

UNESCO sponsors media training in Namibia

WINDHOEK: Namibian newspaper *The Caprivi Vision* is organising a series of training workshops on writing, news gathering, reporting, graphic design and marketing with the aim of increasing local participation in community newspapers. The training is sponsored by UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

There are few newspapers published in indigenous languages currently in circulation in Namibia. *The Caprivi Vision*, which is published in English and Silozi and mainly distributed in the Caprivi region, is one of them. Soon the newspaper will also be issued in Rukwangali to focus on the Kavango region.

Raising public awareness

The lack of skills in news reporting, graphic design and management, as well as the need for printing equipment and computers, prevent the newspaper from attaining its said goals of creating a true reading culture and to stimulate a real debate about social issues in the country.

To address some of these issues, volunteers will be trained in gathering information about the Caprivi community and in sharing it with the rest of the country. *The Caprivi Vision* aims to become a platform that would increase the literacy rate in Namibia and raise people's concerns about their communities.

UNESCO's IPDC is the only multilateral forum in the UN system designed to mobilise the international community to discuss and promote media development in developing countries. This activity is being implemented within the framework of UNESCO's contribution towards strengthening free, independent and pluralistic media.

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