

Medeva *eye*

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Media Development in Africa (MEDEVA)

MEDEVA is a registered Kenyan media Non-Governmental Organization founded in 2001 for the purpose of offering free training to young people in modern aspects of TV and Radio production who in turn produce high-quality, popular television and radio programmes for positive change in East Africa.

Dan Oloo goes to Cardiff

By Medeva Eye Team

MEDEVA's Head of Radio, Mr Dan Oloo, was recently selected to represent both MEDEVA and Kenya at the prestigious Convergence Course 2012 held in Cardiff and London, UK. Offered by the Thomson Media Foundation, leaders in global media training and development, the convergence course is a month-long multimedia training targeting journalists from all over the world. MEDEVA Eye caught up with Dan Oloo oozing confidence as he recounted his experience at the training. 'I got into the class two weeks late because of harrowing visa issues but was glad to finally touch down at Heathrow Airport on the mid-summer's night of 8th July. This was the beginning of an amazing journey that took me through 3 weeks of intense learning and socializing with journalists from diverse backgrounds. The hands-on multi-media part of the course was held at the Thomson Foundation's training base in Cardiff. This is where I met the other "Cardiff Journos" (fellow course participants) from Qatar, Singapore, Malawi, South Africa and Ghana – an incredible assembly of enthusiastic journos I must say. The Course Director, Dan Mason, an internationally acclaimed media trainer, facilitated in-depth sessions that developed our skills in social media, audio production, online journalism, photography and video. After these exciting sessions, challenging television broadcast classes followed at

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Above: Dan Oloo during a camera class at Cardiff

Left: Dan Oloo and a colleague in a filming session in Cardiff



The last week of the course saw us move to London as “London Journos”. Here, we embarked on placements with leading UK media houses including The Guardian Newspaper, ITN, BBC Radio 4 and The Press Association. After repeatedly getting lost in the complex London tube train system, I finally managed to locate the ITN building somewhere in East...or was it West London, where I was to be based for the next 5 days. To my surprise, I hardly sat in the office. No sooner had I put my bag down to take in the busy newsroom atmosphere than I found myself at the Cabinet Office in Westminster interviewing the Mayor of London on Olympic Security. Besides sitting in on high powered editorial meetings each morning, I spent the rest of my week on location assisting famous ITN correspondents on adrenalin-charged shoots, that took me from Tower Bridge, Hyde Park, Trafalgar Square to Oxford Circus, The Olympic Park and Buckingham Palace. In the short time that I was in the UK, I have managed to take in valuable lessons that would normally take a lifetime to experience. The convergence course made this possible by bringing together a talented group of friends who formed a collaborative environment that helped me experience a wide spectrum of journalism, from a fresh perspective. For this incredible experience, I remain grateful to the Thomson Media Foundation and MEDEVA’s staff development programme’.

from. pg.2 Cardiff University. A passionate and highly meticulous Collin Larcombe, the Director of Broadcast Journalism at the University, led the television workshops. “Always be aware of the basic grammar of filming!” was Collin’s favourite phrase. He was keen to repeat it every time he sent us away to Cardiff’s City Center to film numerous and sometimes impossible stories, or so we thought. Week two in Cardiff was dedicated to a live exercise in which we worked with local organisations, charities and individuals who are doing positive things in Wales. We made it a campaign called, “Cardiff Cares”. I had the opportunity of doing a powerful story on autism that showcased the work of a local organization that is trying to make Cardiff the first autism-friendly city in the UK. To put the package together, we also met an amazing family that gave us moving accounts of the tough day-to-day challenges that they now face after adopting an autistic child.

Team MEDEVA's Day of fun

By Fred Makori

The skies seemed like they were holding back so hard from releasing rain to the grounds of Nairobi that day. It was a chilly morning and the entire MEDEVA staff was clad in warm clothing and was ready to start this day. But this July 6th was a different day because we were going for the annual staff team building exercise in the serene resort adjacent to the Nairobi National Park to the south of Nairobi. We arrived at Rolf's Place at around 10am in the morning and immediately discovered the hotel's memorable location. The resort is built on a cliff and the parking is across the deep valley. The resort is joined to the parking by a suspension bridge that can hold only six persons at a time forcing us to cross the bridge in turns. It was easy for some and scary for others but eventually the entire team was across the bridge and immediately, ice breaking activities to help us relax and get into the mood of the day took centre stage. The day had a rich menu of activities designed to boost team spirit and infrastructure ranging from the breath-taking obstacle race, the paint ball exercise, Archery, bike riding and to crown the day was a memorable volley ball session. After a full



Team MEDEVA during the obstacle course exercise.

day of fun and tasty meals, team MEDEVA came together for a debrief and apart from learning essential lessons that we could employ to move the organization forward, we were all in agreement that most of the team members were unfit and it was time to hit the gym or start exercising to keep fit. But what was particularly inspiring was that hidden talents came out as we learned new attributes about each other, both strong and weak. This was the essence of coming together in a fun and playful way to cement the unity to steer MEDEVA to higher ground. The day was in sync with the wise saying that if you want to go somewhere quickly, you go alone but if you want to go far, you go in a team!



Part of team MEDEVA getting ready to participate in a paintball exercise

MEDEVA Trainee of the Month

By Paul Ekuru

MEDEVA's annual training programme has increasingly become popular among youth in East Africa because of its uniqueness. The programme has so far produced hundreds of young people with a knack for ethical journalism. One such person is Chris Ochamringa, arguably one of the best television reporters in Uganda. He sat in the 2011 MEDEVA training class in Kampala, Uganda.

Chris passes for a simple man. And you could be forgiven for taking him thus, but not when he shows up on your TV set weaving facts in a carefully prepared story for the prime bulletin. On screen, he speaks with the authority of a veteran journalist and annotates the details of his story with surgical accuracy. MEDEVA Eye recently sought him for his word about the training:

MEDEVA Eye: How did you learn about the training?

Chris: This training was introduced to us in the news room at NTV Uganda by our news manager. He told us about this great media NGO from Nairobi that would be conducting training in documentary making. I had never heard of it before.

MEDEVA Eye: Have you ever been in different media trainings before?

Chris: Other than the Mass Communication course I took at Kampala International University, MEDEVA's was my first formal training.

MEDEVA Eye: So was the MEDEVA training any different from what you learnt in the university?

Chris: What are you talking about Paul! I was amazed by the hands-on approach. I learnt a lot of new things that I had never met in the university. For instance, the course was very specific on how to get the story. This is very important for any journalist and I'm glad that how to identify the story before anything else, the visuals and whatnot, was clearly covered. In the university, it was theory alongside theory. **Cont. pg 6**



Chris during the MEDEVA training in Kampala

MEDEVA Eye: Is that so?

Chris: Yes, Mass Communication in the university at that time was more of generalities-from introduction to different ways of doing a story. But here was MEDEVA, coming in with specifics, especially the filming aspect. The approach really opens one's mind to a proper way of getting the story from paper to screen.

MEDEVA Eye: Other than getting the right story and the visual execution, is there any other way that the MEDEVA training has helped you, especially in what you are doing currently?



Chris going through the paces of TV reporting.

from pg.5 **Chris:** Quite a number of things. The nitty-gritties of what a good documentary is. There is so much involved than people out there think. There's the point of view and there's getting the narrative right as you write the documentary. Those are things that I had always taken for granted. Now I always watch out for them, thanks to MEDEVA.

MEDEVA Eye: What is your current role at NTV Uganda?

Chris: I'm a television reporter. I do produce once in a while but the former is what I do most of the time and I enjoy it very much.

MEDEVA Eye: In your considered opinion, what makes a good reporter?

Chris: They must have facts, deliver accurately and understand the issues in the society as well as appreciate the uniqueness of each community as they interact with it.

MEDEVA Eye: Among the many reports you have since filed for television, which one is the most outstanding?

Chris: There's a story I did in a place called Kayunga, Central Uganda. It was about 5 guys who had been addicted to alcohol-some of them were smokers too. They could wake up in the morning, sell their wares and head for the pubs, yet one of them was an economist, another had HIV and

the rest had their own unique complications. We called them 'The Kayunga 5'. It was a story that I found very funny and interesting.

MEDEVA Eye: Any awards?

Chris: In 2010, I was the second runners up in the Uganda Tourism Awards for the story I did about the National Park in Uganda. Others are certificates of recognition for reporting on gender violence.

MEDEVA Eye: What are your thoughts about Ugandan Television industry?

Chris: The industry here is still down. Even though it's growing at a commendable rate, I feel that there is a lot to be done, especially as far as accuracy and balance in reporting are concerned.

MEDEVA Eye: Do you think MEDEVA's training is relevant to Ugandan Television industry?

Chris: A lot. MEDEVA's training on story-telling and the entire aspect of documentary making is taking the practice to a notch higher. Features and documentaries are being done around here but not to the best standards. I think MEDEVA's training is taking documentary making to new levels of professionalism. We need more of such trainings here. In fact the training programme should be expanded to benefit more young and upcoming journalists.