

registration process, even these newspapers can't be considered truly independent.

Is it surprising therefore that Afrobarometer concluded in 2004 that Mugabe's popularity had more than doubled since 2000, despite the fact that he had laid his country in ruins?

Afrobarometer revealed that the role of the remaining media as propaganda tools for the government was so effective that this led to rising positive appreciation of Mugabe. Mtetwa: "You will only operate for as long as government allows you to operate. And government will only allow you to operate if you print what they want you to print."

Website of MMPZ: <http://www.mmpz.org.zw/>

For the research of Afrobarometer: Chikwanha, Annie, Tulani Sithole and Michael Bratton, *The Power of Propaganda: Public Opinion in Zimbabwe*, 2004, check: http://www.idasa.org.za/index.asp?page=search_results.asp%3Fsearchtext%3Dafrobarometer%26searchtype%3Dbasic and scroll to category 19.

By Olmo von Meijenfeldt

*Olmo von Meijenfeldt works for the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA).
olmo@idasact.org.za*

NiZA congratulates Beatrice Mtetwa on winning one of the International Press Freedom Awards presented by the Committee to Protect Journalists. The award ceremony will take place on November 22 in New York. For more information on the awards and the other winners go to:
http://www.cpj.org/awards05/awards_release_05.html

What Mushizi did next : Dilemmas facing a DRC radio station

Reportage - Special report Living Yearbook

Based in Bukavu, South Kivu (DRC) Radio Maendeleo was set up in the last days of Mobuto Sese Seko's crumbling regime. The community radio station, launched in a time of uncertainty and disorder, has an interesting history, which is embodied in station director Kizito Mushizi.

At NiZA's annual Living Yearbook in September, Dutch radio journalist, Ginger da Silva, extracted the station's dramatic history from Mushizi. The history was disclosed in the form of a presentation of actual dilemmas that Mushizi had to confront in his dream of making Radio Maendeleo a broadcasting reality.

The dilemmas were also posed to the audience. They were asked what they would do if they were in Mushizi's shoes. Da Silva gave the public three options before she asked Mushizi what happened in reality. You, as a reader, will get the same options. Ask yourself what you would do before you read what Mushizi did and why.

Transmitter

In 1999, the rebel movement Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD-Goma) came to the radio station and demanded control of the transmitter.

What would you do?

- A.** Try to fool the attackers with a fake transmitter
- B.** Beg them not to take the transmitter and promise you'll broadcast propaganda for the rebels
- C.** Give up the transmitter immediately and flee

Mushizi agonised over this and eventually decided to surrender the transmitter. Mushizi: "I wanted to fool the rebels, but they were too intelligent. And because I didn't want to broadcast propaganda, I gave up the transmitter." Mushizi was imprisoned for two weeks. After his release he wanted to start broadcasting again.

How would you achieve this?

- A. Get guns hidden in your car, call your friends and go back to fight the rebels
- B. Contact the rebels who've seized the transmitter and try to start a dialogue
- C. Contact NiZA and other donors to acquire a new transmitter and start an alternative station



Kizito Mushizi

Faced without any means to broadcast, Mushizi decided to negotiate with the fighters to retrieve his transmitter. Mushizi: "Acquiring a new transmitter wasn't an option because I was banned from broadcasting, so I contacted the rebel movement." With the rebel leadership constantly changing and Mushizi having to deal with different people most of the time, it was two years and ten days before he recovered it.

Rebels

But that was not the end of Mushizi's woes. The rebels were not done yet. A military man was placed in the radio station's newsroom to monitor all broadcasts.

How would you cope?

- A. Try to turn him into a friend by buying him one meal per day
- B. Set up fake meetings in the newsroom, while real editorial decisions are made elsewhere in secret sessions

C. Try to walk a careful path in programming between good journalism and the editorial bias of the censor and the people who put him there

Mushizi considered his options and he chose to feed the rebel a good meal once a day. Mushizi: "We were lucky because the soldiers weren't being paid. So it was easy for us to feed him and he forgot about his chiefs." This strategy worked, as the man never censored the broadcasts and instead became close to Mushizi and staff.

Coup d'etat

When Mushizi received fragments of information of a possible coup d'etat in the rebel movement, he pondered on whether to broadcast the story. If true, it was very important to warn the public. But on the other hand, you don't want to alarm the public and cause unrest if it isn't true.

What would you do?

- A. You broadcast the incomplete information, informing listeners of the dubious accuracy
- B. You hold off broadcasting, open a file and try to obtain more information
- C. You drop the story because, whether true or not, it's dangerous for your reporters' personal safety

Any action had grave consequences but eventually, Mushizi chose to hold off broadcasting and tried to source additional information. However, this was not forthcoming. Months later there was a rebellion within the rebellion.

Radio Maendeleo continues to broadcast. It is now able to work in solidarity with all media across Bukavu. While many of us take freedom of expression for granted, for Mushizi and many others, it can be a question of life and death. Mushizi's gamble seems to have paid off for now – at least until the next dilemma.

By Chris Kabwato

Kabwato (C.Kabwato@ru.ac.za) is the director of Highway Africa

Website Highway Africa:
<http://www.highwayafrica.ru.ac.za/>
Highway Africa News Agency (HANA),
www.highwayafrica.ru.ac.za/hana/

Investigative journalist in 8 days

News

A new investigative journalism program at Rhodes University in Grahamstown promises to teach South African journalists all the skills an investigative journalist needs.

Twenty-five carefully selected journalists will attend the first four-day session from November 21 to 25, with the second session being held from February 4 to 7. According to program co-ordinator and investigative journalism lecturer Derek Luyt, it takes only eight days to train students to become investigative journalists: "These sessions will be very intensive. The eight days will be enough," he says.



Rhodes University

Luyt says his aims are to develop local investigative journalism. In the upcoming three years he wants to train a *total* of 75 journalists, giving them continuing support and ensuring the sustainability of the program by offering mentoring services afterwards.

Focus

During the program, the journalists will focus on story selection, research, finding and

evaluating sources, accessing private and public records, interviewing, the ethics of investigation, reporting and writing investigative stories.

The idea is to help journalists fight corruption and protect the public interest while contributing to democracy and sustainable economic growth. Luyt: "South Africa needs special skilled and trained journalists such as these to fight poverty and inequality, especially in rural areas."

The program for local or regional journalists is sponsored by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Development Agency for Southern Africa (IDASA). Not only will the students receive full funding for the course, but the follow-up program after this investigative journalism course is also fully funded.

In future, Derek Luyt aims to extend the program to other African countries.

For more information visit the Rhodes University website:

<http://www.ru.ac.za/community/journ/>.

Or e-mail programme co-ordinator Derek Luyt: d.luyt@ru.ac.za.

By Elvira van Noort

Van Noort (elviravannoort@hotmail.com) works for the Mail & Guardian Online in Johannesburg through NiZA's program for young journalists.

Louw wins press freedom award

Newsflash

South African journalist Raymond Louw has won the Windhoek-based Media Institute of Southern Africa's (MISA) press freedom award. According to the newspaper *The Namibian*, Louw has been a very vocal opponent of restrictive media laws and press freedom violations. He also remains active as a journalism trainer and advocate of independent broadcasting.