



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC COMMEMORATES 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK WEDNESDAY

Johannesburg – Friday, 19 October 2018 – The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) joins hands with the rest of the media fraternity, in the commemoration of *Black Wednesday*. This year marks 41 years since *Black Wednesday*, when oppression against the press by the apartheid government took place on 19 October 1977, through the banning of *The World*, *Weekend World* and *Pro Veritate* publications.

The dawn of our democracy brought with it many freedoms, amongst them freedom of the press, which is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The SABC's Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO), Madoda Mxakwe says, "as we remember the sacrifices of many journalists in the pursuit of media freedom, we must continuously discharge our mandate of providing news to millions of South Africans in a manner that brings to life the constitutional rights and freedoms bestowed on journalists. Moreover, the recent repositioning of SABC News as Independent and Impartial is fundamental in protecting the SABC's editorial independence".

Mxakwe further notes that the SABC is governed by its Charter which "enshrines the journalistic, creative and programming independence of the staff of the corporation, and the constitutionally protected freedom of expression". As a public service broadcaster, the SABC remains committed to principles of media freedom as well as journalism ethics and professional integrity in news gathering, processing and dissemination.

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