



PRESS RELEASE

South Africa joins mobile reporting project

Voices of Africa Media Foundation, in partnership with Johannesburg-based ABC Ulwazi and with sponsorship from The Hague-based Bernard van Leer Foundation, has launched a six-month mobile reporting training programme in South Africa, where six journalists followed a kick-off workshop from 11-13 August in Johannesburg.

“I really never thought that I would come across something of this nature. It’s been difficult for us to gather news, to produce news. Here comes this new model”, said Kopano Mopetsane, one of the six journalists. Kopano has been a radio reporter for Motheo FM, a local community radio near Bloemfontein. Like the five others, he discovered how the mobile phone could be efficiently used as a news-reporting tool.

The trainees are all involved in community projects, five of them, in community radios, and one in an Early Childhood Development (ECD) project. The new team includes three women: Mandisa Tyawana from Eastern Cape, Skhulile Ngcobo in Durban, and Vuyolwethu Seripe in Johannesburg; and three men: Colin October in Johannesburg, Kopano Mopetsane in Bloemfontein, and Paul Mukhufi in the Limpopo province. They will be essentially reporting ECD-related news from the local perspective and for a broader national and international audience.

Since 2007, Voices of Africa Media Foundation has conducted four country projects (Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Cameroon) and trained over thirty young men and women. The aim has always been to open the doors of the new media world to the less privileged but talented young Africans.

Pim de Wit
Director
Voices of Africa Media Foundation

Haarlem, 17 August 2010



From left to right: Vuyolwethu Seripe, Colin October, Kopano Mopetsane, Mandisa Tyawana, Paul Mukhufi, and Skhulile Ngcobo

Their reports are accessible on:

www.voicesofafrica.com

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