

MPI redefines PR

According to Synovate's 2009 annual Media Publicity Index; Safaricom, Kenya Commercial Bank, East Africa Breweries Ltd (EABL) and Coca-Cola led in the number of media clips. Others included the Kenya Power and Lighting Company, Zain, Telkom, Equity Bank, Kenya Airways and Barclays Bank. When the publicity was translated to advertising value Coca-Cola, Safaricom and EABL topped the list.

By [Carole Kimutai](#) 12 Jul 2010

"We valued all the media clips and calculated how much they were worth in form of advertising," explains Joe Otin, media research and monitoring director at Synovate pan-Africa.

Images and sound, important

Overall, the tone of all messages for the companies was 58% positive, 33% neutral and 9% negative. The highest coverage was in print media which led by 40% with radio following closely at 37% and television at 23%. "TV and radio have selected news slots which alternate with programmes (for TV) and music (for radio) while print media is meant for all news which explains why print led in terms of mentions."

Otin adds that publicity for radio and TV has to do with an event which makes it a bit difficult for companies to get covered "You cannot just send them a press release. They have to have pictures and sound," he says. In terms of media reach, radio leads with 94%, TV 56%, and print 24%. "In Nairobi, TV leads with 90%. In rural areas, viewership has to do with access to electricity."

Brand PR

The MPI also reveals a growing trend in brand PR where companies are spending millions in activities that are aimed at building their brands' publicity. For example during the 2010 FIFA World Cup; Adidas, Hyundai Kia Motors, Emirates Airlines, Sony, Coca-Cola and Visa International are some of the major sponsors who have spent millions of dollars in sponsorship and activities related to the World Cup.

PR is a strategic function that should include increasing brand visibility, says Otin.

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