



La Lettre Electronique de TRRAACE TRRAACE Electronic Newsletter

N° 51 – 08/01/2007

TRRAACE :

TOUTES LES RESSOURCES POUR LES RADIOS AFRICAINES ASSOCIATIVES COMMUNAUTAIRES ET EDUCATIVES

TRACKING RESOURCES FOR RADIOS IN AFRICA AT THE BENEFIT OF THE ASSOCIATIVE COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIVE RADIO STATIONS

TODOS OS RECURSOS PARA AS RADIOS ASSOCIATIVAS EN AFRICA ASSIM CEMO COMUNITARIAS E EDUCATIVAS

[HTTP://WWW.MEDIAFRICA.NET](http://www.mediafrica.net)

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NOUVELLES DE MEDIAFRICA.NET NEWS

L'APM-BENIN REJOINT MEDIAFRICA.NET

En ce début 2007, Mediafrica.Net s'élargit. Le groupe porteur du projet accueille un troisième partenaire : l'Association pour le Promotion des Médias (APM-Bénin). Cette ouverture et cet élargissement sont l'aboutissement de collaborations intenses et permanentes entre les initiateurs de Mediafrica.Net et les responsables de l'APM-Bénin depuis l'origine de TRRAACE et de TOFRRAACE, dans le souci commun de contribuer au renforcement du pluralisme médiatique et à la professionnalisation des radios de proximité en Afrique.

Profil de l'APM

L'Association pour la Promotion des Médias (**APM-Bénin**) est une institution béninoise créée en 2000. Elle est composée de professionnels expérimentés venant de tous les horizons du paysage médiatique au Bénin. Son but essentiel est de travailler à la promotion et à la professionnalisation des médias. L'APM a pris le parti de donner la priorité aux radios de proximité qu'elles soient communautaires, associatives ou relevant du service public.

L'APM est surtout connue pour sa **Radio Ecole** (FM 89.0) située à Porto-Novo capitale politique du Bénin.



Depuis 2001, la Radio Ecole APM a consacré ses activités de formation à l'initiation à la radio pour les débutants sur la base d'un module d'un mois au cours duquel les participants sont initiés à l'écriture radiophonique, à l'animation et la présentation radio aux différents types de formats radiophoniques, à la documentation sur Internet et le reportage.

Le second volet de la formation dispensée par APM porte sur la spécialisation des professionnels de la radio. Les stagiaires doivent avoir au moins trois ans d'expérience professionnelle continue dans une radio en activité. Le module pour la spécialisation couvre une période de trois mois répartis sur l'année en séance de quinze (15) jours par atelier. Les modules de spécialisation proposés sont :

- les différents traitements de l'information collectée ;
- l'écriture journalistique et radiophonique ;
- les techniques des différents types d'interview ;
- la production et le magazine radiophonique ;
- le marketing ;
- le management et la gestion d'une radio (communautaire et commerciale).

La Radio Ecole APM vient d'être équipée d'un studio audionumérique. Aussi l'accent est-il désormais mis sur l'évolution technique et les atouts qu'offrent la digitalisation et les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication pour renforcer les médias et leur permettre d'assurer leur rôle et leur place dans le processus de développement de leur localité.

Pour les prochains mois, l'APM annonce les activités suivantes :

- Février 2007 : première phase initiation pour les étudiants d'instituts de journalisme et de communication ;
- Mars 2007 : spécialisation en production de



- magazine radiophonique ;
- Avril 2007 : Inauguration du studio numérique de l'APM ; rencontre et réflexion sur l'impact du numérique sur la production radiophonique ;
 - Juin 2007 : Marketing et gestion de radio communautaire ;
 - Juillet – août 2007 : Initiation de jeunes élèves et écoliers à la radio (radio vacances).

Coordonnées APM

Adresse physique : Lot AC-1 Quartier DJASSIN – AVAKPA Porto-Novo (Rép. du BENIN)

Adresse postale : 01 Boîte Postale 3566 PORTO-NOVO (Rép. du BENIN)

E-mail : apmbenin@gmail.com et radioecoleapm@gmail.com

Tél. Secrétariat APM : + 229 - 20 21 26 88

Tél. Studio Radio-Ecole APM : + 229 – 20 21 29 32

NOUVELLES/NEWS/NOTICIAS

(Posted from 18/12/2006 to 08/01/2007)

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RESOURCE FROM : 2006-12-20

Worldwide: Deadline extended for best HIV/AIDS broadcast award

<http://www.ijnet.org/Director.aspx?P=Article&ID=305812&LID=1>

The deadline for the "World Awards for Best TV and Radio Programs on HIV and AIDS" has been extended from December 1, 2006, to January 15, 2007 to allow reports broadcast on World Aids Day to be submitted.

The awards are being sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) with UNAIDS and will be presented during its "HIV and AIDS Global Media Strategies" conference in May 2007.

Freelancers and producers from broadcasting organizations with reports that were broadcast between December 1, 2004, and December 1, 2006, are invited to apply.

Awards are divided into four categories, including the best television program to reduce discrimination against people with HIV, the best television documentary on the treatment of AIDS, the best radio public service announcement on HIV and AIDS, and a viewer's choice award.

Film entries should be from five to 60 minutes long, and radio spots should be less than two

minutes long. Submitted reports should be clearly presented and demonstrate comprehensive research. Winners will receive US\$2,000.

For more information or to apply, email info@aibd.org.my, telephone + 60 3 2282 4618 or visit <http://www.aibd.org.my/homepage/article.cgi/194.html>.

Source: This Week in IJNet, 390, 18/12/2006

ALERT FROM : 2006-12-20

Burundi: Ouverture du procès des radios privées

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20170

Reporters sans frontières demande à la justice burundaise de remettre en liberté les trois journalistes abusivement incarcérés fin novembre 2006 et dont le procès s'ouvre le 14 décembre devant le tribunal de grande instance de Bujumbura.

" La liberté de la presse est en grand danger au Burundi depuis que nos confrères sont tombés dans un piège tendu par une frange radicale des autorités. Le procès qui s'ouvre devrait marquer la fin de ce bras de fer inéquitable, où les journalistes et la population ont tout à perdre. Nous appelons les juges à ne pas se faire les complices de ce travail de sape et à rendre justice aux journalistes inculpés en les innocentant", a déclaré Reporters sans frontières.

Le 22 novembre, Serge Nibizi, rédacteur en chef de la station privée Radio publique africaine (RPA), et Domitile Kiramvu, journaliste de la même radio, ont été inculpés de "diffusion d'informations de nature à perturber l'ordre et la sécurité publics" et transférés à la prison centrale de Mpimba. Une semaine plus tard, le 29 novembre, Mathias Manirakiza, directeur de la radio privée Isanganiro, a été inculpé des mêmes charges et emprisonné. Le 1er décembre, Corneille Nibaruta, directeur de la station privée Bonesha FM, a pour sa part été convoqué par le procureur de la République, prélude à une probable incarcération à la prison centrale de Mpimba.

Ils sont tous poursuivis pour la diffusion, en août 2006, d'une information selon laquelle l'armée aurait préparé l'attaque du palais présidentiel et du domicile du chef du parti présidentiel. Cette attaque aurait eu pour objectif de prouver la préparation d'une présumée tentative de coup d'Etat, dont la réalité a été contestée par les médias privés.

Source: Reporters sans frontières, Communiqué et site, 13/12/2006

ALERT FROM : 2006-12-20

Burundi: Start of the Trial Against 3 Broadcasters

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20171

Reporters Without Borders today call on Burundi's judicial authorities to release three radio journalists whose trial on charges of "disseminating information likely to disturb public order and security" begins tomorrow in Bujumbura. They have been held illegally since late November.

"Press freedom has been in great danger in Burundi since these journalists fell into a trap set by a radical fringe within the government," the organisation said. "The trial must put an end to this abuse of authority, in which they and the general public have everything to lose. We urge the judges not to be accomplices to this attempt to sabotage the press and to render justice by acquitting them."

Serge Nibizi, editor-in-chief of privately-owned Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), and Domitile Kiramvu, one of his journalists, were arrested and charged on 22 November when they went to the state prosecutor's office in Bujumbura on 22 November and were immediately incarcerated in Mpimba, the city's main prison.

Mathias Manirakiza, director of privately-owned radio Isanganiro, was arrested, charged and imprisoned in a similar fashion a week later, on 29 November. Corneille Nibaruta, the director of privately-owned radio Bonesha FM, was summoned by the prosecutor on 1 December in what is probably also a prelude to his incarceration in Mpimba prison.

They are all being prosecuted for broadcasting a report in August that it was the army that prepared an attack on the presidential palace and the home of the head of the ruling party with the aim of proving there had been a coup attempt, the reality of which has been questioned by many privately-owned media.

Source: Reporters without Borders, Press Release and website, 13/12/2006

ALERT FROM : 2006-12-20

Burundi: Prosecutor Seeks Three-Year Prison Sentences for 3 Journalists

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200612190949.html>

Three radio journalists in Burundi face prison sentences if found guilty on charges resulting from material they broadcast a few months ago.

On 14 December 2006, a prosecutor asked a Bujumbura court to sentence each of the three journalists from privately-owned radio stations to three years' imprisonment.

Mathias Manirakiza, director of Radio Isanganiro, Serge Nibizi, editor-in-chief of Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), and Domitile Kiramvu, an RPA reporter, are being tried on two counts of broadcasting information that authorities claimed could "disturb public order and security" and also for "revealing information about the judicial process".

The prosecutor also asked the court to impose a fine of 300,000 Burundian francs (approx. US\$290) on the journalists, plus an extra fine at the magistrate's discretion to serve as reparation. Defence lawyers for the journalists pleaded with the court to discontinue the trial and discharge the journalists, arguing that there is no evidence against them. The three journalists are still in police custody.

Under Burundian law, the tribunal has two months to deliver its judgment. But the defence lawyers say the decision is likely to be known within a few days.

The trial was held in a very intimidating atmosphere under heavy police presence and was limited to a selected audience consisting mainly of officials from Western countries and the United Nations. In September, police lodged a complaint against three radio stations - RPA, Isanganiro and Bonesha - for reporting on alleged plans to stage fake attacks on the residences of prominent Burundian citizens, including the country's president and the chairman of the ruling party (Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie, or CNDD-FDD). Despite the stations allowing a police spokesperson airtime to refute the broadcasts, in late November the authorities arrested Nibizi and Kiramvu on charges of broadcasting information relating to state security. Manirakiza was also arrested on the same charges.

Source: Media Foundation for West Africa (Accra), Press Release December 19, 2006 - Posted to the web December 19, 2006 and quoted by allAfrica.com

ALERT FROM : 2006-12-20

Burundi: Le procureur demande trois ans de prison pour 3 journalistes

<http://www.ifex.org/fr/content/view/full/80025>

Trois journalistes au Burundi risquent d'être emprisonnés s'ils sont déclarés coupables des accusations survenant de l'information qu'ils avaient diffusés à la radio il y a trois mois.

Le 14 décembre 2006, un procureur a demandé au Tribunal siégeant à Bujumbura de condamner chacun de ces trois journalistes employés par des stations de radios privées à trois ans de prison. Mathias Manirakiza, directeur de Radio Isanganiro, Serge Nibizi, rédacteur en chef de la Radio Publique Afrique (RPA), et Domitile Kiramvu, reporter de la RPA, sont en train d'être jugés sur deux chefs d'accusation relatifs à la radiodiffusion d'information, qui, selon les autorités pourraient "porter atteinte à l'ordre public et à la sécurité" et également pour avoir "divulgué de l'information relative au processus judiciaire".

Le procureur a aussi demandé au tribunal d'imposer une amende de 300 000 francs Burundi (environ 290 \$US) sur les journalistes et une amende supplémentaire imposable à la discrétion du magistrat pour servir comme réparation.

Les avocats de la défense ont imploré le tribunal de discontinuer le procès et relaxer les journalistes, insistant qu'il n'y a pas de déposition contre eux.

Les trois journalistes sont toujours mis en garde à vue.

D'après la loi burundaise, le tribunal dispose de deux mois pour passer jugement. Cependant, à en croire les avocats de la défense, on connaîtra la décision en quelques jours.

Le procès a eu lieu dans une atmosphère intimidante et avec une présence policière excessive, devant une audience restreinte des représentants des pays occidentaux et des Nations Unies.

En septembre, la police burundaise a porté plainte contre les stations de radio RPA, Isanganiro et Bonesha pour, paraît-il, avoir diffusé des reportages sur des attentats faux sur les résidences de citoyens importants du Burundi, y compris celles du Président du pays et du Président du parti au pouvoir (Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie, CNDD-FDD).

Malgré le fait que les stations interpellées aient permis au porte-parole de la police un temps d'antenne pour réfuter le reportage, vers la fin novembre, les autorités ont effectué l'arrestation de Nibizi et Kiramvu sur accusation de diffuser de l'information relative à la sécurité de l'état.

Manirakiza a été également arrêté sur les mêmes accusations.

Source: IFEX, Communiqué reprenant "Fondation pour les Médias en Afrique de l'Ouest (MFWA)", 19/12/2006

TRAINING FROM : 2006-12-20

South Africa: January deadline for broadcast journalism course

<http://www.nemisa.co.za/nemisa.html>

South African students interested in pursuing a career in broadcast journalism can apply for a three-month introductory program. Application deadline: January 9.

The course is organized by the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA). The program will cover radio and television broadcast journalism and aims to equip participants with the necessary skills to enter the profession either as freelance journalists or employed broadcast professionals.

Participants will receive a certificate in broadcast journalism at the end of the course.

Courses at NEMISA are subsidized by the South African government.

For more information, contact info@nemisa.co.za.

Source: This Week in IJNet, 390, 18/12/2006

NEMISA: www.nemisa.co.za.

TRAINING FROM : 2006-12-20

South Africa: News presenter training to be held in South Africa

<http://www.ijnet.org/Director.aspx?P=Article&ID=305810&LID=1>

Individuals in South Africa interested in radio and television news-reading or other broadcast production skills can register to attend a course at the South African Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC) studios in Johannesburg.

The course is organized by New Hope Media and is scheduled to take place every Saturday afternoon from January 13 to February 10.

The course, which will award attendants with an on-camera show reel and a certificate, costs ZAR3000 (about US\$419).

For more information or to register, e-mail infonotracomunication@yahoo.com or visit

<http://www.biz-community.com/Event/196/66/4796.html>.

Source: This Week in Ijnet, 390, 18/12/2006

TRAINING FROM : 2006-12-20

Europe/ACP: Internships at CTA

<http://www.comminit.com/vacancy2950.html>

CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation, based in Wageningen, The Netherlands) offers internship opportunities for one of the following programmes:

- * Needs assessment in agricultural information in ACP countries
- * Agricultural trade
- * IT administration
- * Collaborative Web for development
- * Media (video, radio, photo library, blog) and public relations
- * Training
- * Information

Qualifications needed cover a wide range: information and/or communication sciences, social sciences, agricultural sciences, economics, IT, administration.

Internships will cover a period of 3 to 9 months according to the programmes. Starting date: January 15 2007.

The incumbent will provide technical support to on-going departmental projects, including the Rural Radio Resource Packs, video activities and the promotion of CTA publications. A degree in mass communication and/or Public Relations related activities is preferred.

Contact legroscollard@cta.int

Source: Communication Initiative, The Drum Beat, 20/12/2006

NEWS FROM : 2006-12-22

Sénégal: Penc Mi reçoit un financement du PIDC

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/fr/ev.php-URL_ID=23351&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Intervenant partout sur le continent Africain, le Programme International pour le Développement de la Communication (PIDC) reste un partenaire fort pour les médias communautaires dont il finance la création et le renforcement. C'est le cas de la Radio Penc Mi qui vient juste de recevoir une assistance du PIDC. Une bouffée d'oxygène pour mieux servir.

De l'avis unanime du conseil d'administration de la radio qui s'est récemment réuni en session

ordinaire, le financement du PIDC dont vient de bénéficier la radio Penc Mi est venu à son heure. Outre son volet de renforcement des capacités pour son personnel permanent et non permanent, ce programme permettra à la radio d'accéder aux nouvelles technologies de l'information et de communication.

La radio Penc Mi a été créée en juin 1996, par trois associations paysannes: Jig Jam, Union des Groupement de Koulouck et la maison Familiale Rurale de Kairé grâce à l'appui de Oxfam GB. Cette première radio communautaire du Sénégal, dessert les populations rurales et semi urbaines des départements de Mbour, Thiés, Fatick et Bambey. Elle utilise trois langues locales dans la diffusion de ses programmes : serère, wolof et poular et la langue officielle, le français. Elle émet dix heures par jour.

La grille des programmes de la radio Penc Mi reste tributaire des activités socio économiques de sa zone de couverture, d'autant plus que sa grille de programme qui est changeante en fonction des saisons est élaborée de manière consensuelle par le comité de gestion et les clubs des auditeurs éparpillés dans les villages.

Ainsi les thèmes suivants sont abordés : agriculture, santé, éducation, environnement, économie rurale, culture locale, question de genre, problèmes de sociétés, Sida, bonne gouvernance.

La radio valise offerte par le PIDC permettra à la radio Penc Mi d'être plus proche de ses auditeurs et d'accéder ainsi à une vieille revendication. L'acquisition de cette radio valise coïncide avec un vaste programme de lutte contre le SIDA entrepris par la radio Penc Mi dans les départements de Mbour et de Thiés. Elle sera utilisée dans ce cadre pour porter encore plus loin le message.

Source: Unesco Webworld, 21/12/2006

NEWS

FROM : 2006-12-22

Senegal's first community radio Penc Mi receives IPDC assistance

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23351&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Intervening everywhere on the African Continent, the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) remains a strong partner to community media. For Penc Mi FM 90.6, Senegal's first community radio station, which just received help from IPDC, it is like fresh air.

Senegal's Radio administrative Council who met recently for one of its ordinary session, is unanimous that the IPDC funds granted to radio Penc Mi arrived just on time. In addition to strengthening the human resources capacities of its permanent and non permanent staff, the funds have helped the radio to use ICT.

Radio Penc Mi was created in June 1996, by three farmer associations: Jig Jam, Union des groupements de Koulouck and Maison familiale Rurale de Kairé, assisted by the UK based NGO Oxfam. It works closely with the Agricultural Research Centre of Mbambey (ISRA), in support of its activities with farmers.

This first community radio established in Senegal broadcasts ten hours per day to rural and semi urban population in the departments of: Mbour, Thies, Fatick and Bambey in the three local languages Serere, Wolof and Pular and in French, the country's official language.

The Penc Mi radio programme schedule which is reflecting socio-economic activities of the region, and vary from season to season, is elaborated in a consensual manner by the management comity and the listeners clubs that have been established in many of the villages.

Programmes are addressing subjects such as agriculture, health, education, environment, rural economy, local culture, gender, society problems, HIV/AIDS and good governance.

The radio suitcase offered by the IPDC will allow Penc Mi radio to be closer to its listeners to inform, educate and sensitize the village people living in those isolated areas. Penc Mi FM 90.6, just launched a programme on HIV/AIDS in the departments of Mbour and Thies. to encourage behavioural change in groups most vulnerable to AIDS, such as young girls and boys, and help reduce the prevalence rate through awareness-building campaigns in villages.

Source: UNESCO, Webworld, 21/12/2006

NEWS

FROM : 2006-12-28

Uganda: LRA Jam Mega FM

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200612270552.html>

Dozens of LRA commanders on Christmas Day jammed Gulu-based Mega FM Radio, sending greetings to their relatives and reiterating their commitment to the peace talks.

"I want to send my warm Christmas greetings to all my people in Gulu, Pader, Kitgum, Lira, Apac and other towns where Mega can be heard. I don't want to forget my beloved teacher who made me what I am today, Mr. Lapid, Can Peri," LRA chief Joseph Kony said in a joyous mood.

His deputy, Vincent Otti, added: "I want to appeal to our people in northern Uganda not to lose

hope in the ongoing talks. We as LRA rebels are committed to the talks.

Let us all pray for peace as we enter 2007 so that we no longer greet ourselves through the radio but face to face."

Otti greeted the community of Atiak, his home area, and all those who visited him in their hide-out. Other LRA commanders who sent Christmas greetings included Okot Odhiambo, Opuk, Kenneth Okumu, Aciro and George Okot Odek. They all claimed to be with Kony in Ri-Kwangba, one of the assembly points.

Otti then requested Radio Mega to allow the commanders in Owiny-Kibul, the other assembly point, to also convey their wishes. [...]

Source: New Vision (Kampala), December 26, 2006 - Posted to the web December 27, 2006 and quoted by allAfrica.com

TRAINING FROM : 2006-12-28

Kenya: Training Opportunity at Radio Waumini Training Centre

<http://www.cameco.org>

Radio Waumini training Centre announces an in-house 12 weeks upgrading course in Radio journalism

SUBJECTS TO BE TAUGHT

- Sources and news gathering
- News writing and reporting for radio
- Writing for radio
- Editing/sub editing for radio
- Studio operations
- Sound recording techniques
- Media law
- Community Radio
- History of media
- Media Management

The course lasts 12 weeks.

In the year 2007, due to public demand locally and from other African countries, we will have three intakes:

one will start on February 4th ending on April 27th, the second will start on May 6th ending on July 27th and the third starting on September 3rd ending on 16th November 2007.

This upgrading course – participants must have had some previous media training – is open to students from Kenya and from all African Countries.

The teaching language is English.

Students will have access to Radio Waumini state-of-the-art studios and facilities, and will produce programs for broadcasting.

Accommodation is available at a very reasonable rate on the premises.

FEES

Registration: Ksh, 1,000.00 or USD 15.00

Tuition cost (12 weeks) is: Ksh. 60,000.00 or USD 850.00

Room and board cost for the training period is: Ksh. 84,000.00 or USD 1,200.00

The Centre is situated in Nairobi.

Registration for the next intake is now in progress.

For enquiries, contact ANTONY at tony.wafula@gmail.com

Tel. +254-20-8560443, +254-20-3000883

Source: CAMECO Africa Radio Service, Communiqué 28/12/2006, referring to Radio Waumini information received on 19.12.2006

ALERT FROM : 2006-12-28

Somalia: Pro-government warlord seizes Islamists' radio station

<http://blogs.rnw.nl/medianetwork/?p=6892>

BBC Monitoring has confirmed that Radio Mogadishu has been taken over by allies of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). The station - based at Villa Somalia, the former presidential palace in the capital - had previously been under the control of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC).

The takeover took place today (28 December) as UIC fighters abandoned Mogadishu in the face of advances by government troops, backed by Ethiopian forces. [...]

Militiamen of the SNA (Somali National Alliance) faction loyal to well-known warlord Husayn Muhammad Farah Aydid (Aideed) were reported to have taken over Villa Somalia and Radio

Mogadishu early in the day. BBC Monitoring later confirmed that Aydid's forces were in control of the radio. [...]

This is the second time in six months that Radio Mogadishu has changed hands. After the TFG was forced to flee the capital by Islamist forces in June 2006, BBC Monitoring observed that Radio Mogadishu had been taken over by the UIC, which appended the title "Voice of the Somali People" to the radio's name.

Just four days ago the TFG launched a new radio station at its HQ in the provincial town of Baidoa (Baydhabo). "Radio Bay, Voice of the Somali Republic" was opened at a ceremony on 24 December attended by President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad and Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Gedi. Now the TFG appears to have regained its original station in Mogadishu.

Source: Media Network Weblog Radio Netherlands 28/12/2006 quoting BBC Monitoring research 28/12/2006

NEWS FROM : 2006-12-28

Sénégal: Jokoo FM, une fierté Rufisque financée par le PIDC

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/fr/ev.php-URL_ID=23350&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Financé par le Programme international pour le développement de la communication (PIDC), la radio Jokoo FM fait aujourd'hui la fierté de la population de la région de la ville de Rufisque, Sénégal. Ainsi le PIDC, dans le financement de ses projets, va-t-il à la rencontre des populations les plus marginalisées.

Source et texte complet: Unesco Worldweb, 27/12/2006

NEWS FROM : 2007-01-04

Somalia: Radio Mogadishu changes name to Voice of the Somali Republic

<http://blogs.rnw.nl/medianetwork/?p=6926>

Garowe Online, citing government sources, reports that Somalia's Interior Minister, Hussein Aideed, has formally taken over Radio Mogadishu and the building that used to house the Somali Information Ministry. Aideed transferred Radio Mogadishu to Sahra Abdiqadir, the Somali Government's State Minister for Information.

Minister Aideed said his supporters protected Radio Mogadishu during the civil war years and now willingly transferred the radio station to the interim government. Aideed said Radio Mogadishu would now function as the government's mouthpiece and the name will be changed to the Voice of the Somali Republic.

Radio Mogadishu and the Information Ministry building survived much of the looting from the civil war years. The radio station was most recently under the control of the Islamic Courts movement that withdrew from Mogadishu last week.

Source: Garowe Online quoted by Media Network Weblog Radio Netherlands, 02/01/2007

NEWS FROM : 2007-01-04

Côte d'Ivoire: Inauguration de la Radio communale d'Attécoubé

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200701040393.html>

"Attécoubé fm" désormais sur la fréquence 92.5

Rapprocher davantage les populations dans le cadre d'une série de manifestations dénommées "Appia 2006" et les amener à communier dans la joie autour de l'outil de communication. C'est l'objectif que viennent d'atteindre le maire Danho Paulin Claude et le conseil municipal de la commune d'Attécoubé.

Ce, à travers les activités de "Appia 2006" dont la dernière a été l'inauguration de la radio «Attécoubé FM». Cette radio est désormais audible sur la fréquence de modulation 92.5. La cérémonie d'inauguration s'est déroulée le vendredi 29 décembre dernier au siège de la radio, sis dans la cour de la mairie. C'était en présence de plusieurs personnalités et habitants de la commune.

Pour le maire, la radio communale est à la disposition de la population. C'est pourquoi il a exhorté celle-ci à en faire bon usage. «C'est un outil commun qui appartient à tous. Les émissions et autres rubriques entrent dans le cadre de la consolidation de la paix, de l'union et de l'esprit du vivre ensemble», a indiqué le premier magistrat de la commune d'Attécoubé.

Cette cérémonie d'inauguration placée sous le parrainage de la ministre déléguée à la communication, Mme Martine Coffi Studer, a enregistré la présence du secrétaire général du Conseil national de communication audiovisuelle (CNCA), Frank Anderson Kouassi.

Source: Le Patriote (Abidjan) 4 Janvier 2007 - Publié sur le web le 4 Janvier 2007 et repris par allAfrica.com

ALERT FROM : 2007-01-04

Uganda: Buturo Pays Mega FM's Sh20m

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200701040036.html>

Ethics and integrity state minister, James Nsaba Buturo, yesterday refunded the controversial sh20m he received from Gulu-based Mega FM radio.

The refund was made through a Stanbic Bank draft, which he personally handed over to the Mega FM station manager, David Okidi.

"I received a Stanbic Bank draft of sh20m on behalf of Mega FM. I received it from him (Buturo) personally in his Kampala office at about 11:00am," Okidi confirmed.

A copy of the bank draft was also delivered to the chairman of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

"I have just seen the draft. As far as I am concerned, payment has been done," commented Nandaala Mafabi.

The move by the minister was seen as an attempt to forestall criminal proceedings from being instituted against him, three days after the December 31 deadline to pay back the money had passed. [...]

Full report and source: New Vision (Kampala), January 3, 2007 - Posted to the web January 4, 2007 and quoted by allAfrica.com

ALERT FROM : 2007-01-04

Uganda: 140 Radio, Tv Stations Face Closure

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200701040027.html>

Over 140 radio and television stations face closure for failure to register with the Media Council as required by the Electronic Media Statute 1996.

Alfred Wasike reports that there are 150 radio and 13 television stations in the country.

Only 13 radio stations including Beat FM, Capital FM, Central Broadcasting Service, Choice FM, Dembe FM, East African Radio, Kampala FM, Mama FM, Power FM, Voice of Life FM and Voice of Teso registered.

According to a December 22, 2006 letter the Media Council secretary, Paul Mukasa, wrote to the Broadcasting Council secretary, Katongole Kivumbi, only East African TV fulfilled the requirement. The letter was titled "Renewal of license to telephone/radio stations by the Broadcasting Council" "You are aware of the statutory provision of the Electronic Media Statute 1996; Section 4 that requires radio and television stations to register their editors and apparatus with the Media Council. "Over time, the Media Council has sought to prevail on the numerous stations to fulfil this statutory obligation with little success. Only 13 out of almost 100 stations have been compliant," Mukasa wrote.

The letter added: "The Media Council, during the plenary session held on December 14 decided to contact you (Broadcasting Council) as a sister organisation to enforce this legal provision by renewing the licenses of only those stations that have fulfilled this obligation."

According to Mukasa, the stations face closure because they were licensed by the Broadcasting Council to operate but did not register with the council as required by law.

Kivumbi said: "We shall only renew licenses of stations that have proof that they have complied with the Media Council."

Source: New Vision (Kampala), January 3, 2007 - Posted to the web January 4, 2007 and quoted by allAfrica.com and Media Network Weblog Radio Netherlands

ALERT FROM : 2007-01-04

Burundi: Libération de trois journalistes

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20311

Reporters sans frontières salue la libération, le 4 janvier 2007, de Serge Nibizi, rédacteur en chef de la station privée Radio publique africaine (RPA), Domitile Kiramvu, une célèbre animatrice de la station, et Mathias Manirakiza, directeur de la radio privée Isanganiro. Les trois journalistes ont été acquittés par la justice.

"Ces libérations et l'acquittement général qui les a précédées sont une victoire de la raison et de la paix. Toutefois nos trois confrères ont passé plusieurs semaines en cellule, alors qu'ils étaient innocents. Pour empêcher que de telles injustices ne se reproduisent, nous appelons le président Pierre Nkurunziza à réformer au plus vite les lois permettant l'incarcération des journalistes. Il existe d'autres chantiers plus urgents au Burundi que celui qui consiste à punir la presse critique", a déclaré Reporters sans frontières.

Serge Nibizi et Domitile Kiramvu avaient été inculpés le 22 novembre et Mathias Manirakiza le 29. Quant à Corneille Nibaruta, qui avait été convoqué au bureau du procureur mais ne se trouve pas au Burundi actuellement, il a également été acquitté. Tous étaient poursuivis pour « diffusion d'informations de nature à perturber l'ordre et la sécurité publics », suite à la diffusion, en août 2006, d'une information selon laquelle l'armée se préparait à simuler une attaque du palais présidentiel, pour prétendre ensuite que le gouvernement avait été victime d'une tentative de coup d'Etat.

Le juge François Narugama a déclaré que « la Cour avait écouté les réclamations de l'accusation mais les avait jugées infondées ». Lors du procès, qui a commencé le 24 novembre dernier, le procureur général avait requis trois ans d'emprisonnement contre les trois journalistes pour avoir enfreint la loi régissant l'activité des médias au Burundi. Les trois journalistes auraient dû être libérés dès hier, mais pour des questions de procédure, cette libération n'a eu lieu que le 4 janvier en début d'après-midi.

Source: Reporters sans frontières Communiqué et Site, 04/01/2007

ALERT FROM : 2007-01-04

Burundi: Three radio journalists freed after being acquitted in court

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20313

Reporters Without Borders hailed the release today of Serge Nibizi, the editor-in-chief of privately-owned Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), Domitile Kiramvu, a well-known RPA presenter, and Mathias Manirakiza, the director of privately-owned radio Isanganiro. All three were acquitted yesterday of "disseminating information likely to disturb public order and security."

"Their release and the acquittals that preceded it are a victory for common-sense and peace," the press freedom organisation said. "Nonetheless, these three journalists spent several weeks in jail although they were innocent. To avoid any repetition of this kind of injustice, we call on President Pierre Nkurunziza to quickly amend the laws that allow journalists to be imprisoned. There are more urgent things to be done in Burundi than punish critical journalists."

Nibizi and Kiramvu were arrested on 22 November while Manirakiza was arrested a week later. A fourth journalist who is currently abroad, Corneille Nibaruta, was tried in absentia on the same charges and was also acquitted. They were prosecuted for reporting in August that the army had been preparing to simulate an attack on the presidential palace in order to support claims that there had been a coup attempt against government.

Presiding judge François Narugama said: "The court heard the claims of the prosecution but found them to be without foundation." During the trial, which began on 24 November, the state prosecutor asked that the journalists be jailed for three years for violating Burundi's media law. They should have been freed yesterday but for procedural reasons, their release did not take place until shortly after midday today.

Source: Reporters Without Borders Communiqué and Website, 04/01/2007

NEWS FROM : 2007-01-06

Sudan: Radio Bakhita, first Catholic radio station in Sudan launched

<http://www.cisanewsafrika.org/story.asp?ID=1921>

The Catholic Church in South Sudan has a new voice: a radio station dedicated to the country's first saint, Josephine Bakhita.

Bakhita Radio 91 FM, based in the South Sudanese capital, Juba, went on air on Christmas Eve with carols and Christmas messages from Catholic and Anglican church leaders.

At midnight, it broadcast live from St. Theresa's Cathedral, in Kator, the mass celebrated by Archbishop Paulino Lukudo Loro of Juba.

Archbishop Loro welcomed with enthusiasm the beginning of Bakhita Radio and thanked the Comboni institutes for "the Christmas present to the Catholic Church in South Sudan."

Bakhita Radio 91 FM, The Voice of the Church, broadcasts a daily programme of two hours. On Feb. 8, the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, it will be on air with transmissions in the morning and evening.

The radio is the mother-station of Sudan Catholic Radio Network. The signal covers a 30 km-plus radius. It has a potential audience of more than 500,000 listeners.

Sudan Catholic Radio Network is a joint venture of the Comboni Missionary Institutes. The network was set up to celebrate the canonization of St Daniel Comboni and was offered to the Catholic Bishops Conference of Sudan.

The network will have eight radio stations, one in each diocese in South Sudan plus the Nuba Mountains.

Source: Catholic Information Service for Africa - CISA, Nairobi (Kenya), 05/01/2007

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New People Media Centre (NPMC)

P.O. Box 21681
Nairobi, KENYA
Tél. : +254-20-3877 407
and 3877 408

E-Mail : director@newpeople.co.ke
Web : <http://www.newpeople.co.ke>

Association pour la Promotion des Médias (APM-Bénin)

01 Boîte Postale 3566
Porto Novo, Rép. du BENIN
Tél. : + 229 - 20 21 26 88
et 20 21 29 32

Courriel : apmbenin@gmail.com
radioecoleapm@gmail.com

Centre des Médias Communautaires Africains (CEMECA)

BP 210 Dedougou, BURKINA FASO
Tél.: (00226) 20 52 10 22
Fax : (00226) 20 52 10 22
Mobile : (00226) 70 25 36 39

Courriel : cemeca@mediafrica.net
Web : <http://www.cemeca-cemeca.org>

Contact

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