

5th Children and Media Summit: Children must be part of the organising process

By Aliyah Allie, age 15 years, Grade 10, Raucall High School, Johannesburg

"This being the world summit on media for children that we are preparing for, it is imperative that young people are present. As a result of the fact that we are the Children and Broadcasting Foundation of Africa (CBFA), it is of utmost importance that children are part of the organising process.

It will be children working on the agenda of children. CBFA believes that the participation of young people is vital and that if they are given the opportunity and the tools, the work that they produce can be of a very high standard. The CBFA child media team is proof of this. They also corroborate the fact that adults and young people are able to work well together and while doing that they are able to learn a lot from each other.

The media team is a group of young people who together produce television documentaries that are beneficial for other children. We have also taken on the responsibility of educating other children on broadcasting process and on how to use different types of broadcasting equipment.

The media team will be proactive in the organisation of the summit. We were at the previous two [children's media] summits and we have gained a fair amount of experience from them. We intend on using the experience gained from these summits and other projects that we have worked on to ensure that the level of child participation at the 5th summit will be of the highest.

It is as a result of the fact that the summit will be hosted in South Africa, that we believe it fundamental that South African youth are involved and that they all know what the summit is about. We want the summit to have a true South African flavour.

When involving children in the summit and when we have workshops with them, we will ensure that we avoid what it is that we hate the most: tokenism.

When 2007 arrives, those of us presently in the media team won't really be children anymore. It is therefore absolutely critical that other children are brought in and trained and we intend on doing exactly that.

When young people from all corners of the world are brought together, we have the propensity to not want to work all the time. To keep us focused, we need to be entertained after a hard days work. We also want to certify that by the time they leave South Africa, they have a good idea of what South Africa is and what it is that lead us to being what we are.