

# Local Government Elections 2006

From October 2005 until February 2006, DDP had been implementing its multi-media project on voter education - the Democracy and Voter Education Project (DVEP) in preparation to the 2006 Local Government Elections.

## *About*

On the 30th August, the KwaZulu-Natal Democracy and Election Forum (KZNDEF) sub committee on voter education (headed by DDP) finalized its plans in respect of the upcoming local government elections. The rollout has brought on board nine civil society organizations and networks throughout the Province in what is being heralded as one of the largest co-operative efforts of civil society in the Province.

## *Radio Broadcast*



The radio presenters were very impressed with the characterizations in the drama, particularly the Inkosi (chief) who demonstrated a progressive pro-democracy attitude, and the main character's Indian 'madam' who gave her time off to go and sort out her ID document. The three dramas cover voter registration, why democracy is important and the qualities that voters should look for in a candidate. After the dramas have been aired, the community radio presenters will present a talk show with invited guests and listeners will be invited to phone in and ask questions.

The Community radio people praised DDP and the show's producers, Vuleka Productions. Key comments that emerged from the discussion were that the drama sounded "very natural" and "authentic" and that "this is the kind of Zulu we speak here in KwaZulu-Natal". According to Simon Ntsele of Maputaland Community Radio: "This shows exactly what is relevant to KZN people. The listener can associate himself with such a local drama."

## *Community Workshops*



The workshops use micro media material in form of booklets, pamphlets and posters featuring cartoon characters in open-ended narratives. The facilitation of these workshops involves two strategies:

- Open-ended cartoon narrative strategy: The open-ended narratives require the participants to actively participate in and close the narrative by inputting their own experiences or viewpoints
- Participatory narrative strategy: Through role-playing, participants are given the opportunity to act out their own stories based on themes provided by the materials. Because participants assume the personae of fictional characters in the role plays, 'distancing' allows them to introduce controversial or 'hard-to-talk-about' issues into the discussion.