

the station that blows your blues away



FAX MESSAGE

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ATTENTION: Dr Zach de Beer / for Working Group One - CODESA

FROM: Radio Ciskei Staff

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MESSAGE:

We could have written our names, and even appended our signatures, but for fear of reprisal we decided not too,

Working Group-One

From ; Radio Ciskei

We have noted with great concern that upto-now, this working Group has not yet enquired about the situation and the free-flow of information in this Radio Station.

We have however learnt that Mr Micky Webb, who is the chairman of the Board of Directors of this Radio Station, and the advisor to Brig. Oupa Gqozo, has inquired about the free-flow of information and regulations restricting such, from our Managing Director, Mr F. Lubisi.

To us this is a mere formality as Mr Webb knows from the heart of his hearts that Mr Lubisi can never give a true reflection of what is happening in this Radio Station, as he is a political appointee.

It is for these reasons that we, the staff of Radio Ciskei, have taken it upon ourselves to paint a clear picture of what is happening here:

THE SITUATION AT RADIO CISKEI:

STRUCTURE:

The Ciskei Broadcasting Corporation is controlled by the Board of Directors that is composed of government officials, appointed by the Head of State Brig. Oupa Gqozo. They include the following:

1. Mr Mle - Director- Dept of Foreign Affairs
2. Mr Nōgcantsi - Minister of Transport
3. Mr Webb - Legal advisor to Brig. Gqozo.
4. Minister of Foreign Affairs- now occupied by Brig Gqozo.
5. Mr Lubisi - Managing Director

The appointment of these key government decision-makers, simply means that the Corporation would tow the government line, more or less, on everything, hence the proclaimed independency image of the Corporation is a myth, although it is the impression they want to create. This structure manifest itself in day to day activities of the Corporation as they will be outlined below:

CONTENT OF NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES :

1. Brig. Gqozo instructed the Board and the Management, to dismiss Lindile Silimela, then producer of the News Actuality programme, because of the interview he made with Brig. Gqozo, about the Guzana, Sebe alleged coup attempt- an interview which was later used in the inquest into the death of these two in the Supreme Court.

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2. Brig Gqozo instructed his security to detain Mphuthumi Mafani for allowing NEHAWU officials to announce their meeting, during his show; Three to Six Drive-time Show.
 3. He also instructed that Welile Ntshеле; a News Reporter, be dismissed for writing a news item about General Holomisa- who was labelled an undesirable element on "CKI Air".
 4. Co-producers of the News Actuality programme; Mzobanzi Jikazana and Nomava Didiza were suspended on Brig. Gqozo's instruction, for opening lines to the listeners, for their reaction to the highly controversial visit to S.A. by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.
 5. Dismissal of Crosby Kelele; a News Reporter, also on Brig. Gqozo's instructions, for reasons which are unknown.
 6. Also he instructed that Mr Buyana; a Librarian, be dismissed in favour of a subordinate, who appealed to him personally.
 7. A "Morning Drive-Time-Show" DJ Evidence Kemp, was instructed to change the content and form of his programme, which was perceived as discrediting Brig Gqozo's Government. It was at this stage that the staff was told by the MD that this Radio Station is expected by the Brigadier, to be "the government propaganda machinery".
 8. Three Contra-deals, with three different news papers were revoked on Brig Gqozo's instructions, because these newspapers were labelled "Hostile to the military government. These news papers are; IMVO; The Daily Dispatch and The New Nation.

Some of these instructions were not carried out to their logical consequences, but left serious psychological scars on the media workers, something that seriously threatens the freedom of media on this delicate transitional period in our history.

9. Also Brig Gqozo banned the workers movement; Association of Democratic Journalists; from operating at Radio Ciskei.
10. He also publicly confirmed that he will rid Radio Ciskei of all perceived bad elements- a confirmation followed by the government's decision to retrench and rationalise staff at this Radio Station.
11. For sometime, liberation movements were virtually banned from Air on Radio Ciskei, on Brig Gqozo's instructions, but later, modified by the Board of Directors to apparently, avoid embarrassment of the Radio Station and Brig, Gqozo, as this drew widespread condemnation.
12. Very recently, two of our reporters were stopped-from covering the ceremony of the installation of Dr Oliver Tambo as the chancellor of the University of Fort Hare, and Dr S. Bhengu as the Rector,- by Mr Micky Webb: Chairman of the Board, saying the Ciskei Government was not invited. This however was ignored by these reporters thereby risking their jobs, and the ceremony was covered. As a result this event of national importance was only aired a day after, after

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 the tapes were screened and censored by the Board of Directors.

UP-TO-NOW :

These Associations, organisations and personalities are still banned from air ;

1. ANC- Border Region; in particular Marion Sparg.
2. ANC Youth League-Boder Region.
3. All Civics, including the Border Council of Churches.
4. CONTRALESA ; in particular chief M. Nenkonyane and chief Pat Holomisa
5. General Bantu Holomisa of Transkei.
6. South African Democratic Teachers Union.
7. COSAS and SASCO
8. All the Students representantive Councils.

Brigadier Gqozo can only be interviewed by either the Managing Director, the General Manager or Senior managers, and wherever Brig Gqozo officiates only these officials may cover that event; a recent example is CODESA 1 where our reporters were barred and only the MD and general manager attended, and as a result the mid-day bulletins were suspended, to air Brig. Gqozo's contributions, while the other participants at CODESA were only given a minute each, in the evening News Actuality programme. Any report from either church and political organisations, or any personalities critical of the Ciskei government, is banned from air.

Given the situation that prevails at Radio Ciskei, it is beyond question that this powerfull medium, (especially in the poverty-stricken Ciskei and Border region), will only be used by one party, i.e. Brig. Gqozo, at the expense of the majority of the people and their organisations.

We therefore appeal to the Working Group One of CODESA- pay urgent attention to our predicament, and come to our, and the people of this regions' rescue.

IN OUR VIEW :

- the present Board of directors should be replaced by a representative and neutral Board of directors, composed of experts and people of high standing on freedom and independence of Media.
- Halt all plans to retrench some workers of this Radio Station.