RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE
LOCAL ELECTION
South Africa's population is largely made up of young people; those who are below the age of 35 years constitute about 66% of the total population. With over 54 million South Africans, 18.5% are between the ages 10-19; and 24% are aged 15-24 (UNFPA).

- 547,534 South Africans between the ages of 18 and 19 are registered to vote (IEC).
- 5,835,455 South Africans between the ages of 20 and 29 are registered to vote.
- Young people between the ages of 18-19 represent the lowest percentage of the population that is registered to vote.
- Under 50% of young people below the age of 35 years are on the voter's roll (democracyworks).

A healthy democracy is based on the active participation of all its citizens and that includes young people. This is called active citizenship.

Active citizenship means people getting involved in their local communities and democracy at all levels, from towns to cities to nationwide activity. Active citizenship can be as small as helping a child cross a road safely, organising a campaign to clean up your street or doing it yourself. It can be as big as educating young people about democratic values, skills and participation. (Open Society)

You can be an active citizen through civic participation or civic engagement. (Active Citizenship)
Civic participation is when people get involved with each other to pursue their own goals and interests like joining sports clubs or faith based groups.
Civic engagement is when people participate in more formal ways in talking with government, such as joining a civic organisation or a community organisation. A civic organization is a type of organization whose official goal is to improve neighborhoods through volunteer work by its members. (Wikipedia)

Conventional active citizenship includes:
- Voting in municipal and/or national elections
- Volunteering for a political campaign
- Being involved with national, provincial or municipal (local) government
- Community work
- Campaigning, making political donations and contributions
- Belonging to, and participating in, activist groups
- Staying up-to-date with developments in government and the law

What are the pressing issues in your community that you would like your local representative to address?

What are, and have been, the key contributions of young South Africans to democracy?
With the Local Government Elections coming up on 3rd August 2016, all political parties want to make the best of the remaining weeks to rally more support. Young people make up a good deal of new votes. It is valuable to know what you think and feel about politics, political parties and local issues in your community. Here is a snapshot of how young people in South Africa view politics and the elections in a recent survey by Ipsos.

**Ipsos**

According to the survey, some of the most pressing issues that young people want government to address in South Africa are:

- Unemployment and job creation
- Crime
- Education, educational standards and equality in education
- Poverty
- Corruption
- Providing infrastructure like water, electricity, roads and housing
- HIV and AIDS
- Health
- Landlessness and land claims

**What are Local Elections?**

The Constitution of South Africa sets the rules for how government works. There are three spheres of government in South Africa:

- **National government**
- **Provincial government**
- **Local government**

The local government elections are different from provincial or national elections. National and provincial elections allow voters to vote only for a political party and not for individual candidates. This is what your vote in the local election is about, and what it is not about:

- This vote does NOT determine seats in parliament
- This vote is not for a president
- This vote is about services to your community

Local Elections can also be called Municipal Elections. Municipal Elections are held every five years to elect Ward Councillors, who will be responsible for governing your municipality for the next five years. They will serve on the town, city, metropolitan and/or district councils that ensure services for the people in their areas including providing water, electricity, sewerage and sanitation services, waste removal and other services that directly impact your daily life.

Before you can cast your ballot and vote, remember:

- You can only vote if you are registered on the voters’ roll, so make sure you are registered!
- You can check to see if you are registered to vote by contacting the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) or your Municipal Electoral Office. You will need a South African ID number.
How local government works:

There are three types of municipalities.
- Metropolitan
- Local
- District

Metropolitan and local municipalities:
- Local government in South Africa is made up of municipalities.
- The object of local government is to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations.
- Most municipalities are divided into areas called wards.
- A ward councillor is an official elected to represent an area or “ward” on council. This councillor can represent a political party, can stand as an independent candidate or represent a local association such as the Ratepayers Association. The candidate who receives the most votes in a ward is elected as the ward councillor. If the ward councillor leaves office for any reason, such as resigning, a by-election must be held to elect a new councillor.
- Ward councillors make up half of the representatives elected to the council. The other half are elected as party representatives through a system called proportional representation (PR), based on the percentage of votes their political party receives in the election. They are known as PR councillors.
- Ward councillors are elected by the people in their wards, so they are more directly accountable to their communities than PR councillors who are more directly accountable to the political party that put them on the list.

( local government action )

Internet Resources

YouTube/Soundcloud resources:
- CRF - Alex
  https://soundcloud.com/childrensradiofoundation/sets/voting-is-power-vip
- Live SA VIP (Voting Is Power)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afx2A77CGUo
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2V89OH0WwcY
- Young South Africa 2015
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLRtC1jsr30
- The No-Vote Campaign
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHlyF1_UYKQ
- Youth Participation
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLRtC1jsr30
- South African Youth
  http://southafrica.unfpa.org/topics/young-people-1
- IEC
  http://www.elections.org.za/content/Voters-Roll/Registration-statistics/
- Local Government
Different ways to talk about young people and how they feel about the local elections:

- Youth do not register to vote because they are lazy and disinterested
- Young people are proud to cast their ballot
- Youth do not participate in politics because they don’t believe it will make a difference
- Youth are making a difference every day in their own lives and in the lives of their community
- South Africans do not really understand the importance of local elections
- Party Politics is not the only way to effect change

How do young people understand the difference between local and national elections?

TIPS FOR COVERING THE ELECTIONS:

- Be accurate and get both sides of the story. As a young reporter, you are a citizen too and are entitled to your own political opinions, but you must not show bias in your reporting, especially during elections.
- Be aware of words and opinions that may fuel intolerance or hatred.

Find different ways to talk about the topic and structure your show outline.
Vox Pop
Vox pop's aim: To get many opinions on one topic.
Who do you talk to: Youth and adults in the community.

Question: Will you vote in the upcoming local elections and why?

Audio commentary
Aim: To get people's opinion about a topic that they care deeply about.
Who do you talk to: Talk to a young person under the age of 18, who has encountered guns at home or at school.

Audio profile
Audio profile aim: To get a first person account of someone’s experience, passion and journey. Audio profiles often aim to inspire.

Who do you talk to: Youth in the community.

Option 1: youth who are affected by a local municipal problem (no sport fields, no streetlights, no refuse collection, no working toilets)

Option 2: youth who have participated in a protest against poor service delivery in their community

Option 3: a young person who is proud to vote

PSA
The aim of a PSA: to create a public awareness message.

PSA 1
Voice 1: Hey Busi, I’m going to vote the president out of these elections. He still didn’t fix the street light outside my house.
Voice 2: Hayi, it’s not the president’s job. It’s the responsibility of our ward councillor to fix that.
Voice 1: Ahhhh, gosh, I don’t even know who that is!

Slogan: Local is lekker! - Know who is responsible for local delivery

PSA 2:
Voice 1: Yoh, did you see that nice green grass on that new sports field where Sindi lives? No glass, no stones and it even has a nice fence.
Voice 2: Yes, Sindi and her community were hassling their local councillor, writing letters, calling meetings and they even had a radio show about it.
Voice 1: I also want to play soccer on a field like that!

Slogan: Local government elections - make your mark for the change you want in your community.
Use your produced radio features, your research, and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

[Suggested questions for your interview with someone who can explain local elections or local government (eg. local IEC official, Ward councilor)]

- Can you please explain what local elections are?
- How can my vote in the local elections make a difference?
- What can you tell someone who is not interested in voting to show them the importance of their vote?
- If I vote and see no change in my community, what steps can I take to hold my local leader accountable?

[INTRO:] Host 1: It’s just gone [TIME] and you’re just in time for the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME]...
Host 2: And my name is [NAME], and today’s show is all about being active in the life of your community and voting!
Host 1: We’ll be talking about the importance of voting and being an active citizen.
Host 2: Yes guys as you know on the 3rd of August 2016 those of us who are eligible to vote and who are registered will be casting our ballot. It is important that we understand what we are voting for and why.
Host 1: We spoke to [NAME OF INTERVIEWEE] who explained to us what local elections are all about and why they are important. Let’s have a listen.

[Outro:] Host 1: Today, we’ve learnt so much about voting in the local elections and how we can take an active part in electing who will lead us in the next five years.
Host 2: Yes, I now understand my part as a young person in elections and I can now tell the difference between the national and local elections.
Host 1: Next week on [DAY] at [TIME] we’ll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK’S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it’s bye from us!

Prepare to present your show

Once you’ve finalised your script, produced your radio features and finalised your “show clock” it’s time to go live on air!
Show outline

| General intro |
| Intro vox pop |
| Vox pop |
| Outro vox pop |
| Music transition |
| Intro audio commentary |
| Audio commentary |
| Outro commentary |
| Music transition & jingle |
| Intro interview (or intro audio-profile) |
| Interview (or audio-profile) |
| Outro interview (or outro audio profile) |
| Music transition & jingle |
| PSA |
| General outro |
| Music end |

Ethics and consent

This is a sensitive topic, so make sure you inform your interviewees properly and get their full consent.

You must always introduce your show and radio features. Then once you’ve played your features, have a concluding statement for each one. Don’t forget a final conclusion for the very end of the show.

Use links (facts, tips, did you knows, music) to glue it all together.

Now write your radio script

8