

Noor Janeki: Mokopane Community Radio

Noor is a vibrant, active and probably the excited community radio station manager in the Limpopo region. Noor has traveled to many countries and describes himself as a versatile manager. Noor says the SADC protocol DVD and a University of Limpopo short story called dump city captured his attention and made him realize that women are hard workers. "As I was watching the SADC protocol is got a sense that women are tired of being sidelined and that there men out there who are willing to be part of the change that is necessary"

Noor is now a full-time station manager of the troubled Mokopane Community radio. Before his appointment the station had management and board reshuffle a phase he describes as a huge setback in advancing gender issues in the media. "We have been disadvantaged and that's something that is beyond my control, I believe if there was stability before our gender policy would have been signed"

Noor attended his first ever Gender Links training in 2015 and he describes the experience as awesome, informative and needed. Although this was the first workshop for Noor, Mokopane FM as a station has send a number of delegates to other GL workshops before the station had a complete change of the board of directors and management. "it is clearly a start over for us, but hopefully with rest of the stations that have been consistent in the gender equality work we will definitely learn more and probably catch up" Noor notes as well a number of commitments that the previous management made and promises to follow up and revive such "My biggest task now as a station manager is to follow up on all the commitments that the station has had with GL and other partner and try revive"

"I was delighted that there was a vibrant group of managers from different radio stations and this for me as a new manager meant new contacts and new insight into community radio management." Noor says he enjoyed the workshop however he believes GL could add more activities to the sessions such as group activities so as to strengthen interstation relationships. Noor says his attitude towards women as a Muslim has drastically changed. His religious inclination and his cultural practices could have influenced his decisions in the past but all that will change. His personal experience with other community radio personnel has also humbled him and he believes his radio station will catch up with the station that are progressing in the project. "I believe Prof. Sheila is an inspiration not only to women but to us men as well." Her insights on gender and her passion about women empowerment are the basis to which I believe every being to start working on."

His change in behavior attitude as Noor explains is a result of the new knowledge and insights gained during the Media Management sessions. Noor explained also that the sessions that Prof, and Sikhonzile presented during the workshop helped him learn and internalize easily. He also alludes to having found the open sessions / questions and answers session to have fruitful

When asked to give a view of his though in points Noor says:

- > Humility and gratefulness has infiltrated my life.
- > I will give them all! The invites, preparations, time and effort is surely amazing.
- > The concepts: gender inequalities, presentation and the dialogue or Q and A session was very powerful and indulging.

“As managers, we need to inculcate within us a sense of being a transformative leader and an agent of change with the various media houses” – Noor believes the workshop was a step in the right direction in his organizational transformation. He hopes his board of directors would accept his recommendations and sign on the gender policy and the language policy.

Noor made the following points about his programming:

- We need to have a gender specific programme in our programming line-up
- We will engage more women sources in the news
- We shall also engage men

Next steps

I would love to sign the Gender Policy and be the next person at the summit doing the most effective presentation ever. I am looking forward to networking with various media houses, as well as other Gender Links activities. The inspiration from the Prof and Sikhonzile is of great magnificent and in them we totally rely.