



ICASA - 2019



Legislation Framework



- Constitution of South Africa
 - section 32 (access to information)
- The Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999 (the “Broadcasting Act”) and the Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005 (the “eCommunications Act”)
- Electronic Communications Act 2014
 - Object of the Act 2 (g) *promote an environment of open, fair and non-discriminatory access to broadcasting services, electronic communication networks and to electronic communications services;*
 - Terms and conditions for licences 8 (o) *access to broadcasting, postal and electronic communications services for persons with disabilities that include, but are not limited to, services designed to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, such as videotext, subtitling, audio description and sign language.*
- UN Convention on the rights of persons with Disabilities
 - Article 9 – Accessibility
 - to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems

SABC and SASL Interpreters

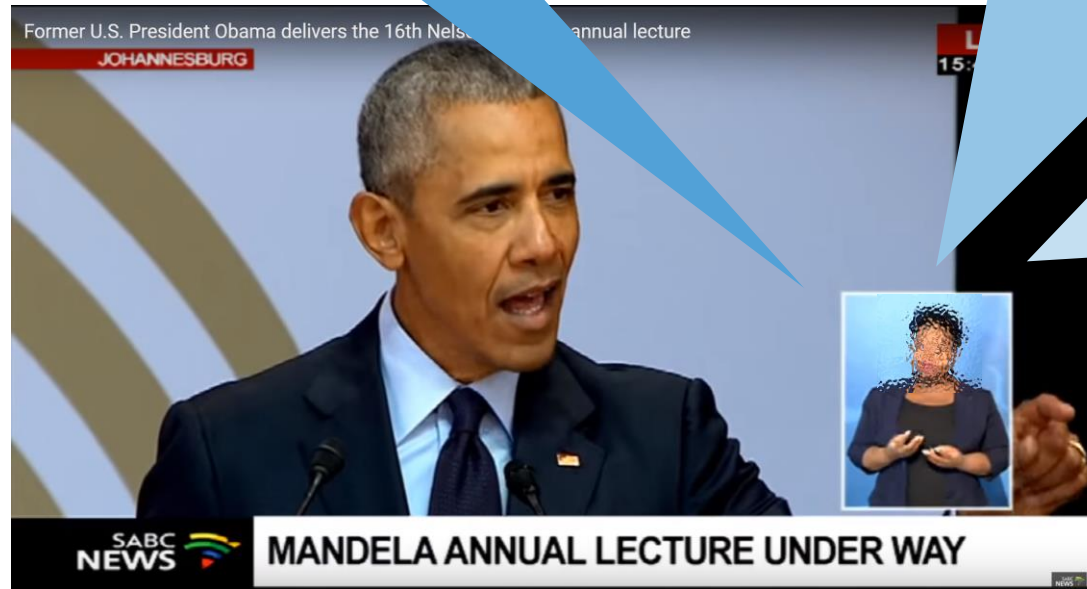


Special Events – e.g. All National Events , political debates



The monitoring and evaluation of quality service is lacking

- SASL interpreters omit information – against Code of Ethics
- Dress code is sometimes problematic



- No interpretation before and after SONA and Budget speech
- Women's day 2018 – No SASLI when President spoke

Recommendations

SASL Interpreters to sign Code of Ethics
Establish Monitor and Evaluation Mechanism
Establish a mechanism to ensure SASL interpreters are provided



Subtitles



provide a text alternative for the dialogue of video footage – the spoken words of characters, narrators and other vocal participants.



There are no SFX labels such as (PHONE RINGS) (DOOR OPENS) and in some programmes.

Assumption that the person viewing does not understand the language

Difficult to read

Closed Captions

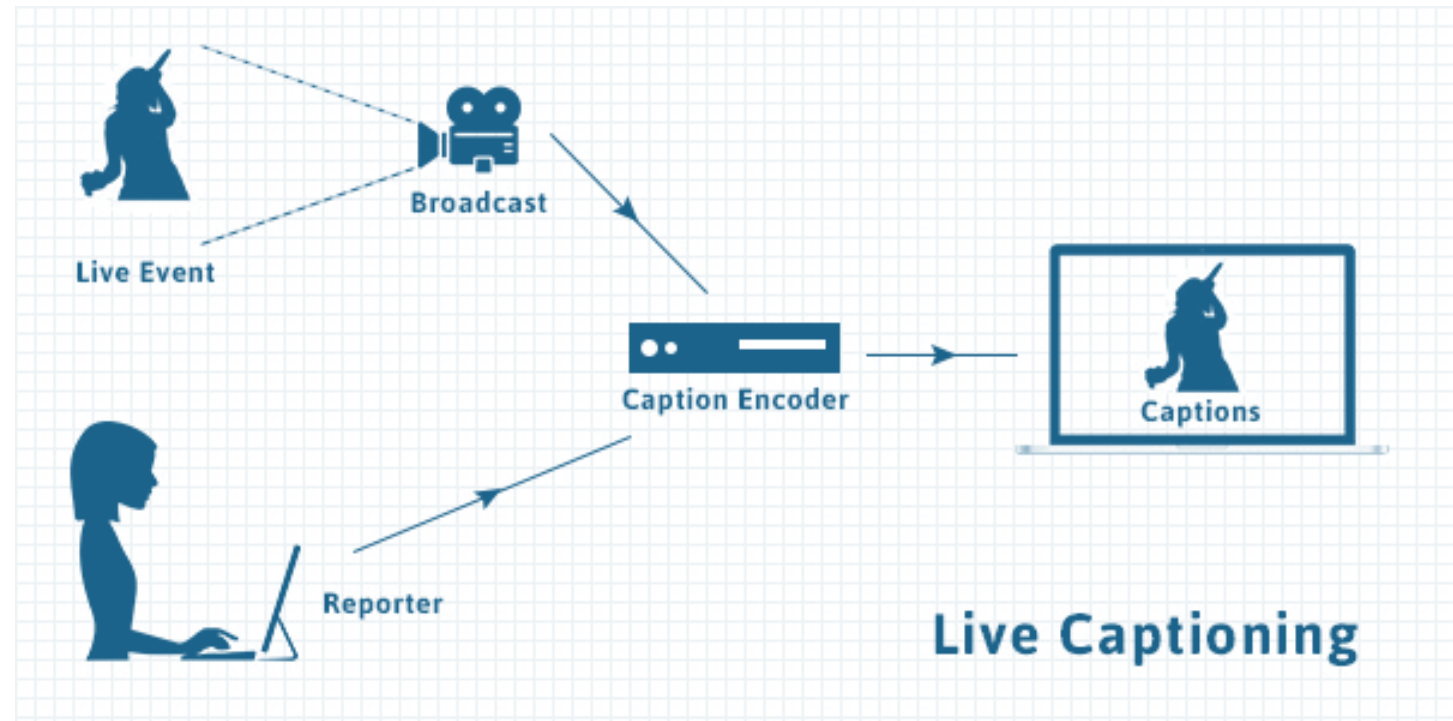


Closed Captioning

- Text version of the spoken part of programming , including non-verbal sounds, such as (" Door Creaking)
- Closed captions must be "turned on" for viewer to see them
- Synchronised as closely as possible to the sound.
- Presentation:
 - Captions should use the Tiresias Screen font for all captions.
- Pre-recorded and live captions
- Lay-out
- Non-speech information
- Synchronisation
- Speed of subtitling
- Accuracy



Live Captioning



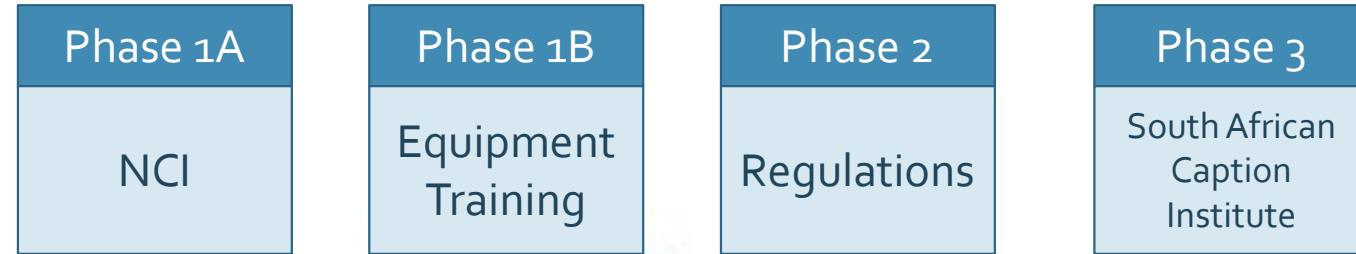
Closed Captions, on the other hand, not only supplement for dialogue but other relevant parts of the soundtrack – describing background noises, phones ringing and other audio cues that need describing.

Users of Captions



- People using access services do not fall neatly into homogenous groups.
- those using subtitles can range from those with normal hearing (using subtitles so that the television sound can be turned down),
- Hard of hearing
- Became Deaf later in Life
- Profoundly deaf.
- Some people (particularly the deafblind) may benefit from more than one access service
- Those using access services range from the very young to older people
- Significant proportion of viewers using access services are older people, as the incidence of hearing and sight loss increases with age.
- Many people with good hearing also use subtitles so that they can watch television with the sound muted (e.g. so that they can simultaneously talk on the telephone, in pubs watching the news),
- Improve literacy skills
- For the deaf, and those suffering severe hearing loss, subtitles are likely to be the most important source of audio information..

Immediate Solution



- wherever situated and irrespective of their economic conditions, are limited in their ability to participate fully in the world of auditory or visual communications.

Video Relay Service



Relay from SASL to spoken Language

- ITU published telecommunication relay service guidelines in 2018.
- ITU is now working on key performance indicators for relay services.

Recommendations



- Meeting with the SABC and to do an oversight of the entities.
- Separate Regulations for captions to be drafted
- To increase the access to programmes and that all programmes must follow the prescribed regulations for captions.
- To regulate the standard of captions in a separate guideline and not part of other guidelines
- Immediate funding to be made available for captions
- Provide SASL Interpreters on screen for all special events. E.g. New Years eve message and all special events.
- To regulate the quality of SASL interpreters – monitor and evaluation
- Licence conditions for broadcasters should specify
 - that all programmes should be captioned or real time captioning
 - All National Events and Announcements must have SASL interpreters on the screen
 - Live news bulletins - Live captioning / SASL interpreters
 - Specifications in DTT regulations must make provision for all channels to be accessible by providing subtitles
- Advertisements should be accessible
- Implement VRS – draft guidelines for South Africa (ITU)

