



Independent Communications Authority of South Africa
350 Witch-Hazel Avenue,
Eco Park, Centurion.
By email: Covid19regulations@icasa.org.za

7 May 2021

Review of the ICT COVID-19 National Disaster Regulations

Dear Mr Moshweunyane,

1. The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) notes that the ICT COVID19 National Disaster Regulations (Regulations) are currently under review and stakeholders have been given until 7 May to submit their input.
2. The broadcasting sector has been tremendously impacted by the COVID19 pandemic and the regulatory relief provided by the Regulations has to some degree mitigated the effect of the pandemic on our members' services. Broadcasters have consistently supported governments' public awareness efforts and have ensured timeous dissemination of information at this critical time despite a significant decline in revenue. They have also responded timeously to ICASA's requests for information during this period and responded to various requests on providing additional educational programming in support of the Department of Basic Education. Furthermore, broadcasters continued to invest in local content development within the prescribed health and safety protocols once the lockdown restrictions were eased. It is fair to say that broadcasters have extended themselves in the national public interest.

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The NAB is a voluntary industry association funded by its members





3. The NAB therefore supports the continued implementation of the Regulations in their current form for the duration of national state of disaster. We have noted that a few of our members have engaged ICASA regarding interference they have experienced as a result of the temporary assignment of radio frequency spectrum, we trust that ICASA will manage these unintended consequences in line with the objects of the Electronic Communications Act, 2005 which include ensuring network reliability.
4. In conclusion, we thank ICASA for the constructive engagements with broadcasting service licensees during this challenging period.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the printed name and title.

Nadia Bulbulia
Executive Director