



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC TO DEFEND THE URGENT APPLICATION BY ACM TO COVER ITS MANIFESTO

Johannesburg - Saturday 06 April 2019 - Johannesburg - Saturday 06 April 2019 - The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has been served with an urgent court application by the African Content Movement (ACM) for the public broadcaster to cover live the party's manifesto launch today on SABC 2 and SABC News Channel 404 on DStv. The SABC will be vigorously opposing the application, which will be heard by the South Gauteng High Court today at 10h00.

The position of the SABC is that ACM's manifesto launch will be covered by its News division as a news story. The SABC has not provided live coverage of manifesto launches of any of the new and existing parties with no representation in Parliament.

Ms. Phathiswa Magopeni, the Group Executive: News and Current Affairs stated "this is an editorial decision that has taken into account, amongst others, resource constraints and equitable coverage treatment of political parties contesting the elections. In addition as per ICASA regulations, there is no obligation on the SABC to provide live coverage to any political party."

No political party can dictate to the SABC how it provides coverage of election related activities. However in terms of ICASA's regulation on Public Election Broadcasts (PEB's) and Political Advertisements (PA's), these are pre-packaged materials which are received from political parties and the SABC is obliged to broadcast these in accordance with the regulations. These slots are determined by ICASA and not the SABC.

The SABC remains committed to covering the 2019 Elections in an unrestrained, independent and impartial manner.

END

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