



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC MORNING LIVE INTERVIEW OF HLAUDI MOTSOENENG

Johannesburg, Tuesday, 11 December 2018 – The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has noted concerns by members of the public, following an interview with the Corporation's former Chief Operating Officer, Mr Hlaudi Motsoeneng. SABC News has been carrying several stories and interviews with various stakeholders, regarding the dire financial situation of the public broadcaster. Some of these have been very critical of Mr Motsoeneng's role during his term at the Corporation, and how his decisions are believed to have led to the current financial crisis that the SABC is experiencing. While it is understandable that featuring him on our news programmes would generate anger and discomfort for some of our audiences, it is our journalistic obligation to afford him the 'right to reply'. He had to be given the opportunity to state his side of the story as he has widely been condemned as the architect of the SABC's collapse.

Furthermore, clause 13.2 of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of SA Code indicated below, calls upon us to exercise fairness as follows:

A person whose views are to be criticised in a broadcasting programme on a controversial issue of public importance must be given the right to reply to such criticism on the same programme. If this is impracticable, reasonable opportunity to respond to the programme should be provided where appropriate, for example in a right to reply programme or in a pre-arranged discussion programme with the prior consent of the person concerned.

As a public service, SABC News continues to strive to ensure that journalistic principles are adhered to, to maintain balance and evenhandedness in its news coverage. It is within this spirit that Mr Motsoeneng was given the right to reply to criticism that has been leveled against him in our reportage. Additionally, the public news service takes its mandate seriously by ensuring diversity and plurality in the voices it reflects in covering the South African story. We want to assure South Africans that we remain committed to providing comprehensive, diverse and inclusive news content, in a manner that is unrestrained, independent and impartial.

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