



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC RESPONDS TO RIGHT2KNOW CAMPAIGN

Johannesburg - Thursday, 14 January 2021 - The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) would like to clarify some of the misinformation contained in the media statement issued today by the Right2Know Campaign with a title '***Stop the SABC Board's attack on democracy***'.

The SABC is committed to fulfilling its public service mandate, and the preservation and promotion of indigenous languages, through its various radio and television platforms.

The SABC fully understands that the Corporation's mandate is to keep the country's citizens informed, educated and entertained. The broadcaster is committed to serving the South African public, defending democracy and broadcasting to all, in their languages. This is an undertaking which emanates from various statutes and legislative framework, including the Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999 and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) regulations.

Language delivery on any of the SABC's broadcasting platforms is largely regulated by (ICASA), through licence conditions and local content regulations. Thus the SABC adheres to all the language obligations as prescribed by ICASA at all times.

In addition, clause 4 of the SABC's own Charter dictates that:

(4) The Corporation must encourage the development of South African expression by providing, in South African official languages, a wide range of programming that-

(a) reflects South African attitudes, opinions, ideas, values and artistic creativity;

(b) displays South African talent in education and entertainment programmes;

(c) offers a plurality of views and a variety of news, information and analysis from a South African point of view;

(d) advances the national and public interest.

The SABC is satisfied that the Section 189 process can withstand any legal scrutiny. As confirmed by the Labour Court on 2 December 2020 the SABC “properly conducted itself in the process, provided all consulting parties with sufficient information and constructively engaged with a view to reach consensus on all the consultations”.

The SABC acknowledges that the retrenchment process was difficult for all stakeholders and emotionally-charged at times. The extended process also created prolonged uncertainty. However, it was a necessary part of the SABC’s turnaround plan to reposition the public broadcaster, ensure its stability and financial sustainability and allow the SABC to execute its public mandate to serve all the people of South Africa in all our languages and across all platforms.

End

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