



PARLIAMENT SUPPORTS SABC'S TURNAROUND PLAN

Cape Town – Tuesday, 25 September 2018 - The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) Board and executive management team appeared before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Communications today to present the Corporation's turnaround strategy. The Committee was very supportive and commended the SABC Board on its plans.

In the presentation, led by the SABC Board Chairperson, Bongumusa Makhathini, the SABC gave the Committee assurance that the Board had put in place the required expertise and experience to turnaround and drive the SABC forward. These include the appointment of the Executive Board Members namely, the Group Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operations Officer and the Chief Financial Officer. The Executive Board Members are responsible for driving the implementation of the turnaround strategy with the support of a competent executive management team.

The turnaround strategy is multifaceted and relies on achieving a number of key objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan. The three main elements of the turnaround strategy are:

- Dealing with legacy and governance issues;
- Addressing regulatory and policy constraints; and
- Implementing mission critical commercial and operational strategies.

Firstly, there is a consistent drive to address all the governance and legacy issues facing the SABC, including the issues raised by the Public Protector and by the Ad Hoc Committee Inquiry.

Secondly, this Board has taken the lead in highlighting the regulatory impact of ICASA and Ministerial regulations on the SABC's financial viability, in particular the Must Carry, Sports Rights, DTT and TV licence regulations. These are detailed in regulatory and policy proposals contained in the SABC's submission to the Department of Communication (DOC) on the Review of Public Broadcasting Policy. The submission is available on the SABC's website.

Thirdly, the SABC has put in place a commercial turnaround plan which focuses on rehabilitation and renewal. This entails ensuring financial sustainability by reducing operating costs and, attracting audiences and revenue. The main objective is to ensure financial sustainability and an SABC that is fit for purpose.

With regard to Section 189 of the Labour Relations Act, the SABC stated its commitment to follow the process to the letter. The SABC board chairperson, Bongumusa Makhathini stated that “the SABC Board prides itself on following the required consultation processes with our Shareholder, organised labour and our employees. We will continue to proactively engage all our stakeholders with the best interest of the SABC at heart”.

ENDS

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