

DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NPC (DDP) RADIO INTERVIEWS REPORT

FROM: STHEMBISO MADLALA

One of the core functions of the DDP is to mobilize and educate the public on issues around democracy, human rights and good governance. To this end we use various methods and approaches in order to maximize our reach and impact. The use of electronic media, such as radio, proved to be a very effective and impactful platform. Sthembiso Madlala, the DDPs Projects Coordinator, is now one of the radio host residents and a highly sought after socio-political analysts in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). He has featured in various radio stations as an analyst. Listed below are the stations, that the DDP has established mutually beneficial partnerships with, and where Sthembiso has become a resident analyst.

Month	Radio station	Topic/theme	Emerging issues/expert analysis and listeners comments	Duration
January	Ikhwezi FM	ANC, 8 January 2014, statement and the launch of the ANC manifesto in Mpumalanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ANC was capitalizing on the twenty years of democracy, • The currency and the recurring theme is we have a good story to tell, • The manifesto put great emphasis on the implementation of the NDP, • The President focuses on the following very critical issues during his launch of the manifesto: economic development, through infrastructure, education mentioning improved matric results, and health (the implementation of the NHI) 	1hour

January	Lotus FM	The ANC, 8 January 2014 statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The origins of the 8 January 2014 statement, its meaning and implication for the ANC and the country at large, • Key points and issues • The uniqueness of the 2014 January statement wears that it was preceding the national and provincial election to be held in May 2014. • The emphasis was more on what the current administration has achieved over the last 20 years, with the coining of the message “ we have a good story to tell” 	2 hours
February	Ikhwezi FM	<p>The readiness of the IEC to conduct the elections and people’s attitudes towards the elections:</p> <p>This was a highly participatory programme, with people being given more time to express their views.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the analysts the IEC was ready for the election deducing form the recent registration process which especially in KZN where there was a visible increase in the number of first voter’s registration. • Some listeners felt that the IEC was biased towards the ruling party, however there were no tangible statement to prove this. • Comparatively speaking, Sthembiso (DDP) analysts the IEC is of the opinion that South Africa 	50minutes

			was doing very good and was adhering to the international standards.	
February and March	Lotus FM Ikhwezi FM Igagasi FM Radio Good news	Election manifestos analysis of the following parties: The IFP The DA The NFP The EFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most notable thing was that no political party came out with a different ideological position from that of the ruling party, except of course the EFF whose manifesto was extreme left and a bit utopian, • The focus of the manifestos was mainly on corruption, service delivery, health and good governance, • Interestingly also the party's manifestos centred on the NDP. 	Average of 10 minutes per show or interview
March	Igagasi FM Ugu Community Radio	Human Rights day 21 March its meaning in the current socio-political landscape What freedoms day means to the youth of South Africa?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history and meaning of the human rights day, • DDPs event commemorating the Human Rights day in partnership with DUT. • Are we really free? • Parents and politicians have not done enough to conscientise the youth about the value of freedom. • Emphasis on the gap between 	45minutes 10minutes

	Good News Radio	What freedoms means twenty years after the first elections.	<p>the rich and the poor,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of interest and apathy amongst the youth, • High rate of unemployment and poverty is what characterizes the youth of South Africa today. 	5 minutes
	Ikhwezi FM	The signing of the Electoral Code of Conduct by political parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was notable that KZN was the first province to sign the Code of Conduct, considering its history of political violence, the people in the province seemed to have reached that level of political maturity, • The worrying issue of political hotspots which reflects the remnants of political intolerance. • The fact that all political parties' issues statement of commitment to peace was a good sign, however the worrying factor was that most of the opposition parties expressed some concerns about the hiring of SADTU teachers to be IEC officials something which however is not prohibited by law. 	1 hour

April	Lotus FM	Social cohesion and reconciliation in South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What freedom day mean toady in South Africa, • Are we as South Africans pursuing of have abandoned Mandela's dream, • Listeners felt that the minorities have been sidelined, at the expense of the majority, • The feeling was that we are more divided than we were after 1994, • The issue of quotas in schools admissions is being interpreted as reverse racism, • Corruption. 	1hour 30 minutes
	Ikhwezi FM	Has the South African public reached a state of political tolerance and acceptance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Callers complained about intolerance in places like Kranskop, Umsinga and Greytown, whereby posters of certain political parties have been pulled down or destroyed • Voter apathy: people expressed concern that in as much as the majority of them would vote but they doubt if the politicians would fulfill their promises. • There was also concern about the current government using state 	50minutes

			resources for political campaigns such as distribution of food parcels.	
April	Lotus FM	Analysing president Zuma's Freedom Day speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the president tried to be objective, but obviously the event was used as an ANC campaigning platform. • The we have a “ Good story to tell” rhetoric formed the basis of the presentation, • The issue of social cohesion, inclusivity and tolerance, whereby some political parties were booed, showing that the people were not able to separate government and party platforms. 	2hours
April	Igagasi FM	Freedom Day Commemoration: has there been tangible changes twenty years down the line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The was an overall consensus that indeed South Africa has a good story to tell and some great strides have been made in terms of creating stability in the country. However, many people felt that the increasing gap between the rich and the poor should be addressed. • There was also a feeling amongst the callers that the reconciliation process did not go far enough to bring different racial groups together in the spirit of social 	50 minutes

		<p>Hopes, prospects and expectation for different political parties going forward tot elections:</p>	<p>cohesion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current statistics favour the ANC, but with a decreased majority, • The emergence of the EFF, seemed to threat the ANC and they will be encroaching on the ANC constituency. • The IFP would not fare well as it had become a regional party. Whereas the NFP is a closed book that might surprise people, • As predicted by many analysts the DA would increase its percentage and held on to the Western Cape with an increased majority. 	
May	Lotus FM	<p>The Nothing of the Above Vote (Nota)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question was whether the South African electoral system should be changed to put the non-of the above notion. • Most listeners felt that this was not a right option but what was happening were the signs of a growing and maturing democracy, rather the current electoral system should be changed into a constituency based, whereby people can elect their own president. 	1hour

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others felt that NOTA was useless and meaningless and would not convey any message, • Just like the campaign by Ronnie Kasrils and Nozizwe Madlala, the option would prove futile and was counterproductive according to Madlala. 	
May	Ikhwezi FM Igagasi FM	Election results analysis and take on the elected cabinet ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was an overwhelming agreement amongst voters and callers that the elections were free and fair although others felt that there were some irregularities in certain voting stations. • The major gripe was IECs inefficiency, whereby in other voting stations there were shortage of ballot papers and forms, • The analysis was that the IEC was overwhelmed as they did not expect, such a large number of people to cast their votes. • One recommendation from the analyst was that the IEC should consider providing more intensive training for its officials going forward to the next elections 2014. 	3 hours

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most remarkable outcome of the elections was the near decimation of COPE and AGANG, • The disappearance of the liberation struggle parties, such as the PAC and AZAPO, • The good performance of the DA in almost all the provinces, especially in Gauteng and also being able to retain with a comfortable margin the Western Cape, and • The EFF outstanding performance which could be attributed to the ANC failure to manage its internal conflicts and risks (according to Madlala) and also the vigorous campaigning by the EFF focusing on the bread and butter issues and appealing to the emotions of the people especially the poor. 	
June	Ikhwezi FM and Igagasi FM	Analysis of allocation of cabinet positions and premierships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewarding those closer and loyal to the president. • Reshuffling that might not have much impact, • Some good allocations and retaining hard working Ministers Pandor (Science) and Minister of Health, Motsoaledi, and • Retaining poor performing 	

			ministers as a form of reward, which augurs not well for the future of the country.	
June	Igagasi FM Inanda FM	The state of the nation address: What to expect from the presidents SONA address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure development, • Implementation of the NDP programmes, • Health and education • Repeat of what he said during the inauguration ceremony and that what is mainly contained in the ANC manifesto, • Should at least touch on labour relations in the country - in view of the crippling strike at the platinum belt, and • Mention of the second phase of transition and what it entails, for an ordinary South African. 	

Conclusion

The fact that the DDP is now an electronic media household name is another proof that our work is recognised and acknowledged by all stakeholders. Working with radio stations, which is one the most accessible mediums, has enormously escalated our reach and amplified the voice of the civil society on matters of national interest. Our premise and point of departure during these interviews and radio slots is neither academic nor intellectual, but civil society oriented, hence so much interest in our service. Deducing from the caller's responses and the requests we receive from ordinary people for our interventions in their municipalities we are certain that this platform has really enhanced our work and impacted positively upon people's lives.