

**Izwi labahlali (The Voice of The Citizens) – Episode 2 (aired on Radio Grahamstown on 11 November 2009)  
Transcription from Xhosa to English by Zimkhita Mbunge, new media intern, Grocott's Mail.**

*SFX ...Jingle.....*

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**Khaya:** When you hear that sound we say knock knock knock, we're entering the house, we're entering the house. We are inside and asking you to stay with us till 17h30. This is the second one; the first one was aired last Wednesday. This program is by the citizen for the citizens; the citizens compile and present their own news on their local / own radio station. All this is done at Grocott's Mail. I'm not alone, but with two other citizen journalists, let me give them time to greet you.

**Zandisile Siyo:** Hello citizens my name is Zandisile Siyo, here in Grahamstown.

**Bongo:** Hello citizens my name is Bongo Nkolongo

**Khaya:** you have heard my citizens; I'll be hosting the show with these two ladies. We also have our producer Busisiwe Hoho in the background. I hope that we will all enjoy the show. Today we'll be talking about 16 days of activism, if you don't know what that is. The 16 days of activism is a campaign that is against gender based violence. The 16 days of activism is also a movement against the abuse of women and children observed by the whole world from November 25 till December 10.

This should not only be done on these days, but throughout the year we should discourage women and children abuse. That is why we roamed around town asking Grahamstown people what they think about gender based violence? Let's hear what the citizens say about children and gender abuse.

**Citizen 1:** "It is not a good think for a woman to be badly treated and abused, yes we know culturally father are heads of families, but still there is a woman behind that makes that head stand up straight." When there a mother in the house everything goes well.

**Citizen 2:** "you raise your children up through hard times, under difficult circumstances, but when they grow they start drinking and lift a hand on you."

**Citizen 3:** "Abuse is not good because children are beaten up when the do not sleep at home like my friend is beaten every time so think it's not good.

**Citizen 4:** "Gender equality is very important, when we talk about gender equality we don't talk about what a male must do and a female must do, but do whatever one wants to do. Females must be free to do what they want to do at home, even if it's working at the garden.

**Citizen 5:** We leave our children with our parents to raise them and we go away, they bring them up, educate them and take them to the bush for circumcision, when old, they see themselves big and old and think they have a permission of lifting a hand on them forgetting who brought them up. When they work they don't even contribute at home, the grandparents can't ask them a word about their money.

**Citizen 6:** I don't see gender abuse and children abuse as a good thing, females are good people and children have a right of being brought up in a good manner and not be abused.

**Khaya:** You heard what the citizens think about gender abuse, now we invite you at home to sms us your opinion on the topic of gender abuse and stand a chance of winning a R30 airtime on Vodacom, Cellc and MTN networks, you can send your smses to 078 1173 402. I am repeating the number to send your opinion about gender based violence, its 078 1173 402 and you could win R30 airtime and chat with ones you love.

You're still listening to Izwi labahlali (**The voice of the citizens**) a show by the citizen for the citizen. Going further with our show, and get a news overview of what happened over the week in a feature called yesterday, today and tomorrow with Kwanele Butana.

**Kwanele:** I greet you Khaya and I greet all the listeners at home.

**Khaya:** Tell us what has been happening with municipality in the past week?

**Kwanele:** On Friday there was a council meeting at the council chamber, the councillors had agreed that the rent rates should be decreased, a new bill with new rates has been sent out to house, business and farm owners. Moving ahead, there was a commemoration on Sunday about the struggle heroes of the Makana Skop, the municipal Mayor was also there where they put flowers and holding burners.

**Khaya:** if I may ask, did people come in great numbers to attend and watch this event?

**Kwanele:** There were not so many people but the few that were there enjoyed.

**Khaya:** What is so important about this commemoration?

**Kwanele:** This event is important because it reminds us of the people who took part in the Makana Skop war. In the name of reconciling the two different streams, in unity it is important that the black and the white people come together and commemorate the death of the fallen / late freedom fighters.

**Khaya:** Let me allow you to move further.

**Kwanele:** According to the municipality treasurer, Jackson Ngcelwane, the municipality will suspend their service of water and electricity supply to government departments this week.

We will notice that there is a lot of government departments that do not pay the municipality for its services and the municipality has been sending bill letters to remind them of payments and gave them a chance up until the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month now they have decided to suspend the services.

**Khaya:** Let me ask a question, is this move because these people cannot pay or is it an administration bungle when the money has to exchange hands until it reaches the municipality?

**Kwanele:** I think it is because of the leadership in the province and the budget and maybe the money that is suppose to come to the municipality goes to other pockets.

**Khaya:** Tell us the latest news.

**Kwanele:** There is a garden project at Extention 6 called Masizame that is grown by elderly people, these elderly people got second place on the nutritional awards supported by Nestle and won themselves R25 000. This took place in Johannesburg over the weekend and they came back happy. They plant spinach, beans, carrots, etc

**Khaya:** Are they getting the whole sum of the money or will they be getting as an allowance?

**Kwanele:** I think they'll be getting the whole amount at once but they're expected to spend the money in the garden and not use it for their own good. They're expected to buy things like fertilizers and garden equipment, this prize was a way of encouraging them on their good work.

**Khaya:** These are good news as we have heard that there is a potato shortage which caused the cost of potatoes to increase as a result 7kg bag of potatoes now costs R30, and that is unbearable on the low wages we get, we are not happy for what they're doing.

Let's now move forward, what more do you have?

**Kwanele:** You will notice that there is a horrible murder that happened in town yesterday or Monday morning, one of the teachers/lecturers, priest Clive Newman was killed in his room and his car is stolen. There are no suspects found as yet and his body will be buried this week. He was originally from Port Elizabeth and has been working at Grahamstown for three years. We are not sure where the funeral will be held here or Port Elizabeth.

**Khaya:** We're ending our news feature, yesterday, today and tomorrow, with that story and thank, Kwan a man with sweet tongue. Continuing with our show, don't forget to send your smses on 078 1173 402, here is an sms from a listener

"look, you were brought up by your parents, and sent you to the bush for circumcision now you have to know that you're not their man, they will always be parents to you no matter how old you are."

**Khaya:** Let's have a look at our next sms, please send yours as well.

"My comment on women or child abuse is that, putting your hand on a woman or a child is the worst thing you could do to our country's future, because women are the bearers of our future's leaders and children are leaders of tomorrow, women and children are our future, they are Barrack Obama's of the future."

Khaya: Don't forget that our lines are still open; you can keep sending your smses. Z remind them about what to do if they want to win our sms competition.

**Khaya:** Let's hand over to Bongo who is also one of the producers of the show, Bongo?

**Bongo:** Our next story is about arts and culture, a Grahamstown based arts and Culture Company has a competition that took place at Rhodes last Friday. We interview the competition organizers and the winners: the ... organizer Sisonke ... says the purpose of this competition is to give local performer and school a platform of performing on a theater and get their awards according to their categories. This competition has been going on since 2003. This gives a better understanding to new performers about the theater and help them not underestimate the theater. There is a great improvement on the groups through the years; Ubom has done a good job on assisting different groups on becoming what they are today.... There are six groups that won if I'm not mistake, but they won different categories, which are, best actress, best director, best production, best runner, best supporting actor.

**Khaya:** Mombasa Ngoqo who won 3 categories, best director, best actress and best runner, told us how she feels about her attainment of three categories.

**Nombasa:** I am very happy, I was not expecting this but hey say my work was outstanding, I was scared as I work with the legends like Ayanda, I'm one of the young ones in Grahamstown who the best actress category so I'm proud of myself.

**Khaya:** For how long have you been an actor?

**Nombasa:** I started in 2003.

**Khaya:** What does it mean to be a MDDF big winner?

**Nombasa:** I have learnt a lot and I with other youth of my age and younger could continue with drama and be where I am today.

**Khaya:** We lastly spoke with one of the drama winners, Ayanda Nondlwana who told us how he feels about his group's achievement.

**Ayanda:** I am very glad, in fact we are very glad as Grahamstown ... group that we won the best production award, we knew that the best production award this year would be ours, we were suppose to get it even last year but a different group got it, so were proving that it belongs to us this year. If I may count I'm now getting this trophy for the third time now since 2007 when I first joined the MDDF, 2007, I was the best director, 2008 I was the best director again and 2009, best production.

**Khaya:** what have you gained as a person or group for winning in this competition?

**Ayanda:** There's a lot that I've gained in the drama field particularly, the drama theory and basics, I would say the Eastern Cape drama company, Ubom has helped us a lot as Sisonke had said, people need to know about drama and they have helped us on what we're doing.

**Khaya:** what other help you have gained that is related to what will be happening in 2010 Arts Festival?

**Ayanda:** That we will also have a platform of performing in 2010 and hoping that we'll be getting a better platform because, we wish the arts festival people could give a perfect look at what Ubom does and not put us at the corner but put where people are. They must not place us at the recreation hall because most people don't know where recreation hall is.

**Khaya:** That's what Ayanda Nondlwana said

let's hear the what the announcements say to help you: In our lost and founds we have Bongisa Lungelwa Petros's Identity Document , please come fetch it or if there is anyone who knows her, please help her by telling her that she can get her ID here.

All Mashlanganeni support group members and all those who are living with HIV to attend a meeting that would take place at the Duna library in Joza on the 21 of November at 2pm. This announcement is from Mashlanganeni support group chair person, Luyanda Klass.

Miss Makana application forms, Egazing project is inviting to apply if you think you can be Miss or Mr Makana 200/2010. The final date for the form is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December and the application fee is R15.

Here is another important one from the municipality because of water pipes fixing, there will be water cuts from Thursday November 12 from 8am to 3pm, the area that will be affected will be Allen Street, Milner Street, blackbag Street. Ms Baart really apologies for the inconvenience.

Remember, we have asked you to send us your opinion on the children and gender base violence to 078 1173 402.

SMS: Really man should form partnership on fighting against this bad behavior, women bashers must know their days are numbered. This one comes from Mtherana from Tanti.

**Khaya:** Let us look at more smses coming in, the other one says,

SMS: Till when will you be persecuting mocking people's hearts, don't you have empathy for these parents and leaders of tomorrow, think vigilantly, this is taking you nowhere. From N. Qubuda.

**Khaya:** Here is another one,

SMS: I say the ill treatment of the females and children by men, that is not acceptable because all people are equal and we should all respect elderly people even if you don't know them that is very important in life.

**Khaya:** Maybe you wanna know what time is it now; the time is now 15:29. We'll now pass the line to Bongo and give us the NIBS of what is happening around Makana municipality.

**Bongo:** Our events for the two upcoming weeks, There will be a Lunch Hour Piano Recital at Beethoven Room, Rhodes University Music Department. Peter Cartwright plays works by Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt. Entrance is free. This will take place on Thursday, 12 November at 13;15

SASOP HIV/Aids special interest groups in association with Fort England Hospital invites you to attend an HIV/Aids and mental health awareness meeting. The guest speaker is Judge Edwin Cameron. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. This will be taking place at Fort England Hospital Main Hall on Friday, November 13, from 12:30.

On Friday, November 14, there will be a Diaz Cross Bird Club outing to the bird hide at the Great Fish River Reserve. This is a good viewing place for both birds and animals. Please bring refreshments, a hat and binoculars. If you are interested please contact Jenna Holmes on 046 622 3000 or e-mail her on [jennaholmes@saarp.org.za](mailto:jennaholmes@saarp.org.za).

Still on Friday On Friday, there will be a quite afternoon at the Cathedral, the programme will be the Office of the Vespers at 5pm

On Monday, November 16, there will be a Battle of Isandlwana reenactment on 22 January 1879, a Zulu Victory or the road to national disaster?" by Prof Pat Irwin. All are welcome and entry is by donation in aid of the Friends of the Library.

Our final event is a Diaz Cross Bird Club annual bring & braai that will take place at 3 Florence Street. Those who are interested are requested to please bring their own meat, salad and something to drink. All members and new birders are welcome. If you are interested please RSVP to Jenna Holmes on 046 622 3000 or [jennaholmes@saarp.org.za](mailto:jennaholmes@saarp.org.za)

**Khaya:** Alright, these are the events for the next two weeks, we'll keep bringing you such NIBS... here's another sms that just came in.

SMS: Every man should learn to treat women and children right, not only for 16 days, no violence against women and children. This one is from, Luthando Mpofu. We're hoping that people have heard that people don't encourage this bad habit.

We'll hand over to Busi to announce our sms winner for today, but before that let's first give a chance of tell us our next segment.

**Zet:** Greeting to all the listeners at home. As Grocott's Citizen Journalist, I was given a task of talking about fashion. I looked for the best designer in Grahamstown that will make us look stunning for the summer. We then interviewed Sabelo about what he is about.

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**Sabelo:** Hello Grahamstonians, my name is Sabelo ... from Xolani. I started sewing when I was still in grade 9, I was taught by my aunt then. I then went to PE technikon for a year, studying fashion designing but I was bored because we had to do art as well and I didn't get anything new, so I moved to Cape Town, doing clothing management at of which it' a business on the side.

**Zet:** Which designs do you specialize on?

**Sabelo:** Mostly we specialize in making jeans but we do other staff as well.

**Zet:** What challenges did you encounter when you started the business?

**Sabelo:** Firstly we started young, if you remember, it was me and Siyabulela Mpolweni, we were young and renting next to Suzie Q and we all didn't have anything on management, starting a business and we didn't even have enough money to start the business. For the first 3 years we didn't make profit and Grahamstown being a small place and people not having better understanding of fashion and what were doing, they compared us with other shops and making sure that what you are doing is explicit.

**Zet:** Do you get more people who are interested on your designs like people who come for clothing?

**Sabelo:** We have a lot of people even from Port Elizabeth, but the highlight we have for now, is making a traditional outfit for Nosimo Balindlela and a head of journalism at Rhodes.

**Zet:** What inspired you to be in this industry?

**Sabelo:** Mine is different from others, because of my background, being a fashion designer was not my wish but I did it because I knew it could make me money while I was still a school with by sewing staff and sell it.

**Zet:** At the beginning you said your aunt was your mentor, what role did she play in your life or on your design career?

**Sabelo:** She played a big role as she is the foundation of what I am today, even if my career can collapse she will remain strong as she is the foundation of my career, though I may be educated, she is still my foundation.

**Zet:** If you can choose to collaborate with other Grahamstown designer, who would you choose and why?

**Sabelo:** For now, I'd say the ones I work with, because they understand me personally and we grew up together, it's also easy to work with them and they know their work, I wouldn't like to start a new thing with new people will take a lot of time.

**Zet:** I'm certain that Grahamstonians are interested on what you do, would you like to give them your contact detail.

**Sabelo:** my cell number is 078 5747 803 or call Teddy on 073 9011 989.

**Zet:** That is all we had for you on fashion I am Zandisile Siyo from Nathaniel Nyaluza, goodbye people.

**Khaya:** Let's thank Zandisile for what he brought us lets continue by reading the winning sms, we all agreed that it is the one that says.

SMS: Till when will you be persecuting mocking people's hearts, don't you have empathy for these parents and leaders of tomorrow, think vigilantly, this is taking you nowhere. From N. Qubuda.

We will call her and give her R30 airtime, thanks to everyone who send the smses, you're all winner but the airtime had to go to one of you.

I'd like to apologise for not having sport, we did compile it but our sport presenter is not here with us she's still busy with the exams.

I'll now give my presenter a chance of saying goodbye to the listeners.

**Zet:** goodbye listeners, I'm Zandisile and I was with you during this show, I would like to say to those who are busy with the exams especially my friends, work hard and pass, the future is yours.

**Bongo:** I'm Bongo Nkolongo, it was nice to have you on the show, to all Mrwetyana learners I wish you all the best for the exams, thanks.

**Khaya:** Busi, Zim and stake holders also say good bye.

This program is proudly brought to you by the John S. and James L Knight foundation, JMS and Radio Grahamstown. Let's give the pastor a chance, as for me I am gone I am gone gone I am....