

THE WAY FORWARD FOR COMMUNITY RADIOS IN KENYA



Proceedings of the national seminar held in Nairobi on 25 - 26th June 2008



EcoNews Africa



Eastern Africa Regional
Communications Office



Kenya and Somalia Office

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Nairobi on 25 - 26th June 2008**

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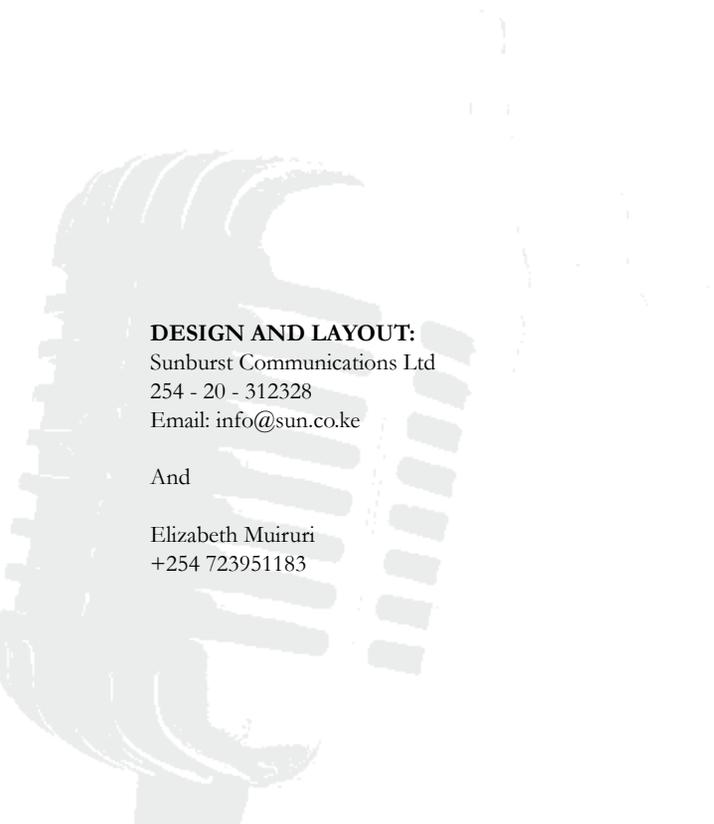


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Introduction

This report is a compilation of the proceedings at the National Seminar on the way forward for Community Radios in Kenya that was held in Nairobi on the 25th and 26th June 2008.

The seminar was organised by EcoNews Africa in collaboration with UNESCO, Eastern Africa Regional Communications Office and BBC World Service Trust, Kenya and Somalia Office in Nairobi. The theme of the seminar was “Re-igniting and strengthening the role of community radios in Kenya.”

It was attended by about 50 participants, comprised of community radio practitioners, broadcasting professionals, government representatives, policy makers and many community radio enthusiasts.

The seminar lasted for two days, each day dedicated for the exploration of a particular theme. Day one was dedicated to introductory remarks from the collaborating partners, the key note address by the Minister for Information and Communications and various presentations by broadcasting professionals.

The expert presentations on day one focussed on the state, aims, roles, performance, strengths, challenges, the policy and legislative frameworks of community broadcasting in Kenya. These presentations were placed in the context of the existing landscape, strengths and constraints of community broadcasting in Kenya.

Day two was dedicated to the understanding of the existing community radios in Kenya, community media networks and for confronting the challenges and increasing the effectiveness of community radios in Kenya.

Whereas this report will offer in full some of the short presentations, others will be summarised for brevity. In addition, only the key highlights of the discussions and the feedbacks will be provided. The order of presentation in the report will largely follow that of the seminar programme.

Preface

The seminar on the way forward for community radios in Kenya and the ensuing publication was held within the current broadcasting landscape in Kenya, the challenges and the confusion thereof with the vernacular radio stations.

Since the post election violence in Kenya, there has been an ongoing debate on the role that vernacular FM stations played. A lot of them have been accused of having fanned violence. Some people have called for their reigning in, while others like the retired President Moi have urged the government to ban these stations. Moi's concern is that the vernacular stations are creating tribal chiefs, and disseminating divisive politics and messages, and therefore could incite anarchy.

While contributing to this debate, some people have referred or confused the vernacular stations as community radio stations. However, there is a distinction between vernacular radio stations and community radio stations. When people talk about community radio, there is a tendency to equate this with a tribal organisation or set up.

There are several definitions of community radio, but they all have in common the idea that community broadcasting is not for profit; is aimed at particular communities and is intended to communicate socially useful messages of benefit to the community.

The vernacular FM stations, which predominantly broadcast from the city and some urban areas are purely commercial enterprises. The difference between these and those broadcasting in Swahili or English is that they broadcast in vernacular. This aspect has been confused that because they are addressing a particular community say the Kikuyu or Kalenjin in their own language qualifies them as 'community' radios. Examples of such vernacular language radio stations in Kenya include Inooro, Kameme, Kass FM, Murembe, Egesa, Ramogi etc.

Community radios are only a handful in this country. They include Mang'elete in Makueni, Radio Maendeleo in Rarieda, Koch FM in Korogocho, Pamoja in Kibera, Ghetto FM in Pumwani. Others that are on the test stage are Koinonia in Dagoretti, Shinyalu in Kakamega and Mugambo Jyetu in Meru North. Another unique category in this is the Migori Clan which is a wheel barrow station.

Plans are also in top gear to start community stations in Samburu to be managed by Reto Women Group and in Ugunja to be run by Ugunja Community Resource center.

The historical philosophy of community radios is to use this medium as the voice of the voiceless, and the mouthpiece of oppressed people, or by communities that have not been served by conventional communication structures.

Within the community radio movement, there have been obvious concerns given the role of broadcasting in the Rwandese genocide, as well as our own ethnic tensions about defining community as an ethnic community in an exclusive or nationalist sense.

The movement under the auspices of the World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC) has agreed on the need of a definition that recognises the heterogeneous nature of all communities.

The movement in Africa has drawn from South African legislation which defines a community either as a geographic community or a community of interest. The definition explicitly recognises the role of community broadcasting in addressing the historically disadvantaged or marginalized.

Over the past 10 or so years, AMARC members have reached an agreement that community broadcasting is local, non-profit, participatory broadcasting with a development agenda.

Local: generally low transmission capacity within a limited geographic area to enable the audience to participate actively in their community broadcaster. It is also to ensure relevance to local community and to decrease competition with the national public broadcaster and private commercial broadcasters. But, special measures may be taken if the community broadcaster is serving a community that is geographically widespread

Non-profit: while community stations may adopt commercial approaches to financing and become commercially successful (sustainable), these profits go back into the community broadcaster or into development projects/programmes around the community broadcaster.

Participatory: Participation here is at all levels namely ownership, management (through representative local management committees) and production. And special measures are often taken to ensure that those who are historically disadvantaged or marginalised within that community for example, women, physically challenged can participate in full as well.

Community radios usually broadcast in local languages of the communities that they serve. Community radio practitioners are conscious that language carries values in our society. There are hardly any words that are free of charge. Therefore caution needs to be exercised on use of words in particular in vernacular, and the picture that these words create.

The responsibilities of all broadcasters (and limits on what they can say) are no different from those that apply to the rest of the population. Language alone does not incite violence although it may promote hatred, by sparking fear and dehumanizing whole groups of population. But broadcasting can incite because over a period of time, it plants the idea that a particular group is a threat to the community, is unpatriotic, is sub human, and that action needs to be taken to deal with it.

This sort of message incites hatred against a particular section of the community. And in time makes violence a possibility. This can be done in any language, including English and Swahili. Broadcasters should therefore pay attention to their content.

It is my hope that this seminar will reinforce the role and purpose of community radios in Kenya and improve mutual collaboration among them which will contribute to their enhanced effectiveness,

sustainability and advocacy for appropriate policy reforms of the community broadcasting sector in Kenya.

Grace Githaiga

Executive Director, EcoNews Africa and the Africa Chair of the World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC).



Welcome Remarks

These were done simultaneously by the representatives of the three organisations that organized the seminar.

Grace Githaiga,

Executive Director, EcoNews Africa

Grace welcomed the participants and introduced the organizers of the seminar –EcoNews Africa, UNESCO and BBC World Service Trust- and the representative from the Ministry of Information and Communication.

She also highlighted the theme of the seminar: - “Re-igniting and strengthening the role of community radios in Kenya.”- and its broad objectives:

1. Revisit the concept, objectives, content and relevance of community radios.
2. Explore the principles of legislation and guides of code of conduct for community broadcasting in Kenya
3. Highlight the use of community radios as tools for promoting national development and cohesion.
4. Facilitate dialogue among stakeholders in order to consolidate fragmented community radio initiatives across the country.

Joerg Stahlhut,

Country Director for Kenya & Somalia, BBC World Service Trust

Joerg as well welcomed the participants and explained that they had joined hands with UNESCO and ECONews to organize the important seminar, because the BBC World Service Trust believes that community media in Kenya can and will be an important part of the media to give a voice to marginalized communities, promote good governance at local level and help building peace after the post election violence.

He expressed special thanks to EcoNews Africa for putting in their enthusiasm and professionalism to organize the seminar and for using their long-standing experience in supporting community media in Kenya.

His special thanks were also extended to the Senior Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication, Mr. Peter Alubale for finding time to be present at the important seminar.

Before he presented the key findings of a research they had conducted recently, Joerg sought to explain why the BBC World Service Trust is interested in community radio.

The BBC World Service Trust is the independently-funded development charity of the BBC established in 1999. They use media and communications to reduce poverty and promote human rights, thereby enabling people to build better lives. Giving a voice to the voiceless through the media is a crucial element of their vision.

He quoted Kofi Annan, the Former Secretary General of the United Nations who also helped to facilitate Kenyans efforts to overcome the recent post-election crisis who once said:

"It is an old saying that knowledge means power; the better informed you are, the greater your chances of success."

BBC agrees and believes that community media will be critical to empower local communities to provide powerful information.

He posed the question: *Why does the BBC World Service Trust believe that community media are important, especially at a time when the post-election violence in Kenya is still fresh in our minds, a violence, which according to many, was fueled by the media.*

He explained that a research around the media is one of their key activities and that the BBC World Service Trust wanted to have a closer look at what really happened.

They therefore conducted a qualitative research based on semi-structured interviews with national and international figures, mostly media research and support organisations, and figures linked to Kenyan media and civil society organisations.

The research findings were published in a Policy brief on 'The Kenyan 2007 elections and their aftermath: the role of media and communication', written by Jamal Abdi, their Research and Outreach Coordinator for Kenya and Somalia, James Deane, Head, Policy Research in London, and included a contribution from Peter Oriare, Lecturer, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Nairobi.

He acknowledged the support of DFID, who provide support to the BBC World Service Trust's Policy and Research Programme on the Role of Media and Communication in Development which is responsible for commissioning and publishing the report and supporting the national seminar on community media.

After conducting the research, they felt that having "more and stronger community radio would have helped" in the post election crisis.

He said that the first community radio on the entire African continent was established in Kenya in 1982 but community broadcasting since then has struggled to gain a foothold in Kenya. This was so because Governments in the past have hesitated to promote community media amidst concerns it could exacerbate social and ethnic tension.

Ironically, their research indicated that the few community radio stations that do exist in Kenya appear to have played a much more positive role during the recent crisis than vernacular radio stations

which are commercial and better financed. Saying that, it is important to distinguish between the vast majority of these commercial local language radio stations in the country and community radio stations.

Community radio are not vernacular radio stations even if they broadcast in a particular vernacular language because that is the one the whole community understands.

The ownership structure and culture of community media varies but is very different from commercial media. Community radio represents the voice of people; it is owned and managed by people from the community.

Community media exists to provide a voice for the community they serve, but they also work to a clear set of ethical and social frameworks. They are not for profit and less vulnerable to political and commercial interests and influences, also considering the smaller audiences they serve.

One example of a community radio station which played a positive role during the post-election violence is Pamoja FM, located in Kibera slum – one of the main centres of the post-election unrest in Nairobi. Pamoja FM insisted on providing a voice for different communities and worked to calm conflict.

This shows that community media in Kenya largely appear to have been able to balance providing an outlet for people's anger and grievances whilst discouraging violence and division. But when it is said that 'more community media would have helped'...it also indicates that community media face many challenges in Kenya.

Even though community media are by definition participatory with a clear social development agenda and their journalists are trained accordingly; in Kenya there is a confusion surrounding community media. It is often difficult to say which radio station is really a community radio station; how much income can they really generate through advertisement without becoming a commercial vernacular radio station; and so on...

There is also lack of clarity and definition around community media when it comes to the provision of the law. Many media professionals feel that Kenya's ICT policy does not define community media as clearly as required to promote the positive role of community media and prevent misuse.

It is also important that community radio stations feel committed to a code of conduct which is monitored and followed.

Community media continues to face massive problems. They have to pay the same license fee as commercial stations, and donor support has tended to be scarce and sporadic.

He saw the seminar as an opportunity to discuss the issues mentioned before and make recommendations regarding current legislation and policy as well as regulatory frameworks.

To conclude his presentation, he highlighted the key policy conclusions relevant to development policymakers:

- 1) Community media has emerged from this post election crisis with great credit and arguably provides a model for the future.
- 2) It requires better, more strategic engagement and support in Kenya and elsewhere. This support is partly a question of policy engagement and framework, partly one of financial, funding and sustainability models.

Sustainability requires the following:

- Community radio needs to find ways to sustain their operation
- Sustainability requires that a legal and policy framework is in place which promotes genuine community broadcast and prevents others from using the community media label to generate income for themselves and use radio to forward their own political agenda
- Donors should be encouraged to help kick start a process which can lead to sustainability
- In addition to what had been highlighted in the policy brief, networks of community radio stations can be effective to exchange programming; advocate for policy change and more commitment from donors; establish professional codes of ethics; identify training needs, and by establishing training programs.

In this spirit, he said that the seminar offered a unique opportunity for the community of community radio stations to find a way forward.....together.

Hezekiel Dlamini,

UNESCO Adviser for Communication and Information in East Africa

The Representative of the Hon. Minister of Information and Communication, BBC World Service Trust Director for Kenya and Somalia Executive Director, EcoNews Africa. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Community broadcasting is recognized as a third broadcasting tier in the African Broadcasting Charter which was adopted in 2001. This charter was formulated by African broadcasters to provide a policy blue print to guide the development of the three tiers of broadcasting, namely: public service broadcasting, commercial broadcasting and community broadcasting.

However in Kenya, like in many other African countries, community broadcasting has been overshadowed by players who do not belong to the community broadcasting category. These players come in with more resources, broadcasting flair and even with local languages, thus winning the very audiences that community broadcasters are trying to reach with development-oriented programs. Seemingly, this has relegated true community broadcasters to the back benches of broadcasting. But when one looks closer, one can see that these competing broadcasters often fall-short in providing relevant community development content.

This seminar is intended to strengthen and to distinguish the network of community radios from the other competing players. It is an attempt to promote the relevance of community radios in the broadcasting landscape in the country. It reinforces the guiding principles to the practice of community radio broadcasting; which are community ownership, community participation, non-partisan broadcasting, and community relevant content in local languages.

If properly harnessed community radios can be key partners in community development initiatives. It is hoped that this seminar will enable them to play this role effectively with high professional broadcasting standards.

The outcomes of this seminar are expected to improve coordination of future national community radio activities, such as training and equipment support.

I am sure, I am speaking for the whole community radio fraternity when I say; with the support of your Ministry, Mr. Minister, community radio broadcasting in Kenya shall grow from strength to strength.

I thank you for your attention

Keynote Address

Mr. Peter Alubale, the Senior Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Communication presented the Minister's speech.

Before presenting the speech, Mr. Alubale raised the issue on the need to have genuine community radios in the country that were well aware of the coverage terrain, the broadcasting content, the extent of community participation, the right kind of equipment and the professional ethics.

He said that the ministry is working towards controlling the acquisition of radio frequencies by some commercial enterprises for speculative purposes. He suggested the setting up of an independent agency that would act as a clearing house for community radios and advice on the setting up processes, acquisition of frequencies and licences, equipment, coverage and such services.

Speech by the Minister for Information and Communication

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning. This is an important moment for us in the ministry as we join hands with you in the community broadcasting fraternity. I say this because your ideals are at the heart of what we believe can provide an excellent dimension to the work of the media.

At the heart of these ideals is a focus on development and change at the grassroots level, at the place where lives are lived by the majority of the people. A thrust of your way is the nurturing of active participation of all in a community, in initiatives which offer new hope for their lives.

Of course, a grassroot community does not develop outside itself. First and foremost the enthusiasm to break out of stagnation, to therefore sacrifice and go an extra mile, in effort and saving and thinking and seeking counsel, in collaborating with others – must be excited locally. The community broadcasting offers an excellent platform for exciting and fanning such enthusiasm. Using it, the people speak to one another. The people bring their thinking for discussion by others, and it is refined and transformed.

The people discuss the kind of new values and behaviour needed to cause the idea to be carried out and to prosper in the community.

For long, inputs for development have been in solid form. The invisible inputs of attitudes and values, of thoroughness and care, of passion and determination have been given a peripheral place. But, if you glance through the vision 2030 document, you will find that this is a key part, which is expected to provide the necessary pre-requisites for transformation.

At the grassroots level – the home of community broadcasting – the media can play a role that is unmatched. That is why our national policy on broadcasting identifies community broadcasting as one of the three sectors around which, broadcasting will be organised and licensed in Kenya. Of course we have also made appeals to the other two sectors of commercial broadcasting and public broadcasting to pay greater attention to issues of development, to issues of transformation, to issues of momentum building.

Another focus of the Kenya vision 2030 is the use of ICTS as an infrastructure for its achievement. The infrastructure combines both the generation and dissemination of information and knowledge to enable robust decision making and action.

At the grassroots level, information structures are needed to cause these needed changes.

As you know, my Ministry is pushing forward with the Digital Village Initiatives. A great partnership with community broadcasting is possible so that such stations search out relevant information for the communities and organize the information in a language which the people would understand. Part of the information going out digitally will be public information.

In addition, the Bill on Freedom of Information is soon to be debated in Parliament, urging arms of public service to proactively give out information in their hands. I also reiterate my call to stakeholders and Kenyans to check out the ICT Bill now on the Ministry's website and send comments before it is taken to parliament for legislation. The Bill is a re-worked version of what had been developed earlier. While there are different interest groups who make up the industry, it is important that the country moves forward to energize this key sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now turn to the issue of professionalism in the media.

I am heartened by the fact that everyone in the industry wishes a higher standard for the Kenyan media. The first step towards that is that very recognition. Is it not true that the Kenyan has become quite sophisticated and would benefit more from information seen through deeper-seeing lenses, from greater analysis, from greater concentration on processes, from thorough-going features which explain occurrences from ordinary people's perspectives?

In many instances, Kenya is dealing with phenomenon that is linked to invisible global surges and structures. These must be perceived by those in the media in order for those occurrences to be truthfully captured and explained to the people and to the clients that they are serving.

I'm happy that many training institutions have taken on training programmes in media at diploma at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. My appeal to them is threefold – contextualization, highest professional skills and ethics, and serious research that is indigenous and therefore fruitful. In the context of Kenya and Africa, every soul must be concerned about the historical plight of the people. Every profession must want to make a transformatory contribution.

Our training programmes in media and communication must take this on board. Skills in features that capture the painstaking building of new lives that can be inspirational to others, that capture triumphs out of unique storms in life – these professionally done can capture the global market. What of video and television dramas and soaps?

Our training must give birth to creative minds that can place products at the table of an international market. We have only recently started training people at the PhD level in media and communication. A profession grows because it has internal capacity for checks and balances and for generation of breakthrough knowledge.

Finally, I come back to the gathering:

In Africa, the community media sector has had challenges particularly in regard to sustainability and innovative management. The Kenyan sector is young. We would like you to learn from what others have gone through and together and individually, work out strategies and initiatives that establish you. You are well placed to work towards a dynamic sector, useful to the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you as I declare this gathering formally convened.



SESSION ONE: Broadcasting Landscape In Kenya

Isabelle Kandagor,

Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)

Isabelle explained that her presentation will highlight the following agenda: Role of CCK; Institutional framework for regulation; national ICT policy; what is regulated and what needs to be regulated and the status of community broadcasters

Role and mandate of the commission

The Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) was created in February 1999 through the Kenya Communications Act, 1998, to license and regulate telecommunications, radio communications and postal services in Kenya. The specific functions of the CCK include: Licensing of Players in Telecom and Postal sub-sectors; Frequency Spectrum Management and Regulating both sub-sectors through creation of environment for effective competition to safeguard consumer interests, regulating tariffs, equipment type-approval and prescribing minimum engineering standards.

Broadcasting portfolio falls under the Ministry of Information and Communications that grants permits/licenses to broadcasters. The Commission is responsible for radio communications aspects of broadcasting. It is also pursuing a new initiative to place ICT under a single legislation and also broaden role of CCK.

National ICT policy

Ministry of Information and Communications released a national ICT policy for comments by stakeholders before it was finalized and gazetted in 2006.

The ICT policy with respect to broadcasting industry aims to provide framework for provision of services by licensees; provide framework to govern establishment, ownership, management, delivery of information, entertainment, education services and provide capacity building for the sector. In addition, the ICT policy will clearly define the broadcast market structure. The National Public broadcasting service as Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and the private broadcasting service.

CCK is expected to develop criteria for allocation of license and frequencies. Licensing will follow a free market approach where applicant will apply and be granted licenses subject to evaluation and availability of frequencies. Licences shall be granted for a 10 year period which shall be renewable. Licence would be withdrawn if licensee fails to go on air within 1 year. Political parties and their alliances shall not be eligible to acquire a broadcasting licence.

Community Broadcasting

Community broadcasting service is controlled by non-profit entity and offer non-profit service to a particular community. Besides, community broadcasting offers distinct broadcasting service dealing specifically with community issues which are not normally dealt with by private and public broadcaster;

focuses on provision of programmes that highlight grassroot community issues (development, healthcare, and many other community issues).

Role of the Government

Government will license signal distribution services to maximize the use of broadcast infrastructure. Signal distributors will provide services to all licensees on non-discriminative basis.

The Government will also promote introduction and uptake of digital broadcasting services by allocation of spectrum, managing of transition, and ensuring adequate public access to digital broadcast services

Other roles of the Government will include; the introduction of incentives to improve training of broadcasting and media to ensure growth of the sector; ensuring that broadcasting entities minimize the effect of their infrastructure developments on the environment; ensuring that foreign ownership will be limited to 49% for free-to-air services to ensure local ownership and control; setting limits for cross media ownership and setting up a Broadcast Content Advisory council to advice on content standards, monitor and regulate content, handle complaints and monitor ethics

The regulatory frameworks

Areas which are regulated include:

- (a) **Frequency Spectrum:** This is because the frequency resource is finite hence scarce; it is a key media for relaying broadcast information; needs to be managed in terms of planning, assignment and monitoring usage ensuring optimal and efficient utilization. In addition, the planning is governed by specific international and regional agreements; coordination with neighbouring countries necessary and it is vulnerable to interference due to high powers.

The associated technical parameters that are regulated are effective radiated power; geographical sites; antenna height; radiation patterns; frequency deviation and polarization.

- (b) **Broadcast equipment standards:** Broadcast equipment such transmitters and studio to transmitter links are regulated for them to meet minimum technical standards. Type approval process ensures only approved equipment is used. This is necessary to ensure equipment characteristics comply with licensed parameters and thereby reducing cases of harmful interference.
- (c) **Conditions of use:** These are issues such as the timeframe of putting frequency into use, change of associated parameters, fulfillment of other statutory requirements, migration, frequency fee criteria based on total radiated power and such other issues

What needs to be regulated:

- (a) **Ownership:** Media influences the way people think, and plays a vital role in shaping public opinion. Regulation of broadcasting ownership necessary to ensure information that is disseminated is not controlled by a few individuals and caters for a wide variety of

interest groups. Need also to check foreign ownership of broadcast media vis-a vis local participation in ownership and put some restriction on cross media ownership.

- (b) Broadcast content: Content should attempt to provide cultural, educational, social and political impartiality and balance. Regulation that provides programming guidelines with basic requirements to be complied with while allowing greater degree of self-regulation by broadcasters. Programmes containing matter that is indecent, obscene, and in bad taste should be discouraged. Restrict programmes likely to encourage hatred and insults against persons and groups on the basis of ethnicity, race, nationality, age, social status, physical and mental disability

Status of community broadcasters

The Commission has granted FM frequencies to some community based organizations and academic institutions. Most of the community stations have been accommodated on the basis of low power transmitters, shared frequencies and limited coverage area. However, scarce frequency resource cannot match the large number of those on the waiting list.

Community radios which have already been granted frequencies are the following: Mang'etele Community Radio in Kibwezi district, Koch FM in Korogocho slums, Nairobi; Pamoja FM in Kibera slums, Nairobi; Ghetto FM in Pumwani area, Nairobi; Radio Maendeleo in Bondo district; Maseno University in Maseno; Daystar University in Athi River; St. Pauls University in Limuru; Baraton University in Eldoret; Masinde Muliro University in Kakamega; Kenyatta University on Thika Rd, in Nairobi and the Kenya Institute of Mass Communications in Nairobi.

Definition, Aims And Challenges Of Community Broadcasting

Grace Githaiga,

Executive Director, EcoNews Africa.

Introduction

In Africa, radio outside the state owned systems has been a development of the late 90s. In 1985 there were less than 10 independent radio stations in the entire continent. Africa's first form of community radio was the Homa Bay Community Radio Station established in the western part of Kenya in May, 1982.

This station in essence was not only an experiment in decentralization of structures and programming but also an effort to gain experience in the utilization of low-cost technology for broadcasting. It was an initiative by the Kenyan government and UNESCO and was closed down by the Kenyan government in 1984.

In the 90s Africa experienced social and political change brought about by the end of cold war, the influence of the IMF and the World Bank and the declining economic situation. This liberalization also saw the opening up of airwaves to hundreds of private and community stations.

At the forefront were Mali and South Africa with Mali having very loose regulation, and South Africa with distinct regulation that provides for community radio as a third sector.

Mali has over 300 community radios which have considerable public and political support. Licences are granted through a multi regulatory government committee which is bureaucratic but which has seen community stations operating without licences. Other West African counties that have followed suit include Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Burkina Faso. South Africa has over 200 community radio stations. The South African model has been adopted by Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia, and Kenya will concretize the same in the proposed ICT bill. The KCA act (amendment) 2007 has a similar proposal.

Definitions

There has been need of a definition that explicitly recognises the role of community broadcasting in addressing the historically disadvantaged or marginalized, and the heterogeneous nature of all communities (no community is ethnically or religiously homogenous, all communities include men as well as women, young as well as old, abled as well as people with disabilities and so on.

South Africa legislation defines a community radio as one which is fully owned by a non-profit entity and operated for non-profitable purposes; serves a particular community; encourages members of the community served by it to participate in the selection and provision of programs to be broadcast; may be funded by donation, grants, sponsorships or advertising or membership fees.

AMARC defines community broadcasting *as local, non-profit, participatory broadcasting with a development agenda.*

Local: generally low transmission capacity within a limited geographic area to enable the audience to participate actively in their community broadcaster. Also to ensure relevance to local community and to decrease competition with the national public broadcaster and private commercial broadcasters. But, special measures may be taken if the community broadcaster is serving a community that is geographically widespread.

Non-profit: while may adopt commercial approaches to financing and become commercially successful (sustainable), these profits go back into the community broadcaster or into development projects/programmes around the community broadcaster.

Participatory: Participation here is at all levels--ownership, management and production. And special measures are often taken to ensure that those who are historically disadvantaged or marginalised within that community, for example, women and the physically challenged can participate in full as well.

Challenges of the community radio

- Licensing - there has been no consistent policy to encourage a vibrant sector.
- Lack of a distinct identity and confusion with Vernacular FM stations
- Sustainability – need to address the sustainability of community radios
- Need for training, especially of the volunteers
- Ownership: an important issue for viability, outreach and sustainability of community stations. The people in a given community should be ready to own them.

- New technology is getting simple and affordable. The community radio can play a role of a clearing house for information on new technologies.
- Language - community radios usually broadcast in local languages of the communities that they serve. Language carries values in our society. There are hardly any words that are free of charge. Therefore caution needs to be exercised on use of words in particular in vernacular, and the picture that these words create. Language alone does not incite violence although it may promote hatred, by sparking fear and dehumanizing whole groups of population.

The responsibilities of all broadcasters (and limits on what they can say) are no different from those that apply to the rest of the population in a given community. Broadcasting can incite over a period of time, in that it plants the idea that a particular group is a threat to the community, is unpatriotic, is sub human, and that action needs to be taken to deal with it.

Way forward

Regulatory frameworks still remain a constraint on the development of community radio due to the power retained by governments to authorize use of the frequency spectrum and to licence broadcast services.

Original reason for regulation predicated on the frequency spectrum being a finite and limited resource (decision on fair and impartial distribution). With the development of satellite, digital and internet broadcasting, and podcasts that can be downloaded into cell phones, this may no longer hold true.

Regulation is more than allocating frequencies. Regulation (if done professionally) should increase access to media and make sure that a greater variety of voices are heard. It should therefore take into account specific characteristics of community radio and provide incentives.

Greater awareness required of their potential among policy makers, donors, regulators and NGOs, and also to distinguish them from Vernacular FM radio Stations.

Assistance should be provided to enable existing stations to adapt to new digital production technologies. Digital broadcasting and the convergence of broadcasting and telecoms technologies will vastly expand the range of frequencies available. The community sector in general tends to arrive late and be poorly positioned when new digital frequencies are distributed. This threatens their capacity to reach public spaces, and even their very existence. It is important to ask whether it will be possible to make progress in closing the digital divide without closing the analogue first. The adoption of the technological standard and associated public policies will need to take into account that the democratisation of access also involves dealing with the difficulty of purchasing transmitters (in the case of community radios) and the ability of the poor to purchase digital sets or top boxes. Community broadcasters should submit to a Code of conduct developed by regulator of sector. At national and regional levels, there is need to establish and nurture secondary networks and associations providing training, guidance, support and advocacy.

Conclusion

Community radios are distinguished by their non profit status. They attempt to influence public opinion, create consensus and above all create a sense of community development, hence their reference as community radio. They are increasingly gaining recognition by development institutions

such as UNESCO, UNDP and the World Bank. Really, community radio is an idea whose time is finally here!

The Role Of Community Radio In Development: A Case Of Kenya

Matu Nguri, Chairperson,

Kenya Community Media Network

Introduction

This paper examines two concepts – the potential of professionalizing community radio broadcasting. It also examines the place of the need for a re-think in a development suitable at the grass root level, a re-gathering approach to grass root development.

Sean O' Casey (1958) reflected on what a modern philosophy in explanation of life and of organizing society, naturalism seems to produce.

“To me what is called naturalism or even realism isn't enough. They usually show life at its meanest and commonest, as if life never had time for a dance, a laugh, or a song”. (Toby Cole (ed), 1961, p 247).

Naturalism has not only produced a philosophy of art and communication but has argued for the letting loose of natural man, of the naked self, arguing that at his most mean and egoistic, he or she will advance self and society.

The human being and the exuberance of life, the exciting finite appearance is boxed in and emasculated. The expectations that the poverty and depression of life at the grass root level will be addressed by shrewdness of a lone self in mean competition with neighbour grass rooters in a survivor for the fittest struggle will not bear fruit.

On the other hand, a re-think and a re-cast of an approach pushing to the fore and real fuller elastic man of affection. Laughter and capacity to be generous in thinking and effort may bear greater fruit.

A re-gathering approach not as in failed socialism, but around the family, around a re-energized cooperative and self help community group penetration into the industrialization initiative, making beautiful and better utility items.

The values of affection at the family level providing fuel for a re-gathering towards family investment funds and the value of prudence and thrift based on care and generosity. The value of thinking ahead, of systematic planning. Of integrity at the multiple levels of re-gathering – these should be taught to become a way of life.

The paper outlines this to argue a new purpose, a new excitement, for those engaged in community broadcasting. The quest for directions at the philosophical Level must be articulated and pursued by them.

Secondly, to argue that beyond information and knowledge function, the invisible call to new values is prerequisite to a release of new momentum.

The professionalization of community broadcasting

The word knowledge has carelessly used to speak into development. The medical doctor's knowledge shapes the world and the life of the people as they think of it as they live it. The knowledge of the agricultural professional guides a society into foremost possibilities.

Michael Foucault (1969) wrote in his unusually titled book, *Archaeology of knowledge* – “The intellectual disciplines instead of reflecting or investigating the world, these disciplines construct the very nature of our world and determine the way we behave.” (Randal Collins, 1998, p 261).

The Kenyan Demographic and Health Survey of 2003 estimated that 60% of men and 71% of women in Kenya have only gone up a primary school level of education (Government of Kenya, 2003, p2).

The argument that community broadcasting can be a robust hunter-face of global knowledge in the data banks and webs, and such a people is of value. Why would it not be possible for beehive farmers to learn everything that is to do with honey – everything known to man, everything experienced on by man, in such a crucial area to their lives?

In terms of refined commerce, industrialization, research work, what is possible for groups?

What are successful case studies in terms of organization, marketing and entering the global market? It is important to note that while it is important to explore with the people what they are doing, the dimension of what is possible is important –perhaps even more important for them. And what is possible is that which others have broken through into, and what they themselves break out to create along the lines of the beautiful and the more sue-value. What we know orders our feet. It is important that it is comprehensible.

A community broadcaster is also spurred by the historical elimination of the faculty of innovation, of applied imagination of the African people. A country cannot initiate industrialization unless such a historical condition and its continued reproduction is addressed. The community broadcaster is fired on by a new spirit, to want to restore, to want to excite the coming of this faculty among the community.

Similarly, the broadcaster works with new words, new concepts and together with the people, injects them into the everyday language of the people.

Alfred Lindesmith et al (1998) wrote of language in a community as follows:

“Language is also the carrier and the embodiment of the environment features that group members feel are important, people’s words designate, refer to, and select aspects of the world relevant to their lives. For not everything in the world has a name.....language singles out for specification only those features, which in a peculiar sense are common to the social group” (Alfred Lindersmith, 1988, p73)

The methodologies of working with the people also translate into new content packaging formats for broadcast. Unlike the commercial media profession, the formats of community radio are more of sharing and exchange rather than based on conflict.

Formats of self disclosure, of exploratory thoughts, of free expression of joy, of congratulation of a genuine heart – these dominate the menu.

Formats of focus group interview voices and television programmes, of in-depth self disclosure programmes, of dramatic proverbs containing work shopped thrillers in change and development content, vox pox solution input interviews of policy analysis content and others are brought forward.

Production methodologies through involvement of key livelihood arteries in the community and social change initiatives are converted. The community broadcaster becomes a teacher and a refiner of their programmes production.

A cardiologist is a doctor who started off as a general practitioner. He moves and advances into masterly in heart related conditions. He becomes a professional. This is the argument of this paper. It speaks to the professional at the broadcasting station, at the policy and regulatory regime, at the development partners' interest.

This is a distinct sector with an ebullient potential to play a role in change and development.

The radio medium

“Talk on the radio has to be designed to be over-heard” (Raj Mohan and Arthur Wilke, 1994, p54). The human ear is a priority watch-tower facility for the human being. With sentinel alertness, all information within radar reach is hypnotically taken in. It is quickly assessed against a magnetic layer of current knowledge and is taken in or is repulsed.

The radio broadcaster is a generator of this eavesdrop content for listener. Also, the radio comes to the listener, a voice like no other. It comes as thoughts, suddenly appearing from vacancy and going right into the mind of the listener. Without corporal form, it is closer to a friend, a confidant whose counsel is integrated into thoughts and magnetic layer of knowledge.

It is a surrealistic medium which produced not only knowing but cumulus feelings. Of course, knowing is now knowledge. It may be partial knowledge, it may be a distortion of knowledge and it may be full knowledge.

The emotions may be constant feelings of frustration or they may be of encouragement and towards a new day. The values brought to table may be values of commonness or they may be values as have accompanied a people who find themselves at the time of historical change.

From another dimension, it is important to contextualize the radio reception in the Kenyan and the African context. The radio is still received as a family medium.

Richard Schaeffer (2004) describes the nuclear family as follows:

“A married couple and their un-married children living together” (Richard Schaeffer, 2004 p 281) He moves to a specific category of a family important in that Kenyan and African context.

“If a society expects males to dominate in all family decision making, it is termed a patriarchy” (Richard Schaeffer, 2004 p 283)

This is simply brought to indicate the scope and depth of transformatory content conceived for a community broadcasting, to serve change and development.

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The Policy And Legislative Framework For Community Radios In Kenya¹

Lawrence Mute²,

Commissioner, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

1.0 Introduction

In 1997, the Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) asked Bernard Sihanya and myself to facilitate the preparation of a community broadcasting position (including draft legislation) which KCOMNET would use to advocate for the establishment of community broadcasting in Kenya³.

This afternoon, I have been asked to share my thoughts with you on the policy and legislative framework and context that govern community media in Kenya. As I do this, a relevant question which I will seek to answer is the character of the reforms necessary to provide an environment that enables community media in this country. My thesis is that indeed, community media has come a long way since a decade ago when some of us who are in this room today enthusiastically and idealistically began rallying conceptual and normative frameworks to introduce community broadcasting to

¹ Presentation for Kenya Community Media Workshop, 4-5 June 2008, YMCA, Nairobi; also presented at National Seminar on way forward for Community Radio in Kenya, June 25-26 2008

² Commissioner, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights; LLB; LLM (Law in Development); Advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

³ See: “Community Broadcasting in Kenya: Strategic Policy and Legal Consideration”, KCOMNET, 1997

policy makers and indeed to the entire country. Unfortunately, policy-makers still have to be dragged screaming and kicking behind the practitioners of community broadcasting. A small footnote, though, in my discussion is the concern that although KCOMNET styles itself as the advocate of community media, emphasis in policy and legislation still tends to be on community broadcasting almost to the exclusion of other community media. This afternoon, I shall unfortunately continue committing this sin of exclusion.

2.0 The conceptual framework: Why community broadcasting?

The concept of community broadcasting is usually understood in contradiction to public and private broadcasting. The two traditionally established sectors of broadcasting. The ingredients and, hence, manifestations of the concept of community broadcasting can be summarized in three key words—access, diversity and independence.

What you would see if you scrutinized community broadcasting's better known and more prosperous cousins is the following:

1. Private/commercial broadcasting. The end-game of private/commercial broadcasting is profit. Private broadcasters identify areas/regions, populations and issues, which are most marketable. Urban areas are preferred to rural areas; the young who are assumed to be trendier and more influenceable are preferred to the elderly, women, persons with disabilities or ethnic minorities; and juicy tabloidy stories of who slept with who are preferred to more humdrum realities of how to treat malaria or Marasmus. Consequently, private broadcasters give thinly populated regions a wide berth; as well unstylish issues and majority groups are shown short-shrift.
2. Public broadcasting, in our experience as Kenyans, we know that the end-game of public broadcasting is the peddling of propaganda on behalf of the establishment elite. Usually, the establishment is keen on news, which glorifies it, programming which conserves and advances the status quo. This state-of-affairs usually require that divergent opinion is cut to size or completely neutralized. That has been our experience of the Voice of Kenya and later the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, sadly including their rather partisan programming during the 2007 General Elections campaigns. Programming of public broadcasters, of course, cover issues of relevance to the to the public generally on education, health, social affairs, etc. The Ban of Public broadcasting, really is that whether it claims statutory independent or not, it is ultimately under the control of government.

So, then, what does community-broadcasting entail?

3. Community broadcasting. Unlike private and public broadcasting, community broadcasting provides communities with genuine opportunities for expressing their values, aspirations and fears. Community broadcasting is unique because the ownership and control of stations is in the hands of community being served and as such the community speaks for itself.⁴ As we have seen, this can be contrasted which is controlled by a conservative and parochial state elite. Community broadcasting is conducted on a non-profit basis to cater for educational, religious, professional, musical and other interests either in terms of geographic communities or communities of interests.

Community broadcasting adheres to the following principles:

- a) Access. Community broadcasting promotes proactive voluntary participation in media production rather than passive consumption of media. The sector provides facilities (including skills and training) that ensure access to the media for all parts of the community. At the core of community radio or television is the relationship between the station and the community in which it is situated. Easy access allows local people to focus on local issues, giving voice to groups and individuals who otherwise have no choice but to remain silent. In Kenya ask yourself how many times you have heard on the radio a mother from the Ogiek community articulating her concerns as a hunter and gatherer.
- b) Diversity. Community broadcasting fosters innovation, creativity and diversity of content. In both structure and output, community broadcasting reflects a country's cultural diversity and by doing so supports greater tolerance understanding and social cohesion.
- c) Localism. Moves by the government to force minimum levels of local programming to all broadcasting illustrates the extent to which private and public Broadcasters opt for networking (in news and entertainment) . Community broadcasting by definition relies on programming generated by local communities. In other words the dynamism of thinking and accent in a community is encouraged by self expression are stunted by CNN and mass proceed Mexican soaps.
- d) Independence. Community Broadcasting stations are owned and operated by individual not for profit groups. Each Licensed group has open membership and democratic decision-making practices. All stations must adhere to a sector code of practice that embodies the sector's philosophy and secures their independence

Hence, our definition of community broadcasting in 1997 was fairly broad:" community broadcasting includes broadcasting or broadcast media established and or/operated to take into consideration geographical communities and communities of interest including but not limited to ethnic affiliations, language, political affiliation, race, sex or gender or sexual orientation, age, place of origin, and physical and other disability, among others"⁵

Clause 3 of the Kenya Communication Bill, 2007, defines a community broadcasting service as one that:

“(A) Is fully controlled by a non-profit entity and carried on for non-profitable purpose;

- (a) Serve a particular community;
- (b) Encourage members of the community served by it or persons associated with or promoting the interest of such community to participate in the selection and provision of programmes to be broadcast in the course of such broadcasting service; and
- (c) Maybe be funded by donations, grants, sponsor or membership fees, or by any combination of the aforementioned.”

⁴ See the African Charter on Broadcasting, adopted by media practitioners at a UNESCO conference held on 3-5 available at www.article19.org

⁵ Article 2 of Draft Community broadcasting Bill, 1997, KCOMNET.

3.0 Policy and Legislative Framework

The information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Policy⁶ was gazetted in March 2006. That Policy anticipates that the communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) will be transformed into a converged regulator, among other things, with responsibilities for broadcast content regulation. The ICT Policy, however, still does not have the force of law given that this its supporting legislation- the Kenya Communications Bill, which sought to amend the Kenya Communications Act, 1998, is yet to be enacted by parliaments.

In the meantime, then, broadcasting generally and in particular community broadcasting will continue to operate in the context of a fairly imprecise policy and legislative environment. The principal feature of this environment has been the licensing of multiple radio and television stations undertaken in an ad hoc and opaque manner (over 24 radio stations and 16 television stations). For example and significantly, the CCK has been in charge of issuing licenses to broadcasting stations while no agency has specially been charged with the role of regulating content.

Yet, Kenya is bound up by a very comprehensive framework of international norms which if implemented would provide an effective enabling environment for community media. This for example, is the case with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Right (ICCPR) of 1966.

The key attributes of the human rights framework, as I have explained elsewhere⁷ are that:

- (a) The right to hold opinions without interference is a stand –alone provision which broaches no exceptions or restrictions (General Comment No. 10, Para.1);
- (b) The right to freedom of expression comprises freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to communicate idea and information without interference, and freedom from interference with one’s correspondence;
- (c) The right to freedom of expression maybe exercised orally, in writing, print, in the form of art or through other media;
- (d) The right to access information is captured in the two words ‘receive ... information’ in Paragraph 2; and its relate to an individual ‘s right to; information held by the state; and access information held by another which is required for the exercises or protection of a right or freedom; and
- (e) Finally, the exercise of these rights maybe limited: to protect others rights and reputations or to protect national security and public order, or public health or morals.⁸

4.0 Priorities for Reform

1. Legislative context

The overall legislative and policy framework for community broadcasting proposed by KCOMNET in 1997 envisaged the enactment of the Community Broadcasting Bill⁹ and the Code of Conduct on Community Broadcasting¹⁰. The proposed statute would cover specific aspects of community

⁶ National information, Technology and Communication (ICT) Policy, Ministry of information and Communications, January 2007

⁷ Lawrence Mute, A Claw- back On Rights or a Facilitator of Rights: The Media Act, 2007”, at www.knchr.org

⁸ See General Comment No. 10: article 19 (Freedom of Opinion): 19th Session of the Human Rights Committee (1983).

⁹ Supra footnote 5.

broadcasting. Since then, an alternative to this formula, for example as proposed by the Kenya Union of Journalists¹¹ involved media legislation in which would encompass all elements of media in the country, including the press in all its guises, private public and community broadcasting.

A relevant question for stakeholders today is whether specific rather than general statute is necessary to deal with issues of community broadcasting.

The concept and, hence practice of community Broadcasting remains ill-understood and unappreciated by policy-makers in this country and would benefit from specific acknowledgement by statute. Many public figures continue to assume that any broadcaster who uses local languages must be a community broadcasting station; or that any broadcasting station which covers a small geographic area is a community broadcaster¹². Community Broadcasting must, however, be anchored within the broader legal and policy framework for media in Kenya. This indeed is what the ICT policy envisages – specific provisions on community media in an ICT or such other media – generic Law.

2. Freedom of expression

Our 1997 recommendations stressed that freedom of expression is an aspect best secured in a country constitution as part of the bill of rights in the following terms:

- (a) The Constitution should make specific provision for the right of people to express themselves both as individuals and also collectively as groups. It should include the freedom of information as is the case in Sweden and Uganda.
- (b) The constitution should guarantee the right of individuals or groups to establish, own, control and operate broadcasting stations. This should be part of the freedom of expression, which is currently rather narrowly defined in the constitution of Kenya.

Both the Bomas of Kenya draft Constitution, 2004 and the proposed constitution of Kenya (The Wako Draft), 2005 capture the essence of the above proposals. They guarantee freedom of the creativity and academic freedom and freedom of scientific research. Furthermore, both Drafts at article 50 Provide:

- (a) That Freedom and Independence of electronic, print and other media is guaranteed;
- (b) That the state will not exercise control over. Or interfere with any person concerned in broadcasting, production or circulation of any publication, or in the disseminating of information by the medium;
- (c) That there will be no harassment or penalization of any person for any opinion or view, or the content of any broadcast, publication or Dissemination;
- (d) That broadcasting and other electronic media have freedom of establishment, subject to licensing procedures designed to ensure the necessary regulation of the airwaves and other forms of signal distribution; and which are independent of control by government, political interests or commercial interest;
- (e) That State –Owned Media shall be independent and impartial and shall afford fair

¹⁰ Draft Code of Conduct on Community Broadcasting, 1997, KCOMNET.

¹¹ The Mass Media Bill, 1997 Kenya Union of Journalists

¹² Indeed, the African Charter on broadcasting (supra footnote 4) emphasizes that: “There should be clear recognition, including by the international community, of the difference between decentralized public broadcasting and community broadcasting.”

- opportunities and facilities for the presentation of divergent views and dissenting opinions; and
- (f) That Parliament will enact legislation to:
- i. Make reasonable provision for equitable allocation of airtime by state-Owned and other specified categories of broadcasting media, to political parties either generally or during election campaigns
 - ii. Regulate freedom to broadcast in order to ensure fair election campaigning, and
 - iii. Provide for the establishment of a body independent of government or political control and reflective of the all section of the community, and which shall set media standards, and regulate and monitor compliance with those standards¹³

3. Independent regulatory authority

Our proposal in 1997 was that Parliament should legislate for what we called an independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) (or another aptly named but independent institution) which shall regulate broadcasting. IBA's powers should include issuing of licenses, regulating frequencies and other technical matters (Presumably including regulation of content), adjudicating complaints and enforcing sanctions as appropriate.

Fairly independent authorities regulate broadcasting regulation in countries like Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and South Africa. Our 1997 proposal then is still valid. It is critical that the compartmentisation and bifurcation of roles where the Kenya Communications Commission as Distinct from the Broadcasting Authority has licensing or frequency-allocation functions be abandoned. It is far more sensible for the licensing and frequency allocation process to be undertaken by one rather than several bodies. Indeed, the ICT policy now seeks to locate all these functions in the CCK.

4. Ensuring independence of the regulator

Our recommendations in this regard were:

- (a) That the IBA would be constituted by various stakeholders, including community representatives. These representatives could be drawn from a broad base in terms of geographical communities and communities of interest including religious groups, ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, men and women, students and cultural or sport groups. Other Interest groups, which would be included, are consumer; experts in telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology; media and communications experts; and State representatives. State representatives in the IBA would not have capacity to out-vote or veto the IBA as a body. Decisions of the IBA would bind all its members in spite of the position of the State's representatives or the representatives of any other single interest group. This would make the IBA truly operationally independent or relatively autonomous and, therefore, not amenable to capture by any interest group or the state.

¹³ Article 50(6) of the Wako Draft includes the following limitations clause:

“ This exercises of the rights provides for in this Article carries with it special duties and responsibilities and is subject to:

- (a) The limitations or restrictions provided for by this Constitution;
- (b) The respect of the rights and reputation of others; and
- (c) The maintenance of the integrity, authority and independence of the courts, judicial proceedings and administration of justice.”

- (b) That the IBA policymaking body should be formed through interviews by an independent panel or such other independent body. Politicians and particularly the President should not have the prerogative to nominate or appoint candidates

Upon reflection on this last proposal, my view has changed somewhat. First, a careful balance between equity in representation should be made against efficiency. A smaller Authority is better than a larger one. Second, the bane of public appointments in Kenya is that they have been exclusive rather than inclusive and this is the mischief, which the KCOMNET proposals sought to correct. This exclusionary character is best exemplified by the President's enormous powers of appointing top official across the whole spectrum of national life. Yet, appointment to public office is still a very political process. Non- Elective Public offices cannot be accountable to the public except through elective political offices. I am persuaded that despite the furore which met the appointment of commissioners to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, the process outlined in that Act is precedent-setting and should as far as possible be used in the appointment of Commissioners to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, the process outlined in that Act is Precedent –setting and should as far as possible be used in the appointment of other public officers. This process did not simply give the President a blank Cheque with which he could reward his cronies.

Rather the National Assembly short-listed, interviewed and then gave the president a list of 12 names from which the President would appoint NINE AS commissioners but on the basis of criteria specifically set out by statute¹⁴

5. Licensing Criteria

Our 1997 recommendations were:

- (a) That a licensing regime be established. The Licensing system should be fair, accessible, efficient and equitable, and should be based on widely disused and accepted criteria. The Licensing system should, therefore, be supervised by, and should operate under the auspices of, the IBA.
- (b) Licensing should be issued initially on a widely a specific but temporary basis. This would take care of the transition, for example, in respect of already licensed broadcasters who did not necessarily meet set criteria. Subsequently, Licenses should be renewed after a specified period. The issuing, renewal, variation or revocation of licenses should be based on pre-announced, fair, equitable and just criteria. A provision generally applicable to all broadcasters would require that once a broadcaster had been licensed, allocation of frequencies would be processed with expedition and a matter of course.

Respecting Community broadcasting, the ICT Policy now provides that:

- (a) Such Licensing will be guided by the “free market approach where prospective service providers will make application to CCK”, and that licenses will be granted subject to clear conditions and availability to of frequencies for community broadcasting;
- (b) The CCK will “Endeavour” to reserve broadcast frequencies for community broadcasting;
- (c) Community broadcasting license will not be granted to political parties or their affiliates

¹⁴ Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Act, 2002

- (d) Licenses will be issued for a period of five years and will be renewable for a period of five years.

6. Regulator's term of service

To avoid political and particularly electoral-related intrigue, it was proposed that the Board or Policy making organs of IBA should serve for a period of four years. The term of the IBA should serve for a period of four years. The term of the IBA's Board of Directors should be renewed after every such period, and its chief executive may not remain in office for more than two consecutive terms. Additionally, I would propose that a formula for staggering members on the Authority should be put in place

7. Incentives for community broadcasting

Our recommendation was that the regulatory law should specifically recognize community radio and television broadcasting. Community broadcasting lays roles which the other two sectors of broadcasting are ill suited to and as such do not perform. Licensing is necessary as a way of regulating the frequency spectrum which itself is a critical resource to be used for the benefit of all Kenyans. Policy-making, therefore, must provide preferential treatment to community broadcasting in respect of licensing. Preferential treatment could entail reservation of a certain minimum number of frequencies for allocation to community broadcasters. Licenses fees of community broadcasters could be waived.

8. Legal character of Code of Conduct

Then, our recommendations were:

- (a) That the law regulating community broadcasting should be accompanied by a Code of Conduct in a schedule. This Law should give due regard to self-regulation subject to conditions. The Code should deal with ethical matters, advertising, rights and obligations, etc.
- (b) Community Broadcasting Practitioners should be encouraged to enter into associations and agree upon a general practice code to complement and eventually to replace the Code of Conduct in the said schedule.
- (c) The Draft Code of Conduct requires that community broadcasters must not be founded for profit making. The object of profit making would vitiate the purpose of serving the community.

Thinking in respect of this proposal has gone full circle 1997. The media fraternity generally has felt that self-regulation should be norm and no linkages should exist between statute and self-regulation. Later, some of us were criticized for our apparent legalistic approach, which insisted that there had to be a direct nexus between statute and self-regulation. The experience from countries like Tanzania seems to show that self-regulation in the media sector can work. The experience from like Tanzania seem to show that self-regulating in the media sector can work. The experience in Kenya thus far, however, highlights the self-interest of different stakeholders in the media sector interning to undermine progress every time endeavours to self-regulate are suggested. In Any case, Kenya's Parliament eventually passed the Media Act of 2007, which among other things, establishes a code of conduct for journalists, which is executed by Media Council.

9. Enforcement of Code of Conduct

Our proposal was that the IBA should participate in the implementation of the Code of Conduct

on Community Broadcasting in Fulfillment of its function of promoting broadcasting standards generally and protecting the public interest. The IBA should liaise with the self-regulatory mechanisms, which may be established.

10. Elements in the Code of Conduct

Our Proposal were that the Code of Conduct should cover programming, news, comment, sponsorship and advertisement, finances, complaints and sanctions, and ownership and control (see annex)

5.0 Conclusion

Even as we lobby for appropriate legislation, advocates of community broadcasting must realize that the challenges confronting the sector are so very dynamic and they and keep changing every single time that technological innovation advances. Community broadcasters must keep in touch with implications of the Internet, digital broadcasting and such other innovations. Questions of adequate financing and the allures of communication must not be discounted. Finally, however, I still hope that one day I will return in the evening after a hard day and listen to a volunteer reading a novel on the community radio station of persons with disabilities.

Strengths And Challenges Of Broadcasting In Kenya

Esther Kamweru

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Introduction

There have been many noticeable changes on the Kenyan Broadcasting scene over last few years. Some of these have been: The liberalization of the airwaves; Increase in number of radio station stations; Introduction and immense success of vernacular and other FM stations and the recognition of Community Media as third tier of broadcasting.

Strengths and Challenges

Strengths:

A vibrant media, both print and electronic; a public that is aware of their rights and their expectations of leaders; calls for greater accountability on the part of leaders; a much more knowledgeable and informed public that proposes and contributes to government's policies and activity; greater accountability on the part of leaders; greater democracy; created jobs for many; aided developments in technology for example the Instant/live news and the opening up of the world to many people - many people now know what is happening in remote villages outside their countries. This particular aspect leads to more tolerance of people from other cultures and people of divergent views.

Challenges:

Lack of: an enabling legislative framework, a media policy, a single law on the media censorship -self or otherwise, prohibitive cost of television sets, lack of electricity in rural areas and the narrow reach of FM stations.

Ethical challenges: Lack of knowledge of the code of conduct; code addresses mainly print media issues while broadcast issues are left unaddressed; lack of adherence to the code in some cases. Major breaches include: Identification of sex crime victims by association; invasion of privacy as a result of the lack to differentiate private and privacy; interviewing and photographing minors – in this matter, permission should be obtained from parent or guardian or teacher.

Other challenges include: Use of computer generated pictures and graphics that can distort the reality; conflict of interest; emotional involvement in stories- questions arise as to when this is this okay and when should a broadcast journalist keep their distance; news by association; bias and sensationalism; instant live broadcasting which is good for broadcasting development but brings in gory and bloody scenes and the intrusion into grief and shock which greatly disturbs accident/disaster victims and their relatives; adult content/debates/discussions between 6.00a.m and 9.00p.m; misunderstanding of concept of community media/broadcasting; sacred cows – a person, group or institution that the media treats as if it were beyond criticism e.g. main advertise.

As relates to specific challenges on the broadcasting stations, there has been allegations against vernacular FMs; on corruption; employers blamed for not giving adequate salaries and facilities; technological constraints; lack of resources; inadequate storage and retrieval library systems - this makes backgrounding of stories very difficult; events journalism as opposed to process journalism and or analytical stories; inadequate knowledge of subjects handled e.g. regional political and economic blocs; lack of education, training and issues of quality.

The code of conduct

The code says that the publication of photographs showing mutilated bodies, bloody incidents and abhorrent scenes should be avoided unless the publication of such photographs will serve the public interest. Television stations must exercise great care and responsibility when presenting programmes where children are likely to be part of the audience.”

The way forward

Harmonisation of laws that relate to media; putting in place independent regulatory frameworks to promote the growth of a strong, free and diverse broadcasting sector that serves the public interest; ensuring diversity in broadcasting in terms both of plurality of ownership – encompassing all three tiers of broadcasting, public, private and community – and of a plurality of voices in the broadcasting system as a whole.

In addition, there should be the creation of an environment in which broadcasting can flourish for example through establishing economic incentives; facilitating a strong local independent production sector; building adequate training capacity and ensuring equitable access to public transmission systems; transforming the national broadcaster into a true public service broadcasting institution protected against interference; exercising editorial independence; providing programming in the public interest and have adequate resources to fulfil their mandate and encouraging and facilitating the development of a strong community broadcasting sector, including by ensuring frequencies

are available for community broadcasting by setting reasonable license fees and conditions and by providing other forms of public support for community broadcasters.

Other issues include the promotion of local content -this could be addressed in the ICT Bill and should be treated as part of the public's right to diversity in programming; scrutinizing the undue concentration of media ownership. However, care should be taken not to inhibit the growth and development of the sector and be sensitive to the needs of commercial broadcasters.

Conclusion

My emphasis has been on challenges posed by ethical issues in media conduct. This was not accidental. Ethical issues are increasingly becoming a big challenge in broadcasting. However, this is not to underplay other challenges mentioned in this presentation. All these issues should be examined together if a robust and credible broadcasting sector is to be achieved. Thank you.

SESSION TWO: Understanding Community Radios In Kenya

The presentations in this session focused on the profiles, experiences and challenges of specific community radios in Kenya.

Fredrick Majiwa

Station Manager, Bondo Community Multimedia Centre (Radio Maendeleo)

In summary, Majiwa said that Radio Maendeleo is a community radio based in Rarieda District in Ndori market. Radio Maendeleo officially went on air on July 31st 2007. UNESCO bought the equipment for the radio and helped to train the volunteers in conjunction with EcoNews Africa. The station addresses issues such as health, education, gender, business, paralegal issues, fishing industry and agriculture among others.

The station at first experienced hostility from the community who perceived the station as a private station owned by the former MP of the constituency. The MP had come up with the noble idea of setting up the community radio.

The only weakness in the MP's approach when establishing the community radio was that the community was not informed nor involved in the project. The community based group that formed the Radio committee constituted members who were politically affiliated to the MP. They were also officials in different constituency projects initiated by the MP. This brought about the commonly held perception that the Radio was a personal project of the MP.

Another weakness of the radio was that the chairlady became very powerful and very possessive at the expense of the objectives which led to the formation of the community radio. It went to an extent of the chairperson wanting to get involved in day to day running of the station.

The then committee was not committed to the development of the station in matters of programming. This dwarfed the attempts of the staff to come up with good programmes proposed by the community. After the post election violence the committee ceased to come to the station nor did they communicate with the station for reasons which were not clear. This led to a call for the formation of a new committee.

This new committee also has some problems. It still wants to suppress some of the programmes as a way of exercising their authority on the management staff. The project is operational and the station manager is not ever a signatory. What if the committee again dissolves and disappears with money the same way the former disappeared with computers?

- Our recommendations are as follows:
- That a neutral body be formed, strengthened and mandated to govern and exercise

control on conflicts of community media both at national and grassroots level. The community committees shall be answerable to this body and shall seek approval from this body in case of any action. This also applies to management staff. The body should also have the number, names and roles of staff and volunteers in each community media.

- This body should also come up with a constitution that spells out clearly the running of the community media and guard the well being of staff and volunteers
- The body should also inform/train both the communities and staff on their roles and their areas of jurisdiction during the delivery of their services.

With the establishment and implementation of this proposal then the question of sustainability of the station will be achieved.

Experiences during the post-election violence

Since it was viewed to be a private radio station for the former MP who was not in the popular party in the region, the radio was targeted for attacks.

The management forestalled the attacks by repeatedly declaring in their broadcasts that they were a community radio that was not affiliated to any political party, stopped all kinds of political announcements in the radio and banned its presenters from wearing t-shirts of political parties and politicians or any other charged political symbols.

Nevertheless, in one instance, the supporters of the popular party in the area, wanted to burn down the station. Strategically, they played the music of the popular party in the area which somehow appeased the aggressive supporters.

Shinyalu Community Multimedia Centre (Shinyalu Radio)

The idea of starting the radio station was first floated at the CDF committee. The CDF members had realised that there were many issues related to the development of the area, such as those on education, which could be served by a community radio.

A member of the committee subsequently approached Masinde Muliro University for collaboration towards the setting up of the community radio. The idea of the collaboration was taken up and currently, the community radio is affiliated to the University. Most of the equipment at the Centre was donated by UNESCO while the staff at the radio are students from the University.

The radio broadcasts issues on HIV/AIDS, the ideas of Vision 2030, unemployment and many other problems affecting the community. The radio is about to establish a Magazine and a Community Theatre.

Challenges include lack of funding, the threat and distortion of community issues by vernacular radio stations, domination of the steering committee by some members and lack of permanent staff committed to working at the station.

Lazarus Kitoo Musyoki

Radio Mang'elele, Station Manager

Vision

“An informed community through participation for development”

Objectives

- To uplift the standards of the community through information, education and communication.
- To create awareness on development issues.
- To empower the community to make informed decisions on sustainable development.
- To enlighten the community on local, national and international matters
- To be a link between people with professional skills and layman
- To research what the community want and what their needs
- To be the voice of the community and provide access for the community to express themselves.
- To document community culture and history.
- To promote local artists and to provide balanced entertainment.
- To run a professional and sustainable radio station that serves the people.

This is a community radio station owned by 33 women groups. It is situated at a small town called NTHONGONI, which is 14km from Mtito-Andei town, 4km from Chullu hills and 3km from Tsavo West National park.

The 33 women groups started as independent self help group but they came together and formed a larger group known as MBOSONI women group in 1985. Since then, they have started many projects including Mang'elele Radio Station.

The station which is the first of its kind in Kenya has a coverage area of about 150km radius and an audience of approximately 1 million people. 90% of its transmission is done in Kikamba, the local language, and 10% in Kiswahili targeting non-kamba speakers in the area such as the Maasai and Taita and those living along Mombasa and Nairobi road.

The area covered by the station is semi arid, dry most of the time of the year with erratic rainfall patterns thus very few meaningful farming activities. Community radio station has been recommended as the best tool to change rural areas like this one with little or no infrastructure, and it's broadly accepted as an access to information technology. It thus becomes particularly important that remote communities be given access not just to information as such but to knowledge and empowering that the community itself deems relevant and in a format constant with its cultural fabric.

Radio Mang'elele mainly focuses on programmes that enhance the well being of the entire community regardless of their age, sex, religion, socio-economic status and politics.

Though Mang'elele has made substantial progress, additional support is still required in the field of programmes' production and sponsorship

Achievements

The radio went on air on 22nd February, 2004. Since then the life of the people in the community has changed greatly.

- i. The marginalized group (i.e.) women, disabled, and children have got access to information as well as given their views.
- ii. The economical status of the people has improved as a result of educative programmes transmitted at the station
- iii. The health of the people has improved due to sensitization on common illness and the available treatments
- iv. It has proved to be the best tool for improving the social standards of the community.
- v. The community is proud to be associated with the ownership of a radio station & they are always ready to contribute educative materials in programme production.
- vi. The radio has provided a forum for discussion though live calling, sms, and debate.

Challenges

- Misconception of a community radio. Since a community radio is a unique facility; the community sees it as superior project to them to own thus giving it little support and sometimes mistaking it with an income generating facility.
- Since it is viewed as a superior project, many community members feel that they should be associated with the leadership and supervision of the project thus leading to much political interference and management problems.
- Being a high profile community project, every member of the community wants their children and relatives to be the employed by the project, with or without experience or work skills.
- Due to the fact that they are started by donors, the community radio station ends up failing after the donor withdrawals due to lack of proper management of the available funds and ideas on sustainability.
- Since these community radio stations are non profit making projects and often times are run by volunteers, they end up losing their most talented workers who are 'poached' by commercial radio stations which are better paying and sustainable.

Way forward

- To avoid misconception the community should be informed earlier of the nature of the community radio station before it's introduced to them.
- The management committee of a community radio station should in co-operate a board of governors which can handle the financial stability and management problems of the station.
- Since these community radio stations are not profit making projects, the government should find ways of supporting the workers/volunteers to avoid poaching as well as giving free licences and waiving transmission frequencies.

Ghetto FM

Ghetto FM 99.9 was launched on 17th October 2007 amidst heightening political tension in the country. It is an offspring of one of the four pillars of the organisation known as Slums Information Development and Resources Centres (SIDAREC). Other programmes covered by SIDAREC include Information Communication Technology (ICT) services, youth reproduction health, entrepreneurship and early childhood education.

Ghetto FM was mainly established to amplify the voice for the voiceless, seeks to better skills, eliminate stereotype and enhance a sense of belonging amongst individuals of the Ghettos. It is driven by a common desire and commitment to build an all inclusive, people centred and development oriented information society where anyone and every one can share and access information and knowledge.

Role of the station in presenting peace during and after the post election violence in Kenya.

Programmes were encouraged and presented in a manner that the audience was made aware of where the election was and had taken place. The station contributed to the peace that was realised in Kamukunji constituency during this period

Radio presenters were allocated duties in the slums to record and present messages of peace. The station continuously thanked and acknowledged the audience for their practice of patience even after the Electoral Commission of Kenya delayed the announcement of the results and cancelled the announcement of the results for Kamukunji constituency. It also appealed for the understanding and support for those evicted from their homes in the country and Kamukunji.

Programmes

1. Changamka: Dealing with current affairs and politics that affect the community
2. Dau la Vijana. The name means the 'boat of the youth' and depicts about the life of the youngsters in the sea of life that is full of uncertainties. It mainly deals with with issues of sexuality, entrepreneurship, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and STIs, among the youth)
3. Ghetto ICT: Seeks to educate the community on the importance of the Information, Communication Technology. The Centre has a cybercafé, a library and video services
4. Maisha ya Ghetto (life in the ghetto): focuses of the day to day life of a slum dweller. It is meant to offer encouragement and hope.
5. Afya ya motto (Children health): Educates on child nutrition and health; providing cheap and affordable tips to healthier living and common children diseases.
6. Biashara na Mazingira: Business and environment
7. Ghetto Women: Focuses on the girl child from birth in the Ghetto to when the grows to become a Ghetto woman. Highlights trends of life and what it entails in the day to day life of a Ghetto woman.

Challenges

- Lack of adequate funding of programmes and presentations to educate audience/ community on issues such as corruption, HIV/AIDS, First Aid, Hospitals, Nutrition, Orphaned and vulnerable children, Child abuse (trafficking neglect), Commercial sex workers, Science and technology, Entrepreneurship, Sexuality, Drug abuse and many more.

- Community radio is not yet taken seriously in the country and is subject to criticism and competition from commercial radios.
- Confusion of names and conflict of interest with Ghetto Radio. Ghetto Radio is a commercial radio station
- Insecurity to the reporters and presenters as they walk through the slum
- Inadequate training to the staff and volunteers.

Migori Civic Local Affairs Network (CLAN)

The Migori Civic Local Affairs Network (CLAN), founded in 2001 as a policy and advocacy oriented community based organization, is a network of individuals and organizations working in the areas of human rights, democratic governance, community media and service delivery/provision.

Programmes:

CLAN carries out its activities under the following programmes:

1. Community Media, Outreach and Networking
2. Community Gender, Land and Housing Rights
3. Community Government Monitoring
4. Community Paralegal and Civic Education
5. Community Environment, Health and Sanitation

Community Media/ Radio

Need for communication among members was recognized very early. To enable the citizens engage with service delivery providers and monitor their performance, information was recognized as critical.

Clan thus started publishing fliers, posters and later, a newsletter, Migori Link, which later was merged into a national initiative resulting in The Link Monthly Newspaper.

The Concept of Community Radio started with radio listening groups. Citizens' voices would be recorded during forums and later played out through shops selling music cassettes. The shops have music systems with big speakers and were attracting huge listeners.

Later, Clan adopted the concept of 'a mobile studio' mounted on a hand cart – borrowed from the system used by Tanzanians selling music cassettes. Migori CLAN is thus widely credited in Kenya with the pioneering of the Handcart Radio. In this novel concept of a community radio, programmes are recorded and presented to the community, mainly in crowded places such as market places, through big speakers placed on a handcart

During the post-election violence, Migori Clan spread messages of peace and reconciliation in the community. Reports of the CDF and other local funds are also available in the office to provide up-to-date information.

Challenges

- Lack of broadcasting equipment
- Lack of funds to retain the trained volunteers
- Inadequate financial support to support programmes
- Difficulties in sustaining understanding, appreciation and support from the community

George Maina

A News Presenter, Koch FM

Koch FM is a community radio based in a slum known as Korogocho in Nairobi which is inhabited by over 750,000 people. Koch FM was the first slum based community radio in Kenya whose example was followed by others such as Ghetto Fm in Pumwani and Pamoja Fm in Kibera slums.

A recent survey which covered Dandora, Mathare and Kayole, noted that station is listened to by about 600,000 people daily. The station is run by about 42 volunteers,, who work at slotted times during the day.

Due to the nature of its surroundings, Koch FM broadcasts programmes which target the views and issues of the slum community. For example, issues of mugging and human rights violations are often reported by the listeners at the radio station making it run like a police station report office. Once they receive such reports and verify their validity, they present them on air for all to hear and take collective community actions.

A case in point is when the presenter, George Maina, was mugged one night when going home after duty at the station and lost his phone and money. The following day, he appealed to whoever had mishandled him to return his belongings, at least the mobile phone, so that he can continue serving the community effectively through Koch FM. He argued that the phone belonged to him and the community. Later that evening, the phone was mysteriously returned, minus the money.

Other programmes in the community radio deal with advertising of jobs available in the community and the surrounding industries, ways of combating unemployment and idleness, the effects of drugs abuse, HIV/Aids, community health, human rights and many more.

Challenges

- They have not been able to develop a consistent programmes schedule as many workers running the radio programmes are volunteers who drop out from the station when gainful employment is available elsewhere. Moreover, funding support of the programmes has been a problem.
- Lack of presentation skills and capacities among the volunteers has been a problem
- No information on the available community radio networks, where they are and membership.
- Many of the presenters, like the speaker, are not adequately educated. He is a primary school dropout. This implies that the capacity building process of the staff can also entail an academic enhancement programme.

Clement Njoroge

Koinonia Youth Media Centre

Koinonia Youth Media Centre is based in Dagoretti, a suburb in Nairobi. It started around 1996 with an online publication known as the *Big Issue*. Later, they applied and received a radio broadcasting licence from the Ministry of Information and Communications. They are currently pursuing a broadcasting frequency from CCK.

UNESCO has supported them with equipment to set a box radio and to train the volunteer staff and interested community members on radio skills.

Challenges include the low capacity and commitment to source consistent news stories from the community and the long wait for the broadcasting frequency from CCK.

Pius Aggrey Omondi

Unguja Community Resource Centre

Unguja Resource Centre has been granted a broadcasting license, but they have not been issued with a frequency. They have severally interacted with the Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) and collaborated in trainings and writing scripts. One of their scripts to the Farm Radio Network by a member of their staff won an award. The staff member had earlier been trained by KCOMNET.

The centre has also joined hands with Microsoft and IDRC to support the setting up of Telecentres. Telecentres combine a community radio, ICT and Video technology. Currently, they host the Kenya Telecentres Network. The resource centre has many tapes of recorded programmes dealing with many community issues that can be shared to the community radios.

Highlights of the feedback

The feedback to the presenters of the community radios and multimedia centres revolved around the following salient issues:

- Need to record the daily happenings in a community radio and the day-to-day activities of a community broadcaster as a means to inspire the fledgling ones and those yet to be set-up.
- The need to have a thorough organizational development at the community radios in order to stem the hold of powerful founding personalities and politicians who control community radios
- The need for the programming that reflects the big issues in the community. For example, if mugging, such as that reported by the presenter from Koch FM, is the big issue for slums based radios, that should be the issue to highlight at the community radio, not that tailored elsewhere.
- Need to produce quality programmes that can be distributed to other community radios.

This is in order to avoid the unnecessary production of programmes that are already in existence. In addition, this will cut the costs of production of community radios, for the established and upcoming.

- Need for a regulatory body for community radios that will monitor the adherence of a code of conduct for community radios
- The need to have strong and sustainable community radios capable of checking the influence of politicians, strong personalities and commercial interests.
- Need to have community radios that will monitor the adherence of human rights issues and other matters related to community development in the communities.

Some responses from the feedback

Mang'etele Community Radio informed the participants that it is setting up a website where it would be easier to download sample radio programmes. In addition, they have also approached the area Member of Parliament in regards to the allocation of some CDF funds to the community radio, introduced programmes of community interest such as those on tree planting information and business development services.

Shinyalu Community Radio has partnered with the Catholic Church to be broadcasting some programmes dealing with local problems and issues. They have also carried out some radio listening surveys and programmes which are available for use, lessons and application by other community radios.



SESSION THREE: Community Media Networks, Initiatives And Perspectives

The Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET): “Giving Voice to the Voiceless”

Doreen Rukaria

Coordinator, KCOMNET

KCOMNET was established in 1995 as a result of a sub-regional community media workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa held in Nairobi.

The simple definition of Network is “making connections”. The process of making connections or networking is what actually transforms information into knowledge. When people connect with other people to exchange views and information or when a person or group of persons connect ideas, data and existing knowledge, new knowledge is created. Therefore, the more a community is in charge of its own access to and exchange of information and the more it is able to engage in multiple connects with other people and information resources, then the more relevant and meaningful the knowledge acquired or generated will be.

It was through a network which brought together participants from Eastern and Southern Africa in 1995 that KCOMNET was born. During this workshop held in Nairobi, it was recognized that Community radio plays a crucial role in Democracy and Development by enabling marginalized communities to debate issue of concern at the local level and feed these concerns to the national level. Using a “Bottom-up” communication structure, information is able to come from the grassroots to the policy makers at the National level.

Participants in the meeting resolved to give priority to the Kenyan participants due to the level of advocacy that was still required to ensure an enabling environment for independent, participatory media in the country. It was at that meeting that the Kenya Community Media Network which attracted membership of individuals, Media practitioners, Media organizations and non governmental organizations committed to the development and promotion of community media for development in Kenya that KCOMNET came into being.

KCOMNETs’ mandate at this time was to:

- Support the basic desire in Kenya to build a self-sustaining base for Community media as a crucial development tool
- Establish a broad-based network of Community Communications groups in Kenya in participatory radio, video, print, theatre and other related development communication.
- Sensitise the government, non-governmental organization, groups and communities on the use of communication in the service of development

- Provide a forum for reflection and development of actions specific to the need and concerns for the marginalized sectors of the Kenyan Population such as women and children
- Act as consultants on community broadcasting in particular and community media in general

KCOMNET's desire was to advocate for the creation and sustainability of community-based media, owned, controlled and produced by, for and about the community. Due to the unfavourable political environment and lack of community representation in media, KCOMNET focused on three main objectives:

1. Raise awareness and promote networking activities with a view to enhance recognition and development of community based communication structures as basis for community participation in development
2. Lobby for enabling legal environment and political environment for effective utilization of community communication structures
3. Build the communication capacity of community communication groups to acquire the technological resources necessary for the application of community media knowledge and skills

To be able to achieve this, KCOMNET adapted an implementation strategy and prioritized its work along two crucial areas:

- Training and Capacity Building
- Lobbying and advocacy for an overall regulatory framework for community broadcasting

Two working taskforce groups were formed along these crucial areas with the training and capacity building group targeting training on radio production, video production and entrepreneurship and the other on advocacy and overall policy framework specifically targeting the National Task Force on Press Laws that was preparing recommendations for the liberalization of the media environment in the country.

The KCOMNET training and capacity building task force developed a training programme with a view to develop a core of skilled community media personnel. The task force also identified a number of community based groups that were engaged in community media activities with which to collaborate and provide support as required. These groups were identified through recommendations by the Ministry of Culture and Social Services. A series of field visits by KCOMNET members was undertaken to establish links with these groups and develop a viable capacity building programme.

An initial programme was carried out as a first step to enable members to train others to package information in various forms such as cassettes and video productions. The network drew on its committed core of trained journalists and producers to produce such information and provide training to these groups so that they could develop skills to communicate more effectively. KCOMNET has since continued to give trainings on radio production.

The lobbying task force was involved in collecting information on community broadcasting legislation in other countries to support its case to the Media laws Task Force. KCOMNET was invited by the

Task Force to make submissions during public hearings and revised its paper on Community Media and Broadcasting in Kenya and through its lobbying efforts, community media was recognized as a third sector of broadcasting in the country.

Through its membership with AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters), KCOMNET has been able to conduct training for their capacity building programme and provide a forum for further networking and joint strategizing and make input into specific policy areas that impact on the development of community media in the country. It is through KCOMNET that we have a policy framework for community broadcasting as well as a code of conduct for community media journalists.

At that time KCOMNET's long term goal was to apply for a community radio licence so as to have an avenue to carry out practical training of individuals working in community media projects and have a commitment to develop participatory radio. However, through spirited volunteerism from members and concerted lobbying efforts for a proper mechanism in terms of infrastructure, licensing and frequency allocation, the country now has 6 community radios and almost the same number waiting to go on air.

Achievements

KCOMNET prepared a draft section of a Bill on Community Broadcasting aimed at creating an enabling regulatory framework for community media. The network also held two meetings with members of Parliamentary Committees on Communications to highlight specific issues that the proposed Kenya Communications Bill now called the ICT Bill should address for community media sector to thrive.

KCOMNET also participated in the deliberations that were assessing 10 years of Windhoek declaration on media freedom in Africa. It also participated in the birth of African Broadcasting Charter, led by partnership between ARTICLE 19, AMARC (Africa) and the Southern Africa Communication for Development (SACOD).

KCOMNET also developed a Code of Conduct for community journalism and a Memorandum for a task force developing a curricular on Community media for Development. This was done in partnership with UON, Tangaza and Daystar and has now started as an elective module. USIU is also planning to take it up.

KCOMNET also engaged the CCK in the licencing of Mang'elele and Koch FM. To understand how difficult it was for a community radio to go on air, Mang'elele was licensed in 1997 but only got a frequency in 2002 and went on air in 2004. That is how far Community media has come.

Recently, UNDP in conjunction with the Ministry of Information launched a project for the development of a curricular on Communication for Development (C4D) and I am proud to announce that KCOMNET was selected as one of the partners in the project. KCOMNET is also expected to training journalist in community radios on the code of conduct for community media besides development of C4D curriculum.

KCOMNET's main Challenges are;

- lack of staff due to volunteerism
- lack of funds
- sustainability
- trainings and technology revolutions

The network's future objectives are, to:

- ensure diversity in community broadcasting even as we move towards digitalization
- Lobby for proper mechanism which has not been put in place to enable a conducive environment for the promotion of community broadcasting in terms of infrastructure, licensing and frequency allocation.
- lobby for the promotion of local content in the mainstream and vernacular radios
- coordinate exchange of programmes to reduce production costs and enhance production of quality programmes for sustainability of radio stations
- strengthen community radios through providing training and assist in acquiring equipment to set up more stations
- lobby legislators to understand community broadcasting
- clearly define community media to distinguish Community broadcasters and Vernacular broadcasters
- lobby for change of law on the Universal Access Fund
- partner with donor organizations in the promotion of community media
- enable community media attain feasibility and credibility for the growth curve in the country to balance
- play a complimentary role in the promotion of nationalism and patriotism
- participate in the Truth, Justice and reconciliation process and peace building initiatives

KCOMNET is looking forward to partner with development partners to achieve it's objectives even as it strives to strengthen a cohesive network that will bring together community radios even as we move towards digitalization and the establishment of digital villages. We also hope to participate in the Truth, Justice and reconciliation process and peace building initiatives. The recent post election violence served as a barometer to measure how well prepared our journalists were when it came to covering the skirmishes. Now as we get into conflict resolution and management in our search for peace, we are asking;

- "Are our journalists prepared to participate in the peace process even as we put up a TJRC?"
- How well prepared are our journalists when violence victims start pouring out their heart rending stories and the perpetrators give their confessions?
- How do we avoid a repeat of sensationalized reporting which will not rub sore wounds or hype people emotions and re-ignite hatred?
- How emotionally prepared are the journalists themselves to listen to such stories?

Kenya Registered Community Radios Network (KRECORNET)

Gituro Albanus

Programme Officer, SIDAREC

Background

The idea of forming KRECORNET was formulated in the corridors of CCK when the 99.9 frequency was being awarded to various organizations based in Nairobi. Present then were four organizations namely: Korogocho (Koch FM), Kibera (Pamoja FM) SIDAREC (Ghetto FM) and Sarakasi. The idea was welcomed by the four partners and what remained was how to get on board and formalize the network. SIDAREC took up the idea further since it takes courage to actualize a great idea and one must take the critical 'first step.'

Emails were circulated to other radio stations and the move was welcomed by a greater majority of community radios. SIDAREC went further to organize a meeting of the stakeholders to formalize the network.

KRECORNET welcomes all the registered community radio stations so that we can chart our future together. Community problems needs community solutions and it is the wearer of the shoe who knows where it pinches most.

Objectives

- Promote knowledge sharing between organizations on issues of community radio for development
- Facilitate mobilization of resources and investments in community radio
- Influence policy, regulatory framework and public opinion on community radio
- Brokering multi-stakeholder partnership for increasing effectiveness in community radio

Vision and Mission

- KRECORNET is not driven by financial enticements nor any other incentive. It is a genuine network to propel the cause of community radios. It wishes to engulf a national framework and include all radio stations in the country. In this case, KRECORNET is not competing with KCOMNET but rather to compliment each other.
- KCOMNET includes all the media outlets while KRECORNET would wish to involve only registered community radio stations
- KRECORNET has encountered a number of challenges but we believe they are not insurmountable. A greater challenge is in financial resources to undertake the work and pursue objectives of the network. The other challenge is perceptions of competition between other networks that purpose to represent community media practitioners.

A Brief On The East African Community Multimedia Centre (EACMC) At Econews Africa

Njuki Githethwa

Programme Officer, Community Media, EcoNews Africa

Overview

This short presentation will shed some light on the East African Community Multimedia Centre at EcoNews Africa, the background of the initiative, purpose and services of the centre. It will also seek insights from the audience on similar initiatives in our region, possible areas of collaboration with such initiatives and suggestions on improving the centre.

Let me state from the onset that though the centre is established at EcoNews Africa, it is open to all multimedia enthusiasts, especially those associated with community radios.

The centre as it is today is an initiative of EcoNews Africa and UNESCO, East African Region Information and Communications Office based in Nairobi. It will primarily serve East African CMC's in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Somali.

About EcoNews Africa

EcoNews Africa (ENA) is a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) registered in Kenya. The main operating principle of ENA is to bridge the local, national, regional and global information gap on development issues, mainly in the field of environment, communications and economic justice. ENA was primarily established to help bridge the gap between development workers and community groups involved in local development activities and the decision making processes going on at national, regional and international levels that impact directly on people's livelihoods.

ENA also supports policy implementation and experience sharing through mobilizing and organising NGOs and community groups in East Africa to develop a peoples' agenda to take forward to international gatherings.

ENA is thus a networking and a capacity building organization. Its strategies of carrying out its activities are through two programmatic areas namely:

1. Campaign, advocacy and governance (CAG) and,
2. Networking, Communications, and Capacity building (NECCAB).

Project Background

In Kenya today, and indeed elsewhere in this region, there are going terms such as Digital Villages, Community Knowledge Centres, Community Cyber Cafes, Millennium districts and villages, Information Centres, Community Resource Centres, Community Libraries and many other terms

In South East Asia, these Community Access Centres go by various names such as Community Learning Centres, ICT centres, Telecentres, Resource Centres, CMCs' or simply as community libraries. *"It is the local community that gets to decide on the exact form the centre will take. But whatever their name,*

the fundamental idea is the same-to help the community progress from access to engagement!" observes Minja Yang, Director, UNESCO office in New Delhi India. UNESCO refers to these initiatives as Community Multimedia Centres.

Community Multimedia Centres

The convergence between radio and the internet is providing new strengths to community radio. Not only are community radios getting empowered to reach new latitudes, but also Internet users are learning from a participatory experience which is expected to contribute much to social change.

In light of this, the need for Community Multimedia Centers (CMCs) in marginalized communities in East Africa has recently emerged. The establishment of CMCs in these marginalized areas of East Africa envisage a combination of community radio with telecenter facilities, under community ownership. A CMC combines community radio by local people in local languages with community telecentre facilities.

Telecenters provide a myriad of ICT services such as computers with Internet, e-mail, phone, fax and photocopying services, software capacities, to electronic commerce applications, and to other public information services.

The radio - which is low-cost and easy to operate - not only informs, educates and entertains, but it also empowers the community by giving a strong public voice to the voiceless, and thus encouraging greater accountability in public affairs.

Community Radio is a very effective tool to reach rural communities. Its potential for enabling local people to relay local content in locally used languages can be linked to the provision of computer training, access to internet and other digital resources. The internet has a better chance to succeed as a tool for development and participation if linked to existing communication or information experiences. This remains the challenge for those working in community media.

Radio is still the most widespread electronic communications device in the world and community radio is a practical and cost-effective means of reaching and connecting the world's poorest communities.

Against this light, this project combines the establishment of community radios and telecenters to make up Community Multimedia Centres (CMCs).

These CMC's are often geared towards the following objectives:

1. As community knowledge access centres to provide support for breaking the chains of illiteracy and information gaps on issues of community development;
2. Support community members to improve the ability to express themselves and articulate their visions through the internet or community radio and radio listening groups;
3. Expose the community to new sources of knowledge and provide hands-on experience in the integration of new technologies, such as the internet, with more traditional channels of communication;
4. Translate local communities' vision of development in ways that makes sense to their lives and;
5. As a space for a wide variety of resource materials, to network, debate and sharpen engagement strategies.

The Centre

This centre visualizes the appropriation of the ICT tools by communities where people absorb, systematize and turn information and new engagements into new knowledge that can be communicated to others and applied to solve concrete needs.

Vision:

“To empower marginalized communities through access to information and communication technologies.”

Objectives

1. To support the establishment and networking of the CMC's in the East African region
2. To enable the CMCs to serve as platforms for debate on development, governance and human rights at the local level as well as for the preservation on promotion of local culture and indegenious knowledge.
3. To expand knowledge base at community level and thereby support local efforts to tackle development problems.
4. To provide information and communication technologies that will facilitate CMC's to function as spaces where knowledge can be accessed and allow communities to engage in their own development.
5. To enable marginalised communities to speak about issues that concern them at the local level and link them to national agendas.

Activities

1. Resource Centre

- To provide information to community radio enthusiast on issues on setting up, budget and planning
- Acquire knowledge on community radios in such areas as registration, fees, forms and following up with the concerned ministry and departments
- Technical guidance for studio set-up and broadcasting equipment
- Assist in acquiring the relevant software
- Guide baseline studies and needs analysis for community radios
- Engage in capacity building programmes, including training on radio content production, editing and presentation.
- Monitoring and evaluation of multimedia activities and centres
- Transmission management
- Feedback and networking
- Assist to identify partners and funding agencies
- Development of content available within civil society organizations in such areas as trade, human rights, governance, debt, gender and many more.
- Guide presentation in creative media such as stories, poems, novels and other genres.

2. A website

The interactive website serves to network community multimedia centres in Eastern Africa and access to media training, information and communication technologies.

This is undertaken through:

- Interactive learning and information sharing
- Interactive e-forum networking and content exchange
- Internet Radio – listening the community radios on air and download programmes of interest
- Production of a web based bulletin – Community Media News

Highlights of the feedback

- Need to have networks that are focussed on the genuine improvement and sustainability of community media and not for their own existence, perpetuation and sustenance
- Networks need not have a physical space/office for that makes them develop into institutions/organisations on their own that are controlled by individual or host organisations.
- Community problems require community solutions, not external or top-down solutions
- Community radios should also be viewed as sources of employment for volunteers and not as interesting places to hang around. When they are taken seriously, they can prosper while commercial vernacular radio stations would not take away their trained but underpaid volunteers.

SESSION FOUR: Way Forward – Confronting the challenges and increasing the effectiveness of community radios in Kenya

The areas for exploration in this session were the following:

- Community Radio Networks: A network, a movement or NGO?
- Way forward for community radios in Kenya: One Network? Thematic working groups? Advocacy, sustainability, lines of action and recommendations

Plenary discussions

- The need for effective coordination of the community radios in the country.
- Development and the sharing out of the content
- Networks should not be formed for people to find work and means of livelihood but as spaces to generate and debate ideas, collaborate initiatives and strengthen each other.
- Human and information resources such as those available in KCOMNET should be utilised to develop and sustain community media.
- The strengths of the two networks, KCOMNET and KRECORNET, should be harnessed and directed to the growth and sustenance of the community radio sector in Kenya.
- The big people syndrome within community radios should be noticed well in advance and be avoided for the interests of such individuals ultimately end being inimical to the growth of community radios and at times might lead to the dearth of the very idea of community radios and initiatives.

Suggestions on the Network

1. The participants expressed the desire for one umbrella network where other thematic groups would belong. KCOMNET was identified as the umbrella network. The thematic groups/networks are groups/networks such as KRECONET, Slums Cinema, Community Newsletters, Community Theatre and Community Telecentres.
2. To formulate a working arrangement for these networks and harmonise their various roles, think through a strategic planning process and revitalize KCOMNET, a task force was appointed. The task force was to be headed by Patrick Ochieng of Ujamaa Centre, Mombasa. Representatives of the task force would be drawn from the community media initiatives who participated in the workshop.
3. UNESCO pledged to accompany the partners in their endeavour to strengthen the network and to contribute to the financial and material resources that would be required to follow up some of the recommendations of the seminar.
4. EcoNews Africa pledged to provide a meeting space for the deliberations leading to the strengthening of the national community radio network and to provide other available physical resources that might be required by the task force.

Summary of key recommendations

- The need for coordination of the community radio practitioners through effective networks for the cross pollination of ideas and the building of the social capital
- Development and sharing of appropriate content among community radios
- Internalisation and improvements of the community radios code of conduct
- Sharing of appropriate advocacy strategies
- Increased support in fundraising and sustainability of community radios.
- Advice on requisite infrastructure such as masts that are affordable and available within local realities
- Dispersal of the knowledge on the media access fund
- Training and curriculum development for community radio practitioners and networks.
- Maintaining credibility and ethics in the profession
- Digitization of the community radios centres through multimedia centres and activities.
- Linkages with associated media groups to support peer and own regulation

Closing Remarks

The seminar was officially closed by Ezekiel Mutua, the Director of Information at the Ministry of Information and Communication.

Before Mr. Mutua rose to speak, representatives of the three organisations that co-hosted the workshop gave some brief closing remarks.

Grace Githaiga from EcoNews Africa thanked Mr Mutua for accepting the invitation to formally close the seminar. She said they are many rivers to cross which will all lead to the growth of the community radio sector. Community radio practitioners must be ready to learn from others and follow examples of best practices for community radios elsewhere in the country. She encouraged the participants to share with others back in their communities what they have learnt or got from the seminar.

Joerg Stahlhut from the BBC World Service Trust thanked EcoNews Africa for the great efforts expended towards the organisation and coordination of the seminar. He said this enthusiasm should be carried forward as the seminar has created the first steps of unity. Most of all, community media should remain committed to their field and communities without copying others.

Hezekiel Dlamini from UNESCO congratulated all the stakeholders. He asked the participants to embrace all other forms of community media as reflected by the diverse participants at the seminar.

He stressed the need for collaboration between practitioners of the sector as it opens endless possibilities, especially in the field of new communication technologies. Towards this process, he saw political goodwill and government support as crucial and important.

Remarks By Ezekiel Mutua

Mr. Mutua recognized the great role that had been undertaken by EcoNews Africa, UNESCO and BBC World Service Trust to organize the seminar.

He said that the deliberations were extremely valuable and important as the operative word in the media is public interest and being the voice of the voiceless. This endeavour underscores the right of every Kenyan to share and receive information.

However, there is need for self-regulation among the media players, especially with the experiences of the post-election violence vividly in mind.

Media should be professional and avoid dwelling on trivial issues. Vigorous efforts should be directed towards the training and capacity development of journalists so as to weed out quacks in the field. Journalists should practice as with the maxim of Google's motto: "Do no Evil." or that of the ex-President of Russian, Vladimir Putin – "Your story, my story, the truth." This is in recognition that freedom must not interfere with anyone else's freedom.

Mr. Mutua observed that there are huge gaps within the mainstream media which community media should occupy. However, this would be possible and much more effective if the existing community media found value in one another and formed networks for mutual support and collaboration.

He informed the gathering that the government was seriously working towards the Media Act which is expected to comprehensively articulate media issues in the country. He asked media practitioners to embrace the code of ethic and work with the government for mutual benefit, but not against it.

Vote Of Thanks

Vote of thanks was delivered by Fredrick Majiwa, the Program Manager of Radio Maendeleo. Majiwa said that real solutions of the way forward for community radio in Kenya were a major step.



PROGRAMME

National Seminar On Way Forward For Community Radios In Kenya
June 25-26, 2008

DAY ONE (JUNE 25, 2008)

Welcoming Session

8.30 am Registration

9.00 am Introductions

9.15 am **Introductory Remarks and Seminar Objectives**
EcoNews Africa
Welcome Remarks
BBC World Service Trust
UNESCO

Keynote Address:

Hon. Samuel Poghiso, Minister for Information and Communication

10.30 am Tea/Coffee Break

11.00 am Session 1

- Overview of the broadcasting landscape in Kenya --CCK
- Strengths and challenges of broadcasting in Kenya- Esther Kamweru, Media Council of Kenya
- Definition, aims and challenges of community broadcasting – Grace Githaiga, EcoNews Africa

Discussion

1.00 pm Lunch Break

2 - 4 pm Session 2

- The Policy and legislative framework for community radios in Kenya- Lawrence Mute, Commissioner, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.
- The role and performance of community radios in promoting community development and national cohesion in Kenya and a brief of the ongoing audit of community radios in the post-election violence in Kenya, Matu Nguri – Chairperson, Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET)

DAY TWO (JUNE 26, 2008)**9.00 am****Session 3***Facilitator: Oloo Janak – Migori Clan*

- Understanding Community Radios in Kenya
Presentations: Profiles, experiences and challenges of community radios.

10.30 am**Break****11.00 am****Community media networks, initiatives and perspectives**

1. The origins, developments and challenges of the Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) – Matu Nguri,
2. The origins and developments of the Kenya Community Radio Network (KCRNET) – SIDAREC
3. A brief on the East African Community Multimedia Centre and an interactive website at EcoNews Africa – Njuki Githethwa

1.00 pm**Lunch Break****2.00 pm****Session 4***Facilitator – Patrick Ochieng (Ujamaa Centre, Mombasa)*

Confronting the challenges and increasing the effectiveness of community radios in Kenya

- Community Radios Networks: A network, a movement or NGO?
- Way forward for community radios in Kenya: One Network? Thematic Working Groups? Advocacy, sustainability, lines of action and recommendations.

4.00**Official closing***Ezekiel Mutua, Director of information***Coffee/ departure**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. **Mulama Kevin** Shinyalu Radio
2. **Mariwa Fredrick** Radio Maendeleo
3. **Steven Kiragu** Ghetto FM
4. **Erick Ogunde** Muhoroni FM
5. **Oloo W. Janak** Migori Clan
6. **Palita Nkamunu** Reto Womens Association
7. **George P.** Migori Clan
8. **Daniel Owine** Mashambani FM
9. **Lazarus Kitoo** Radio Mang'elete
10. **Pius Aggrey Omondi** UCRC
11. **Matu Ngugi** KCOMNET
12. **Ongala Otundo** SIDAREC/ KRECORNET
13. **Hon. Simeon Lesirma** Samburu West
14. **Ugo Vallauri** Computer AID/ KT4D Collective
15. **Jackilyne Afwande** Community Eye Newspaper
16. **Thomas Ngare** Community Eye
16. **Lydia Gachungi** UNESCO
17. **Humphrey Mwangi** Mumbi Theatrics
18. **Christopher Kariuki** Mumbi Theatrics
19. **Jamal Abdi** BBC WST
20. **Joerg Stahlhut** BBC WST
21. **Hezekiel Dlamini** UNESCO
22. **Brian Mwaura** DIGPRO Media
23. **Joyce Kosera** Reto Womens Association
24. **Samuel Otieno** BBC WST
25. **Amina Abdirashid** BBC WST
26. **Patrick Ochieng** Ujamaa Centre/ KCOMNET
27. **Christine Onyango** SIDAREC/ KRECORNET
28. **Ibrahim Kihonge** Mwinjonyo Club
29. **Priscilla Nyokabi** ICT Kenya
30. **Wanjiru Kago** URAIA
31. **Isabelle Kandagor** CCK
32. **Christine Nguku** Mbaitu FM
33. **Njoki Wamai** KHRC
34. **Thuranira A** Mugambo MMC

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|-----|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 35. | Priscilla Mbugua | Citizen TV |
| 36. | Thuku Kariuki | Citizen TV |
| 37. | Masese | Citizen TV |
| 38. | Kennedy Mutuma | KNA |
| 39. | Edward King'ori | Millenium Youth |
| 40. | Murage Kamore | LRAC |
| 41. | Esther Kamweru | Media Council of Kenya |
| 42. | Doreen Rukaria | KCOMNET |
| 43. | Helen Nkaisery | Reto Womens Assciation |
| 44. | Clement Njoroge | Koinonia |
| 45. | Ezekiel Okello | Slum Cinema/ KCOMNET |
| 46. | Gachunguma Maina | WARRIORS |
| 47. | George Mwamodo | Mwanedu FM |
| 48. | Francis Osure | Freelance Journalist |
| 49. | Okwara Fred | KNA |
| 50. | Phoebe Oyieka | Radio star |
| 51. | Charles Kariuki | Kameme FM |
| 52. | Francis Njuguna | Radio Vatican |
| 53. | Fatuma Noor | Nairobi Star |
| 54. | George Maina | KOCH FM |
| 55. | Omondi Betty | KNA |
| 56. | Lawrence Mute | KNCHR |





EcoNews Africa

EcoNews Africa is a not-for-profit sub-regional non-governmental organization (NGO) registered in Kenya. It was founded in 1992 and incorporated as a legally registered entity in 1996. EcoNews Africa's main scope of operation is Eastern Africa, but it also carries out some of its operations within Southern Africa in collaboration with several networks of civil society organizations within and outside Africa.

ENA mission is to help bridge the local, national, regional and global information gaps on development issues, mainly in the field of environment, economic justice and community media.



Eastern Africa Regional Communications Office

As the Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa, the UNESCO Office in Nairobi assists 47 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with the definition of relevant policy strategies in Science and Technology, in co-operation with National Commissions and other UNESCO Offices.

Incorporating UNESCO Cluster Office, part of its mission is to assist Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda in all the various fields of competence of the organization (i.e. Education, Natural Science, Culture, Social and Human Sciences, and Communication and Information).



Kenya and Somalia Office

The BBC World Service Trust is the BBC's international development charity. It aims to reduce poverty and promote human rights in developing countries through the innovative and creative use of the media. Access to information, empowerment and 'voice' are at the heart of the Trust.

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