



IKWEKWEZI FM ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

MARCH 2025

2023/2024 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION BROADCASTING AS IKWEKWEZI FM

Licence Period: 18 December 2018 to 17 December 2028

1. PREFACE

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“Authority”) has a statutory mandate in terms of the Constitution, the Broadcasting Act,¹ the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act (ICASA Act²) and the Electronic Communications Act³ to regulate broadcasting activities in South Africa in the public interest. The Authority is tasked with ensuring compliance by broadcasters with the terms and conditions of their licences, the three Acts and any other relevant legislation and Regulations.

The purpose of the report is to give an account of Ikwewezi FM (“Licensee”)’s performance for the 2023/2024 financial year. Aspects of compliance measured comprise the geographic coverage, language(s) of broadcast, broadcast content format, local content obligations, general programming obligations, training and skills development obligations, finances, South African Music Content Regulations, Regulations regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Broadcasting Services, Regulations in respect of the Prescribed Annual Contributions of Licensees to the Universal Service and Access Fund and Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations.

2. BACKGROUND

Ikwewezi FM holds Individual Public Sound Broadcasting Service (“I-PSBS”) and Radio Frequency Spectrum (“RFS”) licences (collectively referred to as “licences”) for the provision of services to the geographical areas of Davel, Dullstroom, Johannesburg, Kwaggafontein, KwaMhlanga, Middelburg, Nylstroom, Potgietersrus and Pretoria. Ikwewezi FM forms part of the South African

¹ Broadcasting Act, 1999 (Act No. 4 of 1999)

² ICASA Act, 2000 (Act No. 13 of 2000), as amended

³ Electronic Communications Act, 2005 (Act No. 36 of 2005)

Broadcasting Corporation ("SABC") and was issued its licences on, 18 December 2018.

3. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Ownership and Control

Clause 1.1 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"Name of the Company/Entity: The South African Broadcasting Corporation."

Further, clause 1.2 of the schedule to the service licence provides that:

"Shareholders: The State: 100%."

Furthermore, clause 1.3 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"Ownership held by persons from historically disadvantaged groups: NA."

Ikwewezi FM forms part of the public service of the SABC and is 100% owned by the State.

The Licensee complies with clauses 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.2 Geographic Coverage Area

Clause 3 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The geographic coverage area is as defined in the map attached to the radio frequency spectrum licence."

According to the RFS licence, the radio station's coverage areas are: Davel, Dullstroom, Johannesburg, Kwaggafontein, KwaMhlanga, Middelburg, Nylstroom, Potgietersrus and Pretoria. The Licensee confirms that its coverage area is as defined and specified in its RFS licence.

The Licensee complies with clause 3 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.3 Broadcasting Language(s)

Clause 4 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"Principal Language: isiNdebele."

The Authority's monitoring exercise confirmed that the radio station's principal language of broadcast is isiNdebele.

The Licensee complies with clause 4 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.4 Format

Clause 5.1 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The service authorised by this licence forms part of the public service division of the Licensee."

Further, clause 5.2 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The licensed service shall be a full-spectrum service."

Ikwekwezi FM is a public radio station of the SABC and offers a full-spectrum service to its audience as outlined in its licences. This was confirmed during the Authority's monitoring exercise.

The Licensee complies with clauses 5.1 and 5.2 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.5 Local Content Obligations

Clause 6 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"In each licence year, the Licensee shall, within thirty (30) days of end of the quarter, submit to the Authority written records indicating the extent of:

6.1 different genres; and

6.2 South African Music Content, in programme material broadcast in the licensed service during that quarter, in each instance, distinguishing between genres, providing the relevant details in relation to prime time and the period between 5h00 and 23h00 daily ("the South African broadcast period"), and expressing the relevant details both as an aggregate in minutes and as a percentage of the total of all such programming material."

SABC submitted its quarterly reports for the period under review, the reports are reflective of a week's sample for each quarter.

The Licensee complies with clause 6 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.6 General programming obligations

3.6.1 General

Clause 7.1.1 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall ensure that its programming adequately reflects the diversity of South Africa's religions."

Moreover, clause 7.1.2 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall take reasonable steps to provide programming that reflects the cultural and traditional needs of its audience."

The SABC's editorial policy stipulates that:

"Religious programmes should take account of regional factors, target audiences, language and cultural preferences, and the devotional needs of specific groups." (See an extract on SABC's editorial policy attached as Appendix B).

The Authority's monitoring exercise confirmed that the Licensee caters for different cultures and religious groups. "Avulekile Amasango" which features church sermons and indigenous gospel music was identified on Sundays between 07h30 and 09h00.

Other Christian sermons and religious music programming that were identified are, "Nginomelusi" at 09h00 to 12h00 and "Thaba Nathi" at 19h05 to 21h00 on Sundays.

"Sithini IsiNdebele" is broadcast on Sundays between 18h05 and 19h00, focuses on cultural topics (customs and traditions) and includes traditional isiNdebele music. A traditional music and artists interview show "Siyatjhagala" is broadcast from 07h00 to 09h00 on Saturdays.

The Licensee complies with clauses 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 of the schedule to its service licence.

Clause 7.1.3 the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall, during the South African performance period, provide programme material that caters and has due regard for the interests of all

sectors of South African society and shall provide programming on health-related issues, gender issues relevant to all age groups."

The Authority's monitoring exercise identified a magazine programme called "Emthonjeni" previously called "Ngimi Nawe" on weekdays from 09h00 to 12h00. The programme deals with various topics catering for different sectors of society, such as fashion trends, family issues, values, entrepreneurship, socio-economic issues, women, business and health matters. During the monitoring exercise, on one of the segments Dr Dube was a guest to discuss birth defects that can affect childhood development. Living together (cohabitation) whilst still living at home with one's family and the challenges involved was another topic that was discussed.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.1.3 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.6.2 News and Current Affairs

Clause 7.2.1 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall broadcast at least sixty (60) minutes of news programming each day during the South African performance period".

The Authority's monitoring exercise confirmed that the Licensee broadcasts fifteen (15) news bulletins on weekdays from 06h00 to 21h00 and thirteen (13) news bulletins between 07h00 and 21h00 on weekends.

The duration of news bulletins is approximately five (5) minutes long which adds up to about seventy-five (75) minutes of news on weekdays and sixty-five (65) minutes of news on weekends. News bulletins are read in IsiNdebele with English sound bites. The following are some of the news items monitored during the period under review:

- *"I South African National Editor's Forum yenze isibawo kubaphatheni bezamaphathiswano enarheni le, uqinisekiswa ubhatalwa lokulungileko nokwabelana ngembalo kuhlanguana kwamaziko ahlukeneko wendaba nama digital platforms. Usihlalo we editor's forum u Sbu Ngalwa. The fair compensation to us should be based on the value that the platform derives from the content and we believe that small and local*

community media organisations should be enabled to participate and benefit from these systems.”;

- *“I Agri SA ithi isewule Afrika le ngenzeka ibhalelwe ngokuhlangabezana nokufuneka nomkhiqizo yembewu njengoba umtshisiyo urhakela phambili nokulimaza abalimi endaweni ezisetshikalanga yenarha.”;* and
- *“Umrholi we EFF u Julius Malema uthi bakulungele khulu bona ukusebenzisana nezinye intlangano zepolitiki eziqabanga njengabo ukwenzela ukutshungulula umthetho sisekelo nokuqinisekisa ukuthi iyathathwa inarha ngaphandle kwesincephezeliso.”*

The Licensee complies with clause 7.2.1 of the schedule to its service licence.

Clause 7.2.2 the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

“The Licensee shall broadcast at least sixty (60) minutes of current affairs programming each day during the South African performance period”.

The Authority’s monitoring exercise confirmed that iKwekwezi FM broadcasts three (3) current affairs programmes on weekdays, “Ezibhula Umbethe” at 05h00 to 06h00, “Sidemba Zemini” at 13h05 to 13h45 and “Zibuya Nabazumi” at 18h05 to 19h00. The Licensee broadcasts 170 minutes of current affairs per weekday. The monitoring exercise also confirmed that the Licensee broadcasts an hour-long current affairs program, “Ngezeveke Le” on Saturdays and Sundays between 06h00 and 07h00.

A wide range of topics were covered during the current affairs programmes, such as:

The manifesto launches of political parties, the Pan African Congress and the United Democratic Movement were discussed.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.2.2 of the schedule to its service licence.

Clause 7.2.3 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates as follows:

“The Licensee shall in the production of its news and current affairs programming:

- (i) *Exercise full editorial control in respect of the contents of such programming;*
- (ii) *Include matters of international, national, regional and where appropriate, local significance;*
- (iii) *Meet the highest standards of journalistic professionalism;*
- (iv) *Provide fair, unbiased, impartial and balanced coverage independent from governmental, commercial or other interference; and*
- (v) *Provide a reasonable opportunity for the public to receive a variety of points of view on matters of public concern”.*

The SABC’s editorial policy provides that the licensee must exercise full editorial control in respect of the contents of its programming. The editorial policy further indicates that the licensee endeavours to meet the highest standards of journalistic professionalism. Further, the policy provides for fair, unbiased and impartial coverage independent from government, commercial or other interference.

The Authority’s monitoring exercise confirmed that IKwekwezi FM broadcasts matters of international, national, regional and local significance. In its current affairs broadcast, the radio station provides an opportunity for the public to receive a variety of points of view from different analysts and experts on matters of public concern (See 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 above). The SABC’s Editorial Policies form part of the SABC’s Charter and monitoring of IKwekwezi FM’s news and current affairs programmes for the period under review demonstrated compliance with clause 7.2.3 of its service licence and the Charter as contained in the Broadcasting Act of 1999.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.2.3 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.6.3 Programming targeted at children

Clause 7.3.1 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

“The Licensee shall in the provision of the licensed service, broadcast at least one (1) hour of programming targeted at children (as contemplated in section 10 (1) (g) of the Broadcasting Act) per week during the South African performance period”.

Further, clause 7.3.2 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"In the production and presentation of its children's programming, the Licensee shall ensure that such children's programming is:

- (i) Broadcast at times of the day when children are available to listen;*
- (ii) Targeted at and appropriate for children between the ages of nought (0) to six (6) years and seven (7) to twelve (12) years respectively;*
- (iii) Educational and is made from children's point of view".*

The Authority's monitoring exercise determined that iKwekwezi FM broadcasts a total of twenty-five (25) minutes of programming targeted at children on Sundays from 07h05 to 07h30. "Vumelani Abentwana Beze Kimi" serves as an educational and entertainment show, where children are taught everyday life lessons in a fun way. The programme includes phoning-in where children sing, recite poems and Bible verses and open the programme with a prayer. The age group of children vary from four years to twelve years. Various topics are discussed including safety and children's rights. The Licensee also broadcasts a ten (10) minute storytelling programme "Nali Bali/Vukani" from 09h20 to 09h30 from Mondays to Fridays. The Licensee broadcasts seventy-five (75) minutes of children's programming per week.

The Licensee complies with clauses 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.6.4 Educational Programming

Clause 7.4 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates as follows:

"The Licensee shall broadcast at least five (5) hours of educational programming (as contemplated in section 10 (1) (e) of the Broadcasting Act) per week within the South African performance period".

The Authority's monitoring exercise confirmed that the Licensee broadcasts educational programmes on weekdays, "Hlala Nami" at 19h05 to 21h00 and "Sizigedlile/Azitjhe" at 21h05 to 23h00. "Sizigedlile" covers a variety of educational topics such as civic issues, commerce, health, finance and science and technology. On the segment "Science and Technology", Patrick Gabeni and Gift Lubele were guests to discuss waste management technologies and recycling.

Listeners were invited to phone in or send their questions via WhatsApp. The Licensee broadcasts over five (5) hours of educational programming per week.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.4 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.6.5 Drama

Clause 7.5 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall broadcast at least two and a half (2 ½) hours of drama per week within the South African Performance period".

The Authority's monitoring exercise confirmed that the Licensee broadcasts "Osemsamo Liphosa Emnyango" on weekdays from 11h30 – 11h45 with a repeat broadcast from 19h40 to 19h55. The Licensee broadcasts 150 minutes (two and a half (2 ½)) hours of drama per week.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.5 of the schedule its service licence.

3.6.6 Informal Knowledge-Building Programmes

Clause 7.6 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall broadcast at least three (3) hours of informal knowledge building programming per week within the South African performance period".

The monitoring exercise identified the following Informal Knowledge Building programming:

- "Sidityhile Midday Show", broadcast on weekdays from 12h05 to 15h00 is a lifestyle programme that deals with education, nation-building, current affairs, youth development and infotainment.

The Licensee broadcasts more than three (3) hours of informal knowledge-building programming per week.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.6 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.7 Training and Skills Development Obligations

Clause 8 of the schedule to the service licence stipulates that:

8.1 *"The Licensee must adopt and implement equal opportunity employment Practices".*

8.2 *"The Licensee must ensure that its management and staff are representative of South African society and that its human resource policies take into account the development of managerial, production, technical and other skills and expertise, particularly with regard to the historically disadvantaged persons".*

8.3 *"The Licensee shall endeavour to achieve fair and reasonable participation by historically disadvantaged persons with respect to:*

(a) Its management and control structures

(b) Skills development

(c) Enterprise development; and

(d) Procurement"

8.4 *"The Licensee must, within thirty (30) days of the end of each financial year, provide the Authority the written information regarding its compliance with the above requirements."*

The Licensee's commitment to a skilled and trained workforce is evident in its efforts to provide development for its employees. The SABC's Annual Skills and Development Report 2023/2024 boasts that bursaries, previously only reserved for employees identified by the Licensee's 2019/2020 Skills Audit, were now extended to all SABC employees.

In the year under review, the Licensee facilitated at least one thousand and ninety-one (1091) training interventions; in response to one thousand two hundred and seventeen (1217) training needs identified in its Workplace Skills Plan for the year ended. At least nine hundred and twenty-three (923) individuals received training, and ninety-nine percent (99%) of the training recipients were people from previously disadvantaged groups.

The Licensee continues to prioritise the employment of women and Black people. Women continue to serve in high-level positions within the Licensee and people from previously disadvantaged groups still make up the majority at an executive level.

The analysis of the Licensee's Employment Equity report shows a decline in the occupancy of Black people within the Licensee's Board of Directors for the year

under review. However, this cannot be seen as indicating a decrease in the Licensee’s efforts to maximise the presence of Historically Disadvantaged Individuals in its executive. The year ended March 2024 saw the Licensee left with around sixty six percent (66%) Black People at Executive Level, a decline of around nineteen percent (19%) from last year’s reporting.

The Licensee has already reached its 2025 Employment Equity target; currently, Historically Disadvantaged Individuals make up the majority at levels.

Table 1: SABC’s 2025 Employment Equity Targets (Control/Management Echelon) measured against the last two financial years’ progress.

Employment Category	September 2025 Target	February 2023 Actual	March 2024 Actual
Black Board of Directors with Voting Rights	50%	85.72%	66.6%
Female Board of Directors with Voting Rights	25%	33%	33.3%
Black Executive Directors (GCEO, COO, CFO)	50%	66.67%	33.3%
Black Female Executive Directors (GCEO, COO, CFO)	25%	0%	33.3%
Black Executive Managers / Senior Management	60%	88 %	74.1%
Black Female Executive Managers/Senior Management	30%	32%	38.7%
Black Middle Management	75%	83%	71.2%
Black Female Middle Management	38%	42%	36.2%
Black Junior Managers	88%	93%	81.9%

Employment Category	September 2025 Target	February 2023 Actual	March 2024 Actual
Black Female Junior Managers	44%	49%	42%
Black People with Disabilities	2%	2%	2.5%

The Licensee complies with clause 8 of the schedule to its service licence.

3.8 Provision of Audited financial statements to the Authority

Clause 9 of the schedule to service licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall provide the Authority with the audited annual financial statements of the licensed service within six (6) months of the end of the licensee's financial year, provided that the licensee may on good cause apply to the Authority for an extension".

The Licensee submitted its audited annual financial statements to the Authority within the prescribed timeframe.

The Licensee complies with clause 9 of the schedule to its service licence.

4. REGULATIONS

4.1 ICASA Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations, 2011

Ikwewezi FM is required, in terms of the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations as published in *Government Gazette* No. 34863 dated, 15 December 2011, to submit a Form 12A which reports on all complaints received during the financial year. The SABC submitted its complaints report in accordance with the Regulations regarding the Code of Conduct for Broadcasting Service Licensees.

The Licensee reported that there were no complaints received during the period under review.

The Licensee complies with the ICASA Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations.

4.2 ICASA South African Music Content Regulations, 2016

Regulation 3(1) of the ICASA South African Music Content Regulations as published in the *Government Gazette* No. 39844 on 23 March 2016 state that:

"A holder of a public sound broadcasting service licence must ensure that after eighteen (18) months from the date of gazetting of these Regulations, a minimum of 60%, increasing to 70% in the following year, of the musical works broadcast in the performance period, consist of South African and that such South African music is spread evenly throughout the performance period".

The Authority's monitoring exercise determined that the Licensee's playlist is made up of 73 to 86% South African music and identified the following local artists: Mally ft Xowla "*S'thandwa Sami*", Amanda Black "*Lila*", Lesego "*Ketshepile Wena*", Bonga Kwama ft Ntsika "*Khawuleza*", Brandon Dhludhlu ft Zama Khumalo "*Ngimtholile*", Lwah Ndlunkulu "*Eyami*" and many more. The Licensee promotes local music regularly throughout the day and broadcasts "*Siyatjhagala*", a traditional isiNdebele music programme at 07h05 to 09h00, on Saturdays.

The Licensee complies with the ICASA South African Music Content Regulations.

4.3 Regulations on Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Broadcasting Services, 2010

During the year under review, the Authority did not identify any non-compliance by Ikwewezi FM with the Regulations on Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Broadcasting Services as published in *Government Gazette* No. 33294 dated, 14 June 2010 as amended.

4.4 Universal Service and Access Fund Regulations, 2011

Regulation 3(1) of the Regulations in respect of the Prescribed Annual Contributions of Licensees to the Universal Service and Access Fund ("USAF") as published in the *Government Gazette* No. 34010 on 10 February 2011, stipulates that:

"Every holder of a licence granted in terms of Chapters 3, 4 and/or 9 or converted in terms of Chapter 15 of the Act, must pay an annual contribution of 0.2% of its Annual Turnover to the Fund".

Further, Regulation 3(2) provides that:

"A BS Licensee who has paid an annual contribution to the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) must set off that contribution against its USAF Contribution, provided that the MDDA contribution and the USAF contribution against which it is set off are for the same financial year".

The Licensee made the prescribed payment directly to the MDDA and submitted proof thereof to the Authority.

The Licensee complies with Regulations 3(1) and 3(2) of the Regulations in respect of the Prescribed Annual Contributions of Licensees to the Universal Service and Access Fund.

5. CONCLUSION

For the 2023/2024 financial year, the Licensee has fully complied with all its I-PSBS licence terms and conditions and applicable Regulations.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Appendix A: Ikwewezi FM's I-PSBS licence and RFS licence.

Appendix B: SABC's Editorial Policy.

Appendix C: SABC Employment Equity Report (2023/2024 FY);

Appendix D: SABC Annual Skills Development Report (2023/2024 FY)

Appendix E: ICASA South African Music Content Regulations, 2016;

Appendix F: Regulations on Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Broadcasting Services, 2010;

Appendix G: USAF Regulations, 2011; and

Appendix H: ICASA Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations, 2011.