me on TV was recorded in 1986, the second, Siyabulela Bawa in 1989, Cultural values in third 1990, the fourth one, Mandisa in 1995/6 and the last One song one nation, in 1997.

Khaya: Tell us a bit about the problem you encounter at Grahamstown?

Sarha: There are no serious problems as long as one must know where they belong and where their music belongs and what market it needs if one establishes those then they are on the right side.

Khaya: Maybe you have one of your albums with you that someone would like to hear your music, and hear the kind of music you play.

Sarha: Because love is something that everyone knows, my songs are mostly about love and some are about political situations.

Khaya: Do you have a band or you sing without the band?

Sarha: It's important to have a band, because ones performance is determined by their audience.

Khaya: If there is anyone who's interested on buying one of your CDs, which one do you have and what songs does it contain and suppose your CDs are affordable, tell us where can we get your CD and for how much?

Sarha: Because we know the situation in Grahamstown, we sell them for R50. If you are interested, you can contact me on 076 944 3765

Khaya: Are you looking forward with music?

Sarha: Ta-Kheyza, because music is not only about writing a song and sing it, but about a whole lot of things like, communicating, comforting souls and sometimes to entertain. See there's a whole lot of entertainment.

Khaya: Thank you very much for your time and I wish you all the best in your music career.

Sarha: Thank you very much for interviewing me.

Khaya: Alright, let's thank Sibongile for her sms, I'll read it in your hearing.

SMS: I encourage you for what you're doing which is teaching children about the outside world beside school.

Khaya: Okay we can be sure that Sibongile will the airtime but you still have ... minutes to sms to 078 1173 402 and tell us your opinion about this show, there's still R60 air time remaining. Let's quickly go to our sports news, Asemahle.

Asemahle: The Eastern Province Rugby will be hosting an AGM at Hamburg Sports Club in Port Elizabeth. The register starts at 11:00, Club Price giving will start at 11:00, AGM will start at 2pm.

Pepper Grove Mall Night Bowl will be on the 25th of January 2010.

2009 tournament will be attracting more than 50 teams.

Kingswood Junior School met Priory in various junior school cricket matches in Port Elizabeth on Saturday. Kingswood won two and lost two, with the U13As winning their match by 105 runs.

That's all with sports, thank you.

Khaya: Let's thank Asemahle for sport and wait for the upcoming events. Here's another sms.

SMS: Thanks a lot guys, I have learnt a lot from your program, I wish you can come back soon, and have more time. God bless. From: OOM.

We'll also give R30 airtime; she/he'll tell us which network she wants.

You have 30 seconds to sms us your opinion about the show and win yourself R30 airtime.

Over to you Thandokuhle.

Thandokuhle: Hello listener, my name is Thandokuhle Qhakamfana, from Mary Water; I've brought you the upcoming events. The first one being:

Book Launch At Nelm, at the National English Literary Museum, Beatfort Street, on Thursday, November 26, 2009 at 17:30. Modjaji Books and Nelm take great pleasure in inviting you to the Grahamstown launch of Joan Metelerkamp's seventh collection of poetry Burnt Offering. Wine and snacks will be served. Please RSVP to nelm@ru.ac.za.

2nd: Sundowner Concert at Kingswood music school auditorium on Thursday November 26, 2009 at 17:45.

The third one is Oatlands preparatory school play, Mamma Mia at Rhodes Theatre, on Thursday 27, 2009 19:00. Tickets cost R30.

The last one is the World Aids Day Chapel Service at Kingswood College Chapel on Monday 30, 2009 at 18:30.

That's all I have on the events, thank you for listening. Goodbye.

Khaya: Now we have come to an end our show and congratulate the two that have won themselves airtime. We hope that you will support us when we come again next year. We also like to thank DJ Luvo for sharing the studio with us. Let's give our hosts and opportunity to say goodbye to the listeners.

Chuma, Thandokuhle and Zintle: Goodbye listeners.

Khaya: You have heard them, they were so quick.

Remember, this program is proudly brought to you by the John S. and James L Knight foundation, JMS Department at Rhodes University and Radio Grahamstown.