

Radio Worker is top of the pops

Unions, NGOs, community radio stations and various supporting organisations including the labour department gathered in Johannesburg in May to attend the relaunch of the Labour-Community Radio Project. What will the initiative mean for workers?

The project involves setting-up and maintaining hour-long radio shows for labour on 40 community radio stations nationally. It is the result of a partnership between the three trade union federations (Cosatu, Fedusa and Nactu), the National Community Radio Forum (NCRF) and Workers World Media Productions (WWMP). WWMP is the co-ordinating organisation and reports to the national forum directing the project and other labour media initiatives such as the Labour Media Consortium (LMC).

Building labour's media capacity

So far the project has trained well over 100 trade union and community representatives to host these radio shows. Fedusa's President, Mary Maletse said: 'Training workers to communicate through radio, and in turn educating and sensitising community radio hosts to the needs of the worker is an invaluable exchange of skills that will benefit all the parties.'

There are special weekly topics decided in advance by the LMC. WWMP co-ordinates and directs the project and is responsible for providing content support by providing pre-recorded features on the topic for the week (8 minutes) and a weekly labour news

bulletin consisting of local and international labour news (five minutes). This year's programming will include a weekly three-minute insert on HIV/AIDS and labour. These productions are done in five languages (English, Afrikaans, Isi-Xhosa, Isi-Zulu and Sesotho). WWMP also provides a script outline, guidelines and reading/research material for the radio hosts for each show. Cosatu's first deputy president, Joe Nkosi, summed up the advantages of the project: 'The business community have hours of time each week on TV and radio and page after page in the newspapers and magazines to publicise their views, while the workers' movement always has to struggle to get its news and opinions across.'

'We have some great union magazines and newsletters. They play an important role in keeping our own members informed. But they rarely reach those who are not members of a union, the unemployed and those working in low-paid casual jobs. Yet these are often the people most in need of the protection the unions can give. In addition there are still some older workers who struggle to read papers and magazines.'

The public launch programme not

only included speeches by leading figures from the partner organisations, but also the public signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the project and the graduation of nearly seventy labour radio show hosts from the various provinces.

The formal proceedings ended with a speech by Martin Jansen, director of WWMP, who spoke of the political importance of the project. He highlighted the need for independent, alternative labour perspectives on key issues of the day through popular mass media such as radio, the importance of labour's partnership and involvement in working class communities (both urban and rural) and the united approach by the partner organisations in successfully building the Labour-Community Radio Project.

Labour Radio and Media Internationally

Workers World Media Productions, also plans to lead the setting up of a Pan-African labour radio network as well as play a role in the setting up of a web-based international labour media co-operative for radio, print and video media, together with the International Federation of Workers Education Associations (IFWEA).

Participating Radio Stations and their frequencies and labour show times

RADIO STATION	FREQUENCY	TIME OF SHOW
1. Teemaneng	89.1 FM	Wednesday 9-12 noon
2. Riverside	98.2 FM	Wednesday 9-10pm
3. Bush	89.5 FM	Wednesday 7-8pm
4. Zibonele	98.2 FM	Monday 9-10pm
5. 786	100.4 FM	Alternately Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8-9pm
6. Atlantis	107.9 FM	Monday 7-9 pm
7. Valley	88.8 MHZ	Monday –Thursday 6-7 pm
8. KC	107.7 FM	Wednesdays 8-9 pm
9. Eden	90.1 and 103.9 FM	Monday and Tuesday
10. Maputaland	107.6 FM	Tuesday 6.40-7.40 pm
11. Indonsakusa	100.4 MHZ	Monday 7-8 pm
12. Imbokodo	96.8 FM	Wednesday 8-9 pm
13. Newcastle	103.7 FM	Tuesday 6-7 pm
14. Maritzburg	107.6 FM	Wednesday 6-7 pm
15. Greater Lebowakgomo	96.0 FM	4 days a week @ 6 pm
16. Greater Tzaneen	100.3 FM	Tuesday 7-8 pm
17. Moletsi	98.6 MHZ	Thursday 7-8 pm
18. Univen	99.8 MHZ	Friday 8-9 pm
19. Moretele	106.6 FM	Monday 7.30-8.30 pm
20. Mafisa	93.4 FM	Thursday 8-9 pm
21. Vaaltar	93.6 FM	Monday 6-7 pm
22. Letlhabile	99.5 FM	Wednesday 8-9 pm
23. Vukani	99.9 FM	Thursday 7-8 pm
24. Takalani	98.2 MHZ	Thursday 6-7 pm
25. Khanya	106.1 FM	Thursday 7-8 pm
26. Grahamstown	102.1 FM	Tuesday 6-9 pm
27. Unitra	97.0 MHZ	Monday 7.30-8.30 pm
28. Graaff-Reinet	90.2 FM	Monday 6-7 pm
29. Bushbuckridge	88.4 FM	Wednesday 2-3 pm
30. Moutse	96.3 FM	Wednesday 6-7 pm
31. Barberton	104.1 FM	Thursday 6-7 pm
32. Greater Middelburg	89.7 FM	Tuesday 6.30-7.30 pm
33. Qwa-Qwa	100.3 FM	Wednesday 7-8 pm
34. Naledi	103.9 MHZ	Wednesday 9-10 pm
35. Mosupatsela	107.4 MHZ	Tuesday 7-8 pm
36. TNG	96.2 FM	Tuesday 6-7 pm
37. Soshanguve	93.0 FM	Wednesday 7-8 pm

Trade unionists, workers, labour service organizations and NGOs are encouraged to contact WWMP if they wish to contribute to any of these topics or the weekly labour news bulletin. The Workers World labour news hotline is (021) 447-6845 or contact the office at (021) 447 2727. Labour news stories could also be faxed (021) 448-5076 or Emailed to luntu@wwrp.org.za

Labour-Community Radio Project 2004 topics

Week 1	MAYDAY SPECIAL
Week 2	Introduction to wages in SA: Low wages, disparities/wage gaps, sectoral differences, women's wages, wage regulation in SA
Week 3	Wages, collective bargaining and strikes – The roles and experiences of Trade Unions
Week 4	Bargaining trends and key issues – Demands from workers and unions, employer responses
Week 5	Bargaining in the Public Sector
Week 6	Workplace change and restructuring
Week 7	Casualisation of labour: Clothing, textiles and retail sectors
Week 8	Casualisation of labour: Agricultural and mining sectors
Week 9	Are trade unions still relevant/ the future of trade unions?
Week 10	Trade unions and youth/the unemployed/informal workers
Week 11	Domestic workers and legislation
Week 12	Farmworkers and legislation
Week 13	Violence and abuse against women and responses to it
Week 14	Public sector workers and the public
Week 15	UIF legislation
Week 16	Trade unions and politics – Introduction/ different approaches to politics by trade union federations/ Cosatu and the Tripartite alliance
Week 17	10 years of Democracy – What has it meant for workers?
Week 18	Outcomes of the Tri-partite summits (job and growth summits)
Week 19	Minimum wages – farm and domestic workers
Week 20	Skills development, jobs and Setas
Week 21	Workers' debt and financial management, micro-lending and union action
Week 22	History of Trade unions
Week 23	Significance of the 1973 Durban strikes
Week 24	Foreign workers in South Africa – Introduction
Week 25	Foreign workers in SA – Xenophobia
Week 26	HIV and AIDS – The trade union response part 1
Week 27	HIV and AIDS – The trade union response part 2