



LIGWALAGWALA FM ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

MARCH 2025

2023/2024 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (SABC) BROADCASTING AS LIGWALAGWALA FM

Licence Period: 18 December 2018 - 17 December 2028

1. PREFACE

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“Authority”) has a statutory mandate in terms of the Constitution, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ICASA (“ICASA Act”)¹ the Electronic Communications Act² (“ECA”) and the Broadcasting Act³ to regulate broadcasting activities in South Africa in the public interest. One of the Authority's main tasks is to monitor broadcasters' compliance with the terms and conditions of their licence and any relevant legislation and Regulations.

The purpose of the report is to give an account of Ligwalagwala FM’s compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in its licence for the 2023/2024 financial year. Aspects of compliance that are measured comprise the Geographic Coverage, Language(s), Format, Local Content Obligations, General Programming Obligations, Training and Skills Development Obligations, Finances, Regulations on the Code on People with Disabilities, South African Music Content Regulations and Regulations regarding Standard Terms and Conditions, Regulations in respect of Prescribed Annual Contributions of Licensees to the Universal Service and Access Fund, General Licence Fees Regulations.

2. Background

Ligwalagwala FM is a public sound broadcasting service Licensee of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (“SABC”).

The radio station’s mandate is to provide a full spectrum service to the geographic areas of Mpumalanga Province.

¹ ICASA Act No. 13 of 2000, as amended

² Act No. 36 of 2005, as amended

³ Act No. 4 of 1999

3. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Ownership and Control

Clause 1.1 of the licence states as follows:

"Name of the Company/Entity: The South African Broadcasting Corporation"⁴.

Clause 1.2 of the licence states that the shareholders are as follows:

"Shareholders: The State: 100%"

Clause 1.3 of the licence stipulates that:

"Ownership held by persons from historically disadvantaged groups: N/A"

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

The Licensee complies with clauses 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of its licence.

3.2 Geographic Coverage

Clause 3 of the schedule to the licence states that:

"The geographic coverage area is as defined in the map attached to the radio frequency spectrum licence"⁵.

According to the frequency spectrum licence, the radio station covers the following areas: Carolina, Davel, Dullstroom, Hectorspruit, Hoedspruit, Lydenburg, Mbuzini, Middelburg, Nelspruit, Pretoria, Volksrust, Louwsburg, Piet Retief, Ubombo, Sabie, Tjakastad, Wakkerstroom, Chrissiesmeer, Ekulindeni, Josephsdal and Steynsdorp. The Licensee confirms that its coverage area is as defined in its frequency spectrum licence.

The Licensee complies with clause 3 of the schedule in its frequency spectrum licence.

4 Appendix A: Ligwalagwala FM's broadcasting service.

5 Appendix B: Ligwalagwala FM's frequency spectrum licence.

3.3 Language(s)

Clause 4 of the schedule to the licence stipulates that Ligwalagwala FM's language of broadcast is as follows:

"Principal Language: isiSwati".

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the radio station's principal language of broadcast is as prescribed in clause 4 of its licence terms and conditions.

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

3.4 Format

Clause 5.1 of the schedule to the licence states that:

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

Clause 5.2 stipulates that:

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

The monitoring exercise confirmed that Ligwalagwala FM is categorised as a public radio station of the SABC and offers a full-spectrum service to its audience as outlined in the licence.

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

3.5 Local Content Obligations

Clause 6 of the schedule to the licence provides that:

"The Licensee shall submit quarterly reports to the Authority which shall include the licensee's compliance measured on: Clause 6.1 different genres; and

Clause 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 relevant details both as an aggregate in minutes and as a percentage of the total of all such programming material”.

The SABC submitted its quarterly reports for the period under review. The reports reflect a week’s sample for each quarter, with the figures demonstrating a breakdown of Ligwalagwala FM’s compliance with the quotas set out by the Authority. The figures were confirmed during the Authority’s monitoring exercise from the recordings submitted by the radio station for the period under review.

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

3.6 General programming obligations

3.6.1 General

Clause 7.1.1 of the schedule to the licence provides that:

“The Licensee shall ensure that it’s programming adequately reflects the diversity of South Africa’s religions”.

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”.

Ligwalagwala FM broadcasts religious sermons every Sunday as follows:

“*Siyadumisa*” between 07h00 and 09h00 a worship insert. It was confirmed during the monitoring exercise that ministers from various denominations are invited to the studio to provide sermons.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.1.1 of the schedule of its licence.

Clause 7.1.2 of the schedule to the licence provides that:

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

Ligwalagwala FM’s target audience is primarily the isiSwati-speaking people. Monitoring of Ligwalagwala FM’s programming content confirmed that the radio station caters for the cultural and traditional interests of its audience.

"*Sidla Ngaloludzala*" is broadcast on Sundays between 19h00 and 20h00. The programme deals with the dynamics of the Swati culture. The programme monitored focused on family culture.

The discussion was about the names of children. The importance of a person's name, meaning and what parents should be aware of culturally when naming their children. Parents should then help the child to understand the meaning culturally. During this programme, listeners become active participants, in that, they phone in and pose questions and share their opinions regarding the issues.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.1.2 of the schedule of its licence.

Clause 7.1.3 of the schedule to the licence provides 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".

Ligwalagwala FM broadcasts a variety of programmes focusing on health and gender issues such as the following:

- "*Tfokomala Nami*" is a programme dealing with health issues such as drug abuse by different genders, and marital issues which are of interest to different groups of society, it is broadcast between 09h00 and 12h00. Gospel motivation and music are broadcast during the show.

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

3.7 News and Current Affairs

Clause 7.2.1 of the schedule to the licence stipulates that:

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

The quarterly reports submitted by the SABC indicate that the radio station broadcasts a maximum of ninety (90) minutes of news programming during weekdays and sixty (60) minutes on Saturdays and Sundays.

The monitoring exercise revealed that Ligwalagwala FM broadcasts news bulletins every hour at the top of the hour from 06h00 to 21h00. The bulletins are broadcast for approximately five (5) minutes. On average, a total of eighty (80) minutes is broadcast each day, during the South African performance period.

Amongst the news stories covered for the period under review were excerpts from certain broadcasts as follows:

- *"Titawuvela enkanto ka mantji eManzini namuhla letemelana tetimbili etiboshwe eveni lase Swatini ngokubulawa kuka Keenan Forbs lowathiwa kakhulu ngelika AKA. Lowabulawa nomgani wakhe uTibelo Tebz Mshwane e Thekwini lonyaka lo ophelile. Labasolwa baka Ndimande uSiyabonga na Melusi baboshwe ke elokishini elisedudze naseSwatini i Mbabane ema vikini andlulile. Kwenzeka ngemva kokuthi amapoyisa akhiphe sixwayiso ngabo. Basolwa babukwane necala loku bulala, nokutama ukubulala nokubopha fido lokubulala ."*
- *"Judge Ratha Mokgoatlheng unqume kuthi itatimende toku va kwama cala letiwenziwe yimi solwa wokuqala nowesibili kuleli cala loku bulawa kuka Senzo Meyiwa battended ngokwabo leto titatimendi ngaphandle koku celwa noku satsisw. Nale Kwenda ukuthi inkantolo tisebentiseke njengobu fakazi lethi titatimende. Judge Mokgoatlheng ifike nesincumo kuleli cala tekwa eli tekiswa ke ama dodas esihlanu e nkantolo e phakeme e Pitoli. Meyiwa wadutsulwa wabulawa nge nyanga yembala ngoyanka ka 2014 e Vosloorus khabo sigoni sakhe Kelly Khumalo "; and*
- *"Umtimba nalo ongamele imincele uthi kuvamile ukuthi kusetsenziswe ithuthi tomphakathi ukugeniswa kwabantu abagena kulelive ngokungena mthethweni eminceleni. Lomtimba uthi laba bantu akwendayo lokhu bata komba muti oneswala. Komishani walomthimba dokotela Micheal Masiapato uxwayise abantu lebe hambayo ukuthi bakugweme uku thinteka kule tinto teti ngekho emthethweni ngalampela sonto yeli pasika. Njengoba nabo bashubisa imi kankaso yabo. "*

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

Clause 7.2.2 of the schedule to the licence provides that:

"The Licensee shall broadcast at least sixty (60) minutes of current affairs programming each day during the South African Performance Period".

The quarterly reports submitted indicate that Ligwalagwala FM broadcasts one hundred and forty-four (144) minutes of current affairs programming on weekdays; and sixty (60) minutes on Saturdays and Sundays during the South African performance period.

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the radio station broadcasts Current Affairs programmes as follows:

- *"Tiphuma Imphunga"* broadcast Mondays to Fridays between 05h30 and 06h30.
- *"Letiphuma Embiteni"* broadcast Mondays to Fridays between 18h00 and 19h00.
- *"Telive Atipheli"* broadcast on Saturdays and Sundays between 06h00 and 07h00.

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

Clause 7.2.3 of the schedule to the licence provides that:

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

- (i) Exercise full editorial control with respect to 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 is required, in terms of section 6 of the Broadcasting Act (as amended), to develop editorial policies that are intended to ensure compliance with the Authority's Code of Conduct, the Corporation's licence conditions and the provisions of the ECA.

The monitoring exercise confirmed that Ligwalagwala 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. The SABC's Editorial Policies form part of the SABC's Charter, and monitoring of Ligwalagwala FM's news and current affairs programmes for the period under review revealed that Ligwalagwala FM complies with clause 7.2.3 of its licence and the Charter as contained in the Broadcasting Act No.4 of 1999.

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

3.8 Programming Targeted at Children

Clause 7.3.1 of the schedule to the 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".

The monitoring exercise confirmed that Ligwalagwala FM broadcasts one (1) hour of programming per day targeted at children during the South African performance period.

The following broadcast programme focusing on children was monitored:

- Nalibali on weekdays and Teen Zone on Saturdays between 09h00 and 10h00.
Sunday school on Sundays between 07h00 and 09h00.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.3.1 of the schedule of its licence.

Clause 7.3.2 of the schedule to the 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; and*
- (iii) Educational and is made from children's point of view".*

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the radio station broadcasts children's programmes at the time of the day when children are available, and the programming is made from the children's point of view.

The following programmes were monitored for the period under review:

- "Nibali - Vukani" broadcast on Wednesday between 09h30 and 09h40 targets children between zero to six (6) years of age. The programme aims at entertaining and educating children on a topic and they are invited to read the story.
- "Side by Side" Wednesday between 09h50 and 10h00, this programme is aimed to help parents with childcare, health and education. During the show, an expert is invited for a discussion and to answer questions from parents. The programme targets children between zero to six (6) years of age and their parents.
- "State Your Mind" and "Teenzone" broadcast between 09h00 and 10h00 on Saturday. This programme targets children from (7) to twelve (12) years old and teenagers. The programme is presented by a teenager.

The programme monitored focused on "safety of children at school". The expert who was invited to the show explained that the lack of discipline from home is part of the results of the children misbehaving at school as well as the growing numbers of bullying that takes place in school leaving vulnerable students feeling unsafe. The teacher being interviewed urged parents to get involved in trying to make schools safe for learners.

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

3.9 Educational Programming

Clause 7.4 of the schedule to the licence provides that:

"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 monitoring exercise confirmed that Ligwalagwala FM broadcasts educational programmes as follows:

- "Sakha Sive" broadcast between 19h00 and 21h00 on weekdays during the performance period.

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

3.10 Local Drama

Clause 7.5 of the schedule to licence stipulates that:

"The Licensee shall broadcast at least two and a half (2½) hours of drama per week within the South African Performance period".

The monitoring exercise identified a drama programme as follows:

- "Ngaluthota lolumandi" broadcast on weekdays between 11h15 and 11h30 in the morning and in the evenings between 19h15 and 19h30.

In total, one hundred and fifty minutes (2 hours, 30 minutes) of drama programming per week was broadcast.

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

3.11 Informal Knowledge Building

Clause 7.6 of the schedule to the 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".

During the period under review, the monitoring exercise confirmed that Ligwalagwala FM broadcast Informal knowledge-building programmes.

The Informal knowledge-building programmes monitored are as follows:

- "Asikhuleni" broadcast on weekdays between 9h25 and 10h00.
- "State Your Mind" broadcast between 09h00 and 10h00 on Saturday.

- “*Tfokomala Nami*” broadcast weekdays 11h00-12h00
- “*Teen Zone*” broadcast between 09h00 and 10h00 on Saturday.
- “*SABC Education*” broadcast from Monday to Wednesday between 17h30 and 18h00.

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

3.12 Training and Skills Development Obligations

Clause 8 of the schedule to the SABC’s licence stipulates that:

- 8.1 *The Licensee must adopt and implement equal-opportunity employment Practice.*
- 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 brags that bursaries – which were 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%) of Black People at the Executive Level, a decline of around nineteen percent (19%) from last year’s reporting.

The Licensee has already reached its 2025 Employment Equity target and 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%

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

The SABC complied with its training and skills development obligations per the licence.

3.13 Audited financial statements

Clause 9 of the schedule to Ligwalagwala FM’s licence stipulates that:

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

The Licensee submitted its Audited Financial Statements for the 2023/2024 financial year within the stipulated timeframe.

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

4. REGULATIONS

4.1 Complaints Received

The Licensee is required, in terms of the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations, to submit a Form 12A⁶ which reports on all complaints received during the financial year under review. The SABC submitted its complaints report in accordance with the Regulations regarding the Code of Conduct for Broadcasting Service Licensees.

The Licensee subscribes to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa (SABCC) and all complaints related to the Code of Conduct directed at the Licensee, are forwarded to the commission except for complaints related to licence conditions and other relevant legislations.

For the year under review, the Authority and the BCCSA did not receive any complaint against the radio station from the public on non-compliance.

The Licensee complies with the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations.

4.2 South African Music Content Regulations

On 23 March 2016, the Authority published the ICASA South African Music Content Regulations.

Regulation 3 (1) of the South African Music Content⁷ as published on 23 March 2016 stipulates 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 music and that South African music is spread evenly throughout the performance period."

The monitoring conducted by the Authority confirmed that Ligwalagwala FM broadcasts at least 70% of South African music.

The Licensee complies with the regulations on South African Music Content.

⁶ SABC Form 12A

⁷ ICASA South African Music Content Regulations, 2016 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 39844 dated, 23 March 2016.

4.4 Regulations regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Broadcasting Licences

During the period under review, the Authority is satisfied that the Licensee did not contravene the Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Licences.

The Licensee complies with the Standard Terms and Conditions of Licences Regulations.

4.5 Universal Service and Access Fund Regulations

Regulation 3 of the USAF Regulations provides that:

- (1) *"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".*
- (2) *"A BS licensee who has paid an annual contribution to the 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 USAF Regulations.

4.6 General Licence Fees Regulations

Regulation 4(b) of General Licence Fees Regulations provides for the exemption of Individual Licenses for Public Broadcasting Services.

Ligwalagwala FM is part of the SABC's Public Broadcasting Services and is therefore exempt from paying licence fees.

5. CONCLUSION

Ligwalagwala FM has complied with all licence terms and conditions and applicable Regulations.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 6.1 Appendix A: Ligwalagwala FM's broadcasting service
- 6.2 Appendix B: Ligwalagwala FM's frequency spectrum licence
- 6.3 Appendix C: The Religious section as contained in the SABC's Editorial Policy
- 6.4 Appendix D: SABC's Training and Skills Development Report.
- 6.5 Appendix F: South African Music Content Regulations
- 6.6 Appendix G: Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions
- 6.7 Appendix H: Proof of payment- USAF
- 6.8 Appendix I: General Licence Fees Regulations.

END