

Bolstering the African Voice

As it marks twenty years of broadcasting excellence, Radio 786 is reaching out to media across Africa.

At a symposium to be held on Thursday, 10 September 2015 academics, journalists and media experts from the global south will engage on issues affecting emerging states and their impact on societies. The vision is for a new path to be forged on how to better report on such issues and reshape the African narrative.

In an era of the “African renaissance”, Africa has witnessed renewed interest from both the west and east. However, while a number of African media entities has emerged, mainstream voices continue to dominate. Now is the time for African media voices to tower not only with the real, honest, lived narrative of life on the continent but also in communicating the aspirations of Africans.

The media conference therefore will assess where Africa finds itself, share knowledge and experiences with fellow media from the global south including influential broadcasters in Latin America, Australia, the Middle East and elsewhere who have managed to break from the mainstream narrative.

Ultimately the symposium will try to establish an African model that gives rise to a dynamic African narrative not influenced by western misconception.

One of the goals of the Symposium is to establish a platform for African media to network, dialogue, share resources and ideas with the intention of strengthening the African Voice. (see provisional programme below).

The Symposium will be followed by the Radio 786 annual Gala Dinner on Friday the 11th September. This event will maintain the theme of the Symposium and will feature a panel discussion by prominent academics and world leaders in media.

Symposium Invitation

All media organisations, journalists, academics and other stakeholders are invited to attend the symposium.

Date: Thursday, 10 September 2015

Location: Old Mutual Conference Room, Kirstenbosch Gardens, Cape Town, South Africa

Time: 9am – 4pm

Participation: FREE including Gala Dinner on Friday evening (excludes travel and accommodation)

For further information and to register your seat please contact +27 21 699 1 786 or nuraan@radio786.co.za and zeenat@radio786.co.za. RSVP essential.



PROGRAMME

TIME	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
09:15 – 09:30	Registration	
09:30 – 09:35	Opening	

SESSION 1

Focus: South Africa – the lived reality

09:35 – 09:50	Role of the State in reducing inequality	Prof Steven Friedman
09:50 – 10:05	Emergent racism – South Africa and the world	Prof Saths Cooper
10:05 – 10:20	Power from below, fear from the top - the need for a strong social and labour movement	Prof Peter Alexander
10:20 – 10:45	Q and A	
10:45 – 11:00	TEA BREAK	

SESSION 2

Focus: The international experience

11:00 – 11:25	<u>Keynote Address</u> : Media accuracy – context and controversy	Professor Seif Dana
11:25 – 12:00	Q and A	

12:00 – 13:00 LUNCH

SESSION 3

Focus: Age of Convergence

13:00 – 13:10	South African Radio: Setting Standards, Breaking Boundaries – The Radio 786 Experience	Amien Ahmed, Researcher Former Radio 786 Station Manager
13:10 – 13:20	Social media: remaining relevant but accurate	
13:20 – 14:00	Abstracts (including discussion)	

SESSION 4

Focus: Media voices from around the world

14:00 – 14:10	Africa: Telling the untold story	Pambazuka News (Kenya)
14:10 – 14:20	Getting the Story Right	RT – Russia Today
14:20 – 14:35	TEA BREAK	
14:35 – 14:45	Journalism Under Fire	Press TV
14:45 – 14:55	Challenging the narrative – breaking free from the pack	Arab Media
14:55 – 15:05	No more down under	Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA)
15:05 – 15:30	Discussion/Q and A	



10 September 2015 - SOUTH AFRICA

Media Symposium 2015

**BOLSTERING
THE
AFRICAN VOICE**



RADIO 786 – a Proudly African Voice

With its guiding motto, to inform, educate and uplift, Radio 786 took to the airwaves on 22 September 1995.

Two decades later, it celebrates an extensive list of achievements, triumphs and memories.

Launched to coincide with the martyrdom anniversary of an anti-Apartheid icon, Imam Abdullah Haron, who hailed from the community which Radio 786 serves, the station's programming and ethos has consistently reflected a consciousness about the oppressed.

Despite being a community broadcaster based on the previously disadvantaged Cape Flats, the station has demonstrated the resounding impact of community radio. By highlighting issues affecting the most overlooked, it has managed through this medium to pressure the council to deliver and government to acknowledge the rights of the downtrodden.

In 2014 it once again celebrated, when it won a 16-year long battle championing the rights of free speech. Based on a complaint, the case had progressed to the top courts of the land, in which Radio 786 managed to successfully argue for the alteration of provisions of the Broadcasting Act of South Africa which curtailed free expression.

With an audience in excess of 150 000, Radio 786 is the most listened-to talk station in the Western Cape region of South Africa.

Its programming includes local and international news and current affairs, social issues, family advice, community development and empowerment, sports and recreation. The station is known for tackling controversial, pertinent subjects head on.

According to South African broadcasting regulations, the station's licence is applied-for by the non-profit organisation, Islamic Unity Convention (IUC).

Awards and Achievements

Comprising a staff contingent from disadvantaged backgrounds, Radio 786 is a training ground for media expertise; thus a proud indigenous voice which reflects the community's perspective.

This talent has been honed to the extent of international recognition. Among its lengthy list of awards:

- **Vodacom** Journalist of the Year
- **BBC Africa** Young Broadcaster of the Year
- 2nd Prize **IRIB International Radio Festival** – Documentary production
- **Western Province Sports** Journalist of the Year
- **SAFA** Media Journalist of the Year
- Honorary mention in the **Minister of Communications Budget Speech** for Radio 786's contribution towards language

It is therefore no surprise that Radio 786 is known for breaking boundaries and setting standards!

10 September 2015 - SOUTH AFRICA
Media Symposium 2015
**BOLSTERING
THE
AFRICAN VOICE**