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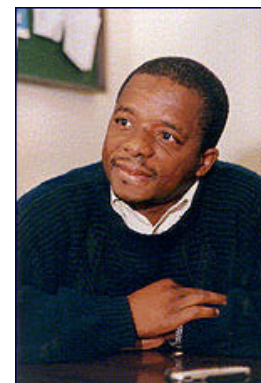
1 Winner Cardoso Prize hitchhikes for investigative journalism in Mozambique

News

by Barbara Bosma

Radio journalist Boaventura Mandlate has been awarded the Carlos Cardoso Prize 2004 for his contribution to the promotion of democracy. Mandlate: "I want to the show real life."

"The prize encourages journalists to commit themselves to the promotion of democracy. Above all it is a tribute to Carlos Cardoso, who as an investigative journalist meant so much to our country," said Hilário Matusse, secretary-general of the Mozambican union of journalists, SNJ.



Nswazi basisschool

Carlos Cardoso was killed four years ago because he knew too much about corruption scandals in government. His killer escaped from prison for the second time a few days before the presentation of the prize.

"This prize is still very relevant in our country and important as a way to denounce corruption. With this prize we show that we are standing up against those forces in society that counteract press freedom and transparency," said Matusse.

Reach

Boaventura Mandlate was the only radio journalist among fifteen nominees. He said he hoped that more of his radio colleagues will feel encouraged to register next year. "Rádio Moçambique broadcasts reach more people than newspapers do, owing to widespread illiteracy. Moreover, our broadcasts are not only in Portuguese but also in other local languages. Radio is therefore of great importance for the dissemination of information throughout Mozambique."

Siba Siba

Mandlate started his career as a journalist in 1982 when he became a reporter for Rádio Moçambique. Today he still works for the station, where he now edits programmes on political and economic and development issues, presents summaries of newspaper reports and produces a programme on research.

He has won several prizes: in 1990 one in investigative journalism, in 2002 one in environmental journalism, and earlier in 2004 the Siba Siba prize for best economic/financial journalistic contribution. (Siba Siba Macuacua, a bank manager, was killed in 2001 for his fight against corruption, ed.).

Mandlate wants to contribute to democracy by giving people a voice. His prize-winning reports are not about corruption or politics in the capital, Maputo. “I want to break away from the city, because most Mozambicans live in the rural areas. That is where one gets in touch with real life. In my reports I try to show what is running through their minds.”

For instance, he has reported on the extension of Kruger National Park into Mozambique. “People and animals cannot live together. Thousands of people are removed from the lands they and their ancestors have always lived on. That’s asking for conflicts.”

Cashew

The radio journalist also reported on the cashew industry, which was an issue Carlos Cardoso covered prominently. Many cashew plants in Mozambique were forced to close down because of the policy of liberalisation. “Mozambique used to be one of the major cashew exporters. Now we are nowhere anymore. In my report I wanted to show how important cashew is to Mozambicans and how government policy is affecting people who depend on this industry for their livelihood.”

Good investigative journalism requires time, money and effort. “Time is hardly the problem in our newsrooms. We also have a special fund that we can use if we want to do research. But the roads are bad, and travelling to meet people in the rural areas is difficult. We don’t have enough money to rent a Jeep. But I often manage to reach my destination by hitchhiking.”

The Carlos Cardoso prize was initiated by the Mozambican union of journalists SNJ, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), the European Commission, Swiss Embassy and Livaningo, a Mozambican nonprofit organisation. They presented Mandlate with the prize, which amounted 4000 US \$. “I do not feel successful because of that money, but because of the many positive reactions I got to my reports. I will keep the money in reserve for the day I will need it for some important journalistic research.”

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Photo: Sandra Lourenco

MISA is a partner of NIZA’s Media programme. To read more on MISA in Mozambique:

http://www.misa.org/about_MISA/chapters/Mozambique.html

2 Propaganda and Peeping Toms

Comment

by Jeanette Minnie

Perhaps Prof. Jonathan Moyo, the Minister of Information and Publicity in Zimbabwe, is trying to get his own back on South Africa's leading Sunday weekly, the Sunday Times. This paper lets no opportunity slip in publishing details about his visits to South Africa - to stock up on food supplies and other little luxuries no longer available in Zimbabwe. It exposes the Moyo family's favourite take away snacks in Johannesburg, the auction of a house owned by Prof. Moyo because he defaulted on the bond repayments, and so on.

The fact is that the governments of Zimbabwe and Namibia have entered into an agreement to co-publish a weekly regional newspaper for distribution in all southern African countries from July 1, 2004. It will be called the New Sunday Times. However, it still is not on the streets.

It will be based in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, and will be edited by Moses Magadza, currently the Assistant Editor of Zimbabwe's state-owned national daily, The Herald.

The head of Namibia's government-owned bi-weekly New Era newspaper (the Namibian partner in the regional venture), has scoffed at suggestions that the planned regional publication will be a propaganda tool to counter "anti-Zimbabwean stories". Interviewed by The Namibian newspaper, New Era Managing Director, Protasius Ndauendapo, said the joint publishing venture was conceived from "purely business principles".

'African values'

The cooperation agreement signed between the two governments, however, say the purpose of the paper is "to counter the threat of the global media to African values". Critics have labeled the newspaper as a propaganda tool for the state presidents of the two countries - Sam Nujoma of Namibia and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. The two countries have close ties - Namibia recently made use of Zimbabwean advisors in expropriating unused commercial farm land in Namibia, and during a recent trip to Zimbabwe, Pres. Nujoma pledged to defend Zimbabwe militarily against 'imperialists' - despite the fact that no country has threatened war against Zimbabwe.

African values in this context are of course to be understood as only those values held by the Zimbabwean government (and now perhaps also those of the Namibian government).

Pluralism and diversity of opinion and debate among Africans in these countries presumably no longer count as African values - particularly when they do not harmonize with the views of these governments. These and other democratic values defended by the most popular and widely read newspaper in Zimbabwe were removed

from the public agenda by Prof. Moyo's hand-picked Media and Information Commission (MIC), when they closed down the Daily News by force. The MIC also recently closed down a second privately-owned newspaper, The Tribune.

Monitoring e-mails

In addition, the Zimbabwean government has now instructed Internet Service Provider's in the country to monitor individual e-mails and to reveal to the state all sources of 'objectionable' and 'anti-national' messages. Zimbabwe's state-owned telecommunications company, TelOne, has now proposed that Internet service providers (ISPs) monitor all their customers' e-mails. But the ISPs have yet to agree.

The Zimbabwe Internet Service Providers Association (ZISPA) told the IRIN news service it was seeking clarity on a proposed amendment to the existing franchise agreement between TelOne and ZISPA members. None of ZISPA's members had signed the proposed contract amendment and "there is no monitoring of any sort of any e-mails at the moment". The ISP's, who are trying to resist the move, also say that they do not have the capacity in terms of sophisticated software and person power to monitor the contents of email traffic in the country.

Online obstruction

The threat of monitoring the Internet has resulted in a flurry of activity on the side of Africans in Zimbabwe, who presumably do not have African values, because they are now busy giving each other information on how to obstruct "Jonathan's peeping Tom's". Online suggestions include that the government can only interfere with e-mails originating from or destined for local 'zw' domains and users are being encouraged to switch to international domains, such as Yahoo and Hotmail.

Also it is advised to use terminals at Internet Cafe's instead of using a PC registered to your name or your employer's name. En masse flooding of emails on email tracking systems by including sentences containing sensitive words such as: 'It is time for mass action: mobilise and fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic', are also being highly recommended. This would hopefully cause the peeping Toms having to read thousands of such messages and eventually losing interest.

These are very serious matters as internet communication is one of the few remaining areas for civil society interaction in Zimbabwe.

Read more: [Monitoring e-mails are Zimbabwean latest eavesdropping plan](#)

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Zimbabwe Internet Service Providers Association:

<http://www.zispa.org.zw/>

The Namibian Newspaper

<http://www.namibian.com.na/>

3 Monitoring e-mails is Zimbabwe's latest eavesdropping plan

Background

By Marieke van Twillert

Zimbabwe is certainly not the first country to plan the monitoring of e-mails. The Zimbabwean government's latest eavesdropping plans fit in well with a longer-standing practice of monitoring Internet traffic in the country. Maurice Wessling of Bits of Freedom, an independent Dutch foundation that promotes digital civil rights, explains.

According to an earlier report of Reporters sans Frontières (RSF) [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=10710], Zimbabwe in January 2003 forced all telecom companies to channel their connections through the state-owned company TelOne. "The original motive was financial," says Wessling. "The plan allowed the state to rake in the revenues from the lucrative international telephone traffic. But, of course, such an obligation also opens the door to various additional obligations on telecom providers, such as the forced monitoring of e-mails, because these companies are tied hand and foot to their contract with TelOne."

The section on Zimbabwe of the Privacy International report 'Silenced: Censorship and Control of the Internet' [<http://www.privacyinternational.org/survey/censorship/>] (2003) lists examples of the various ways in which the Zimbabwean government is controlling the Internet.

For instance foreign websites which publish 'potentially alarming reports' or 'falsehoods' are being blocked. Opposition party MDC and also the Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum have found it impossible to find a Zimbabwean Internet Service Provider (ISP) willing to host their websites.

China

Monitoring boils down to digitally tapping e-mail messages. Such censorship is divided into two stages, says Wessling. "In the first stage suspicious messages are selected electronically on the basis of catchwords. The second stage entails the actual reading of messages by the censors."

Monitoring is applied all over the world. In China [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=10749], for instance, the monitoring of e-mails has progressed to an advanced form. It is plainly dangerous to include 'subversive' texts in e-mails and contributions to web forums.

By early May 2004, 61 people had been put behind bars in China for sending purportedly subversive Internet messages. Since May 2003, 17 of these cyber dissidents, who advocate greater democracy, have appeared in court where they have been given prison sentences of up to 14 years.

Sniffer programme

Zimbabwe seems not to have reached that stage yet. But monitoring e-mails has indeed started. On-line activists on Kubatana.net

[<http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/inftec/040604kub.asp>] suggest for instance to clog up the 'sniffer programmes'. "The idea is to add a few lines to every e-mail message that will draw the attention of the censors," explains Wessling. "They expect that overtaxing the censor system with all these 'suspicious' messages will flood the censors with work and in this way render them powerless."

Such a tactic will turn out futile according to Bits of Freedom, because the censors "will adapt their equipment so that messages to which this text is added will be ignored."

"The solution suggested by Kubatana doesn't take into consideration that it is very difficult to upset the above-mentioned first stage – automatic selection – by flooding the system," Wessling explains. "As soon as that first stage is turning out too many messages the censors will make the automatic selection process more stringent."

What then can be done to counter the monitoring? The most important thing to do, according to Wessling, is to pay due attention to the plans. "Technically Internet users can encrypt their e-mails, for instance by using PGP. Security tips can be found, among other sites, on the website of Privaterra, consultants to NGOs and others on Internet security [http://cms.privaterra.org/InfoSec_Guides].

Read also: Propaganda and Peeping Toms

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4 The Big Issue Namibia: A hand up, not a hand out!

Partner profile

by Sarah Taylor

The Big Issue Namibia celebrates its second birthday this July. The magazine, a member of the International Network of Street Papers, is sold on the streets of Windhoek, Swakopmund and, most recently, the southern town of Keetmanshoop, by the homeless, vulnerably housed and long-term unemployed.



Since the May 2004 edition, the magazine has been selling out its 2000 issues and the readership itself is estimated at about five times that. The population in Namibia is only 1,8 million people.

To date more than 300 vendors have registered with The Big Issue Namibia, while about 40 only have remained as active vendors. The others apparently preferring to return to their familiar lives of begging, washing or guarding cars, commercial sex work, crime or selling returnable cool-drink bottles instead of starting their own business selling the magazine.

Vendors initially get five magazines for free. After having sold those to the public at N\$7.85 each (one Euro = N\$7.93), they are expected to return to the depot and begin to buy magazines on a self-employment basis at N\$4.00 each and continue to sell them to the public at the higher price, keeping the difference, and any tips, as their profit.

Our top vendors are earning in the region of N\$800 to N\$1400, which compares favourably to some of the lower-income jobs in Namibia, such as security work. As another comparison, an old age pension is a mere N\$250 a month.

From humble beginnings in 2002 when the total vendor income averaged N\$2250 a month, The Big Issue Namibia now generates a total monthly income for the vendors of some N\$10000.

Necessity

When the project began in June 2002, gearing up for the first issue in July 2002, the staff comprised the Project Director Jo Rogge, Editor Sarah Taylor and Office Assistant Ndemupa Kaupatwa. To date a further six full-time and one part-time position have been created out of necessity. This includes a Vendor Support Co-ordinator, who assist with the vendors' counselling, art and literacy classes, and other skills training to help them move on to better, more full-time and permanent employment.



vendors Oscar Locke and Stanley Snyders

Articles in the magazine cover a range of subjects, with a focus on social issues and issues affecting Namibians, as well as entertainment. As it is the only general interest Namibian magazine, we aim to appeal to as wide an audience as possible and judging by the letters, e-mails and faxes we receive from a variety of

Namibians and expatriats and visitors (across ethnic, gender and age lines), we are achieving just that (see comments below).

Changing attitudes

Most people regularly buy South African magazines here and changing people's buying attitudes has not been easy, but each month our sales increase so we feel confident that in a few years' time we will be making a real impact on the media sector.

Changing destitute people's attitudes from a hand-out mode to that of a hand-up and self-employment is also not easy as many just expect charity, and don't want to put in any effort themselves. This is probably largely as a result of the demoralizing apartheid system during the time South West Africa fell under South African control. We do feel that we are making progress in this regard in a small way with our regular vendors and we are continuing to increase our vendor base each week.

Read further:

Media for the people, by the people, thanks to Big Issue
Sarah Taylor is editor of The Big Issue Namibia edbigissue@iway.na

The Big Issue Namibia is published by the Magazine Trust, which is a partner organization of NiZA's Media Programme.

What does The Big Issue mean to you?

"Congratulation on your second birthday! I like the fact The Big Issue Namibia gives disadvantaged people a chance to make some money, keep their dignity and keep themselves busy. I find most of the sellers I meet very patient and polite and always willing to have a chat. I enjoyed particularly the February issue article: 'Crossing borders and joining hearts'."
"It's a very positive magazine that is about enriching our people socially and as individuals. It accommodates all types of personalities without discrimination. Its cause is my motivating factor. It is true – nobody likes to beg."

"As a tour guide I travel around the country and I always bring my copies to distribute to people who do not have access to The Big Issue, and people really like the content. Opinions expressed in the mag are also interesting and contribute to another point of view of Namibian society that is not always expressed in the daily papers."

5 Media for the people, by the people – thanks to The Big Issue

Issue

(Bigger!) Partner profile

by Sarah Taylor

In April 2003, The Big Issue Namibia, a monthly magazine sold on the streets by the homeless and unemployed, launched the Community Journalism Mentoring Programme, funded by the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NiZA).

The two-year course is designed to impart basic skills in community journalism to 12 participants from around the country, including Walvis Bay, Lüderitz, Katima Mulilo, Ongwediva and Windhoek. Those taking part in the course are either community activists interested in improving their writing skills or reporters working for community newspapers who do not have any formal training in journalism.



training session

Two Big Issue Namibia vendors, Stanley Snyders and Phillipus Nghinyengulwa, are also among the participants, and a story by Nghinyengulwa on an HIV-AIDS organisation in Windhoek's informal settlements was published in the June 2004 issue of the magazine.

Says Snyders, who has been selling The Big Issue Namibia for almost two years: "When I first started the course last year, it was very difficult because writing is not so easy for me. But when I carried on I realised that these things are very good and I learnt how to write a story. I read the *Republikein* and a lot of Afrikaans books and I know it's a good thing to start a journalism class. Some day I can move on in life and get somewhere."

Interviewing skills

The programme is run by the magazine's editor, Sarah Taylor, with assistance from Paulina Shilongo, a lecturer at the Polytechnic of Namibia's Media Technology Department and Big Issue trustee. Visiting speakers have also been invited to provide their input, including journalist Lindsay Dentlinger from The Namibian newspaper, visiting Polytechnic lecturer, Bob Moore, from Elizabeth Town College, Pennsylvania, and Big Issue South Africa founding member Raymond Joseph.

Topics covered so far have included: What is community journalism?, Public listening skills, What is news?, Interviewing techniques, Information gathering and Feature writing.

While four participants have dropped out of the programme since April for personal reasons, they have since been replaced by others who have shown interest in developing

writing and interviewing skills, and bringing issues from their respective communities into the public domain.

Feedback

To date five weekend-long training workshops have been held in Windhoek, while participants have been submitting news and feature stories, and receiving feedback, during the two to three months between each workshop.

A number of these stories have been published and the participants are currently working on joint features around a common topic, which should be ready for publication soon.



training session

Participant Vicky Marshall from Luderitz, who is currently working as a ministerial clerk, says: “I love journalism and I always wanted to do it but wasn’t in a position to attend formal courses. This course has opened a new avenue for me. I have found it very useful learning how to formulate a feature story. When I complete the course I’d like to do a correspondence course in journalism.”

Sarah Taylor is editor of *The Big Issue Namibia* edbigissue@iway.na

Read also: *The Big Issue Namibia: A hand up, not a hand out!*

6 'We are all leaders' - Local governance programme put into practice

Workshop

by Marieke van Twillert

It is a bright morning in Matabeland. At the Nswazi primary school in Umzingwane district the children enter the classrooms that surround the playground with the torn flag. All but one classroom is occupied; the empty one is reserved today for a workshop on Local Governance that is part of ACPDT's Local Governance Programme.

The African Community Publishing and Development Trust (ACPDT), a Zimbabwean non-profit trust, launched the Local Governance Community Capacity Building Programme, in Zimbabwe in 1997. Apart from Umzingwane, the districts Matobo and Gokwe North are places of action. However, ACPDT hopes to expand its activities onto other districts in the future.



Nswazi primary school

The purpose of the Local Governance Programme is to improve the quality of communication and relationships between communities, local authorities and central government, in order to enhance peace building, democracy and good local governance.

Trust

Regina, member of the ACPDT local district training team and the facilitator of today, opens the meeting with a song and prayer. By that time, the 18 participants have entered the classroom, and every pair shares the ACPD workbook 'The Source from which Rivers Flow – organising for local governance, poverty reduction and development'.

The objective of the first task is 'Trust Building'. In order to gain trust, all the members within three groups are asked to discuss with each other. They share the news of their village, both positive and negative, and choose a symbol for their group. This will enable the participants to identify their common ground.

Doves

In this case, rain is a common denomination. One group summarizes the joint positive news: "Many rains and subsequently good crops". But the downside is that the showers fell "too dispersed, so some crops have failed".

The groups also share other news. On the negative side they mention that "the police have harassed and arrested squatters, even pregnant women". For positive news, one group adds up: "We share the same background, we have the same culture, we use the same language, we are all black, we are all farmers, and we are all leaders."

Remarkably, all three groups choose – independently - the dove as their symbol. “Because it is a symbol of peace, and we are a people of peace”, and: “Let’s unite and build our country and be as doves. A dove represents love, peace and unity.”

Power

The Local Governance Programme has a facilitating role. By means of workshops it wants to enlarge the knowledge of village people. ACPDT gives both theoretical and



practical workshops. During these workshops the participants discuss matters concerning power and the clashes between the various owners in possession of power.

“People are confused”, explained one of the three ACPDT managers Talent Nyathi, “for example during elections. Who holds the power: the chief, the appointed elected or the community?”

“As ACPDT we feel this is the best way in which we can contribute to dealing with the crisis in Zimbabwe”, said Kathy Bond-Stewart, ACPDT manager. “Although it is still a week sector, local government is a sector that reaches and affects the daily lives of citizens.”

Dam

The workshops in the villages prove to be quite fruitful. “Immediately following the workshop”, said village head Leonard Dube from Matobo district, “our village came together with the adjacent village. We held a palaver with 200 people or more to discuss our common problems. As a result, we have built a small dam and a garden.”

Fiona Dube, a primary schoolteacher from Matobo reported that the local teachers had met after the workshop. “We concluded that the school pupils lack fruit in their daily diet, so we decided to grow fruit trees. We now have started a nursery of a mango tree orchard.”

These are practical examples that the attendants of the workshop brought forward. Moreover, many participants related about their ‘new way of thinking’.

The biggest achievement of the local governance programme, according to councillors Elvis Sibanda and Dumisani Mpofo from Umzingwane, is the fact that “traditional leaders and elected leaders have had the opportunity to clarify their different roles and how these relate to each other”. Ignorance on the specific structures used “to cause a lot of confusion, especially in the wards”.

Courage

“Through the local governance programme we now know our rights”, said Chief Simchembu from Gokwe North. “We sometimes challenge them (the elected leaders, ed.), because we are not scared.” He gives an example: “I am about to meet the Minister of Local Government, Cde Ignatius Chombo. This is a result of the courage I gained through this organization, ACPDT. They have highlighted to us now that there is no one who-ever who can be feared when we talk in terms of development.”



Chief Simchembu unfolded what he will be discussing with Minister Chombo: “As you know the Tonga's were displaced from the Zambezi River up to here. We have got our fellow mates, the Kore Kore people. We want those people to be involved into this programme so that they can identify themselves. As it is now, they are hiding themselves. They have changed to other languages. But they must not hide. If possible, we want their mother language also to be taught at school. Just like any other language. That is our motto.”

Marieke van Twillert is freelance journalist and MediaNews editor

7 Zapiro: Long walk to freetime



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