



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC WELCOMES GOVERNMENT'S AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL CONTENT SERVICES POLICY REVIEW

Johannesburg, Thursday, 29 October 2020- The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) welcomes the publication of Government's draft White Paper on Audio and Audiovisual Content Services and its comprehensive review of broadcasting policy and legislation. The SABC will be making a detailed submission on the paper to the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), including comments on:

- the new licensing framework for audio and audiovisual content services;
- the funding model for the SABC and mechanisms for funding the public broadcaster's unfunded public mandate;
- the proposed repeal of the controversial 'Must Carry' provisions;
- the proposed inquiry on the current share of advertising revenue for Pay TV operators and whether it is appropriate for the viability of free-to-air services;
- the consolidation of government and institutional funding mechanisms for film and television productions; and
- a range of other related broadcasting policy issues.

The SABC notes that the publication of the draft white paper has sparked an intense public debate about the SABC's current TV licence fee, how it should be defined and collected and whether it should be levied at all.

The importance of this debate for the future funding of public broadcasting cannot be overstated as a sustainable, independent and credible public broadcaster is integral to the health of our constitutional democracy.

In finalising the SABC's submission, the public broadcaster will take cognisance of the wide range of views expressed on the need for a licence fee or a public broadcasting levy. The

SABC calls on the public and all interested parties to also make their comments to the DCDT by 30 November 2020. Greater public input can only further enrich the final policy process and outcomes.

The SABC will comment further on these policy issues after the SABC's submission has been finalised internally and lodged with the DCDT at the end of November.

A link to the draft white paper can be found here, with details on how to make your submissions:

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202010/43797gon1081.pdf

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