

## **Sekhukhune Radio: Driver of Change**

Tshepiso Makuwa works for Sekhukhune community radio and unlike many women who are subjected to glass ceilings practices she has been appointed a news editor and takes her job seriously.

Speaking of the Media Management training workshop, Tshepi as popularly referred to, says "I was impressed by the commitment that GL portrayed, they were fully organized and supplied us with almost everything for the workshop" Tshepi was not also shy to admit that even though she has won the best newsreaders award she still had no idea what gender is and how its different to sex. "I sat there I wondered how possible it is that same terms that are complete synonyms could be different, then again realized late that I didn't know "adds Tshepi

Tshepi says she has seen a lot of improvement at personal level and that is because of the knowledge she gained at GL. "I have seen that I always need to know if the newsroom has a gender story, who the sources in that particular story are" She explains. Below are her explanations on the change in attitudes and knowledge.

- My attitude toward gender has completely changed. I am in the know and am able to edit stories with confidence.
- I understand what gender is. I can now differentiate between sex and gender

Tshepi says most of her inspiration and admiration was motivated by Prof Sheila Mmusi, from the University of Limpopo. She says Mmusi's work on gender is evidence that women have a voice and no one should deprive them of their rights to speak and to be heard. She adds: "I am now in charge of a newsroom. This means bigger responsibilities and many more challenges"

Tshepi says she is now focused on making sure that her newsroom is gender aware. She notes as well that her station has a draft gender policy and promises to look into it and accelerate the signing processes. "We currently do not have a gender sensitive language policy and I believe that if the gender policy is signed we could be in a better position to review and revive the language policy" she explains.

Tshepi says working in a newsroom that is based in a cultural society is one the challenges that she is faced it. However she explains as well that the biggest challenge is not with the society but with newsroom staff. "As an editor I have a challenge with the newsroom itself, these GL workshop could assist in the newsroom to drive that change" below are the activities that Tshepi to undertake with her newsroom staff:

- Creating gender sources and compiling contacts
- Constantly engaging NGO in different fields
- Inviting women to participate in their newsroom activities
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She believes the best way to mainstream gender is by engaging the community rigorously.