



Number 34 – May 2005

## IN THE NEWS THIS MONTH...

### 1. PRINT MEDIA NEWS

Gabon: *L'Eveil National*, a new fortnightly paper

### 2. TELEVISION AND RADIO NEWS

Cameroon: *Radio Campus* off the air

DRC: REMACOB holds its first forum

Chad: *Harmonie FM* on air at last

### 3. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE MEDIA

Africa: RIARC's Maputo Conference conclusions

Burundi / Rwanda: CNC and HCP delegations visit CSCS

### 4. STRUCTURING AND PROFESSIONNALISATION OF THE MEDIA

Gabon: Workshop on the role of communicators during elections

Gabon: Young radio journalists receive training in writing

Great Lakes: Reporting back on the Bagamoyo Conference

Chad: Chad Press Award

## 1. PRINT MEDIA NEWS

### Gabon: *L'Eveil National*, a new fortnightly paper

*L'Eveil National* is Gabon's new fortnightly paper, devoted to news, awareness-raising and education. Appearing on the newsstands for the first time on 8 May, the 8-page paper is printed by Multipress Gabon, in a run of 5000, and sold for 500 CFA Francs (0.47 euros).

The paper's director, Edward Nasta Moues Moueyi, in his first editorial, called all Gabonese to unite. "The time for action has come," he writes, "for the cohesion of the nation, the unity of the republic and the reinstatement of the rule of law."

AN / IPP

Contacts:

Edward Nasta Moues Moueyi Tel. +241 06 11 44 80 or 07 85 79 93

## 2. TELEVISION AND RADIO NEWS

### Cameroon: *Radio Campus* off the air

The University of Yaoundé II's FM radio station, *Radio Campus*, has been off the air for the past two months because of transmitter failure.

The station has been broadcasting for two years on 90 MHz from studios in the *Ecole supérieure de l'information et de la communication* (Esstic) with unreliable equipment.

*Tom Broadcasting Corporation*, an independent station in Yaoundé, lent *Radio Campus* a transmitter, but subsequently asked for it back.

*Radio Campus* was originally meant to be used for production, not for broadcasting, but quickly became a public service station.

JW / IPP

### DRC: REMACOB holds its first forum

For logistical reasons, the REMACOB network of non-profit and community media of Lower Congo had to postpone its Forum, originally planned for 7 – 8 April, to 29 – 30 April.

Ten radio stations, four TV stations and a multimedia centre took part in the forum, where REMACOB's statutes were adopted by the assembly. Six priority activities were defined: identification of partners, project design, member training, programme production (and exchanges), publication on the internet of a newsletter, and setting up an income-generating activity. At the meeting, the network's seven-member steering committee was also elected, comprising: Father Michel Aveledi (chair), François Mbumba and Rigobert Malalako (Vice-chairs), Hugo Maseke and Lewis Puidi (secretaries), Mrs Josée Minkembi (treasurer) and Istar Diyabanza (projects officer). The general meeting was chaired by the Reverend Paku with Innonçent Bulambembe and Justin Mpanzu elected as rapporteur/secretaries.

Operating strategies were also put forward at the meetings, essentially proposing to divide the province into two, with offices in Mbanza–Ngungu and Boma, under the responsibility of the two respective vice-chairs.

MA / IPP

Contact:

REMACOB  
Father Michel Aveledi, Chairman  
Tel.: + 243 99 07 164

### **Chad: *Harmonie FM* on air at last**

On 17 March, *Harmonie FM*, Chad's new cultural radio station, kicked off its first broadcasts on 106.3 MHz with official celebrations in N'Djamena.

With all programmes in French, the station is devoted to traditional music, theatre, dance, story-telling, literature, education and health.

At the launch ceremony, the Minister for Communication, Barthélémy Natoïngar, welcomed *Harmonie FM* as "a new kind of media for Chad, encouraging the twenty young volunteers who run it to do so with professionalism."

The Minister for Culture, also present at the launch, felt that "this radio station is a forum where the voices of artists from Chad and elsewhere may be heard."

Running costs and equipment for *Harmonie FM* are covered by the cooperation and cultural action service of the French Embassy in Chad.

LG / IPP

Contact:  
Harmonie FM  
M. Maïndadjim Eloi, director

## **3. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE MEDIA**

### **Africa: RIARC's Maputo Conference conclusions**

The presidency of the Network of African Communication Regulatory Authorities (RIARC) has passed to Mrs Julieta Langa, president of Mozambique's Supreme Mass Media Council (CSCS) for the next two years. Mrs Langa takes over from Mandla Langa, president of the Independent Communication Authority for South Africa (ICASA), who had been RIARC's chairman since September 2002.

At RIARC's annual conference in Maputo (Mozambique) from 3 – 5 May, six new members were admitted, namely, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and the Republic of the Congo. The meeting also adopted a number of revised proposals that were disputed at RIARC's Johannesburg meeting in 2002: the network's revised rules, internal and financial regulations, the development plan for 2005-2009, as well as the financial report and statement of activities from Benin's regulatory body, acting as executive secretary.

Conditions are now favourable for the pan-African network to function effectively. The next RIARC conference will be in February 2007 in Ouagadougou, (Burkina Faso), as Luc-Adolphe Tiao, chairman of Burkina's Supreme Communication Council (CSC) has been nominated to take over from Mrs Langa as president, from 2007-2009.

RdB / IPP

Contact: -  
Mrs Julieta Langa,  
president of RIARC  
Email: julietal@zebra.uem.mz

### **Burundi / Rwanda: CNC and HCP delegations visit CSCS**

Two members of the Communication National Council (CNC) and the High Council of the Press (HCP) took part in a study mission to Mozambique's Supreme Mass Media Council (CSCS) in Maputo on 6-7 May, where they were received by the body's president, Mrs Julieta Langa.

Mrs Langa presented the body's facilities and outlined its responsibilities and powers, as well as the composition of its various committees. The delegations were able to exchange what they had learned from five years of election monitoring experiences, and also heard of some of the challenges still facing the CSCS.

The HCP and CNC delegations also met Felisberto Tinga, Director of the Prime Minister's Information Cabinet, as well as heads of *Rádio Moçambique* and *Televisão de Moçambique*.

The mission was organised by Panos Paris as part of its programme of support to press and regulatory bodies in Burundi and Rwanda, with funding from Switzerland (DDC).

RdB / IPP

## **4. STRUCTURING AND PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE MEDIA**

### **Gabon: Workshop on the role of communicators during elections**

On 28 April, the Gabon section of the Association of African Journalists held a workshop in Libreville on the role of communicators during elections.

At the workshop, journalists working in Gabon's media saw that one way they can play their role is to pass on the information that citizens need to make their own judgements, so long as they can be more objective and impartial in the ways they research, analyse and publish this information. This, in turn, will give the media more legitimacy and civil responsibility.

"In a democracy the media have to involve everyone in the debate," said Anaclet Ndong Ngwa, one of those taking part. "And this means respecting pluralism, the fair treatment of opinion leaders, and respect for the diversity that underpins our nation".

Political parties, republican institutions and civil society bodies also took part in the discussions and presentations.

Mrs Rose Méléghé Mba of the *Rassemblement du peuple gabonais* (RPG) party, speaking for politicians, called on the media to help the democratic process by stimulating debate, and discussing the social projects being put forward by parties and candidates in the elections. Speaking for civil society, Mrs Yvette Ngwévilot Rékangat called on the media to fight against social divisions and help strengthen a culture of democracy, while defending the interests of their profession, and seeking out funding to build a more solid corporate base for the media.

AN / IPP

### **Gabon: Young radio journalists follow writing workshop**

Twenty journalists from the radio school, *Emergence*, took part in a writing workshop in April organised by the magazine, *Planète Jeune*, around the theme of "Writing to be read".

The aim of the initiative was to give the young journalists an insight into writing for print media. They were all shown how to gather information and treat it in a journalistic way for a youth readership.

The workshop was part of a local development of a PanAfrican press project. *Planète Jeunes* also said it would give the newly-trained young journalists a chance to write for its Gabon supplement.

AN / IPP

## **Great Lakes: Reporting back on the Bagamoyo Conference**

On 20 March, journalists from Rwanda's media gathered in the Hotel Okapi in Kigali to learn of the outcome of the Bagamoyo Conference, in particular the Declaration and Plan of Action, which involve the media in peace building in the Great Lakes region. Burundi's national conference follow-up committee held a similar meeting on 29 March for their national media.

At the Kigali meeting, Mrs Solange Ayanone, president of the Rwandan conference follow-up committee, explained that the Bagamoyo commitments aim to support the efforts undertaken by heads of state from the Great Lakes to restore peace and stability in the region. Rwandan journalists used the meeting to discuss the national action plan and find ways to implement its commitments. As a priority, they decided to set up a network of journalists working for peace. "This network should enable journalists to circulate appropriate information with the aim of maintaining peace in the country", explained Solange Ayanone. She also pointed out that the network should act as a link to other journalists in the region to guarantee high-quality information on the peace process.

At the Burundi meeting, forty journalists joined stakeholders from civil society to discuss the Bagamoyo national media plan of action, regional media actions and the Declaration by heads of state. They also noted that the press has a primordial role to play in the peace process, but is critically short of resources. At the end of the meeting, they drafted a series of recommendations that should enable the media to honour their commitments to help build peace in the region.

These Bagamoyo Conference reporting sessions were organised by the national follow-up committees, in partnership with Panos Paris, and with support from the UK (DFID), Ireland (DCI) and Cordaid.

RG / DaN / IPP

## **Chad: Chad Press Award**

At a "Press Night" gala evening on 3 May, held by the Union of Journalists of Chad (UJT), celebrating the 15th World Press Freedom Day, six journalists from Chad received Chad Press Awards.

"The Award aims to motivate men and women in Chad's media, to encourage greater professionalism, and help them advance in their profession" said its initiator, Mr Diallo. "It is important to emphasise that these journalists have won the recognition of their public, despite their precarious working conditions."

The laureates are Mrs Sy Koumbo Singa Gali and Didama Michael from the print media, Ngarbé Yves and Halimé Assadié from radio and Hassan Sylla and Ngarsadjim from television.

The prize was initiated by the Chad association for the well-being of children, with support from the High Media Council (HCC).

LG / IPP

[Africentr@lemedias](mailto:Africentr@lemedias) is published monthly by the Institute Panos Paris (IPP) as part of its **Pluralist media for peace and democracy in Central Africa** programme. This newsletter on media pluralism is prepared by journalists from the nine Central Africa countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic (RCA), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Chad), with the support of CORDAID (Netherlands) and DFID (UK).

#### Editor-in-chief

Pascal Berqué, Director of the **Pluralist media for peace and democracy in Central Africa** programme, Institute Panos Paris, [pascal.berque@panosparis.org](mailto:pascal.berque@panosparis.org)

#### Coordination

Domitille Duplat, Coordinator of the **Pluralist media for peace and democracy in Central Africa** programme, Institute Panos Paris, [domitilled@panosparis.org](mailto:domitilled@panosparis.org)

#### Associate editor

Marie-Pierre Liénard, project officer of the **Pluralist media for peace and democracy in Central Africa** programme, Institute Panos Paris, [mariepierre@panosparis.org](mailto:mariepierre@panosparis.org)

#### Correspondents

Burundi: Damien Ntiranyuhura

Cameroon: Joel Wadem

Central Africa: Sylvie Jacqueline Bengué

Congo: Annette Kouamba

Gabon: Achille Ngoma

Equatorial Guinea: Rodrigo Angue Nguema

Democratic Republic of Congo: Franck Baku (Kinshasa), Doudou Solol (Katanga), Patient Ndoole (North Kivu), Flory Ngongo (Oriental province), Dieudonné Malékéra (South Kivu), Michel Aveledi (Bas Congo), Innocent-Prosper Mbumba (Kasaï oriental), Anne-Marie Kasenga (Kasaï occidental), Shabani Mwanaomba (Maniema), Gabriel-Bernard Ohanu (Equateur), Valère Odio (Bandundu) .

Chad: Laoro Gondjé

#### Distribution

Séverine Le Ridant, Communication officer, Institute Panos Paris, [communication@panosparis.org](mailto:communication@panosparis.org)

#### Translation

Peter Coles, [mail@petercoles.net](mailto:mail@petercoles.net)

#### Contact

Institut Panos Paris, 10, rue du Mail - 75 002 Paris (France)  
Tel. (331) 40 41 05 50 – Fax (331) 40 41 03 30  
[mariepierre@panosparis.org](mailto:mariepierre@panosparis.org)

This newsletter is published with the support of

