

Heart FM breaks coloured voice?

Die Son newspaper in cape town leads with a story claiming that the voice of coloured people is being silenced following the sacking of a few coloured jocks

Die Son newspaper of 24 January leads with the headline "Heart breaks coloured voice". The jist of the story is that Heart will not be renewing the contracts of a few DJs who happen to be coloured and the article concludes that the station is on a mission to silence the coloured voice. This comes at a time when Phat Joe is became the station's new morning jock. The story goes on to quote an unnamed DJ as saying that the stations has restricted certain things such as the reading of smss, which according to the DJ means the silencing of coloured people on the station.

This story and the chosen angle disturbs me a great deal. it raised a number of questions which we should all ask ourselves. Does the non-renewal of contracts of jocks who happen to be coloured mean the silencing of the coloured voice? why is it that with the introduction of jocks who happen to be black at the same time that there is the "removal" of jocks who happen to be coloured equal a vendetta against coloured people? were the jocks being let go performing in terms of their audience figures? of the total jocks leaving the station, how many of them are black? of those leaving who happen to be coloured, will they be replaced by only black djs? when Ayande Tine, Keketsu Sechane and Lukhanya Calate left the station, did anyone cry foul claiming that blacks were being sidelined at the station?

i struggle with this because i believe that we are running the risk of further polarising the already tense racial dynamics in cape town. the angle of this story is evidence of this tension and the sooner we address this the better.

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