



TALK RADIO 702 COMPLIANCE REPORT

MARCH 2025

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2023/24 BROADCASTING COMPLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT

PRIMEDIA HOLDINGS (Pty) Ltd BROADCASTING AS TALK RADIO 702

LICENCE PERIOD: 17 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 Act¹ (ICASA Act) and the Electronic Communications Act² (“ECA”) to regulate broadcasting activities in South Africa in the public interest. One of the main tasks of the Authority is to ensure 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 Talk Radio 702’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 Geographic Coverage, Broadcasting Languages, Format, General Programming Obligations, Training and Skills Development, Community-Related Obligations, Ownership and Control, South African Music Regulations, Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions and Universal Service and Access Fund (USAF) Regulations.

2. BACKGROUND

In December 2018, the Authority issued Primedia (Licensee) with an Individual Commercial Sound Broadcasting Service licence and a Radio Frequency Spectrum licence³ in terms of the EC Act.

The Licensee broadcasts as Talk Radio 702 and provides a service in the Gauteng province. The radio station is broadcasting from the studios situated at 5 Gwen Lane, Sandown, Sandton. The signal distribution service is conducted by Sentech (Pty) Ltd.

¹ The ICASA Act No, 13 of 2000.

² Act No, 36 of 2005.

³ Talk 702 Broadcasting Service and Radio Frequency licence.

3. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1. Control Structure

3.1.1. Ownership and Control

Clause 1 of Talk Radio 702's licence provides that:

"The licence is issued to:

1.1 Name of Company/Entity: Primedia (Pty) Ltd

1.2 Shareholders: Primedia Holdings III Limited

1.3 Ownership held by persons from historically disadvantaged groups: 49.1%"

During the period under review, there were no changes reported by the Licensee the entity's name, shareholding and HDG structure.

The Licensee complies with clause 1 of its licence.

3.2. Name of Station

Clause 1 of the schedule to the licence provides that:

"Name of Station: Talk Radio 702".

There were no changes reported by the Licensee to its name during the period under review.

The Licensee complies with clause 1 of the schedule of its licence.

3.3. Geographic Coverage Area

Clause 2 of Talk Radio 702 frequency spectrum licence provides that Talk Radio 702's geographic coverage is as follows:

"Gauteng, as defined in the coverage map attached to the Licensee's radio frequency spectrum licence".

The Authority did not receive reports and or complaints alleging that the Licensee broadcasts outside the defined coverage area.

The Licensee complies with clause 2 of the schedule to its licence.

3.6 **Broadcast Language**

Clause 3 of the licence provides that the language of broadcast shall be:

"Principal Language: English".

Talk Radio 702 broadcasts its programmes in English as its primary language.

The Licensee complies with clause 3 of its licence.

3.7 **Format**

Clause 4 of the licence provides that the Licensee is:

"A talk-based service with a maximum of fifteen percent (15%) music programming".

The Authority's monitoring exercise revealed that the Licensee's music does not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of its programme content.

The Licensee complies with clause 4 of its licence.

3.8 **General Programming Obligations**

Clause 5.1 of the licence provides that:

"Should the Licensee source its news material from a source other than itself the source(s) thereof shall be disclosed during the news broadcast".

The monitoring exercise revealed that most of Talk Radio 702 news bulletins are sourced from Eyewitness News, a subsidiary of Primedia (Pty) Ltd. The Licensee submits that where it reports on news from elsewhere other than from their journalists and sources, the Licensee confirms that it discloses those sources.

The Licensee complies with clause 5.1 of its licence.

Clause 5.2 of the schedule to Talk Radio 702's licence provides that:

"The Licensee shall broadcast news every hour daily".

The monitoring exercise revealed that Talk Radio 702 broadcasts news at the top of every hour during the performance period, daily. Each news bulletin lasts for

approximately five (5) minutes. The following were among the news excerpts heard during the period under review:

- *The Durban High Court will hear a legal dispute, initiated by the African National Congress (ANC) against the uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK), for using the former military wing's symbols. The new party led by former president Jacob Zuma, the party comprises former MK soldiers, as well as members of the MK Veterans Association. The ANC contends it's inappropriate for the MK Party to use the MK logo and emblem because it's associated with the ANC's armed wing during apartheid.*
- *Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa says there are currently no signs suggesting South Africans will be plunged into darkness this winter. For years, households across the country were forced to endure high stages of load shedding as temperatures dropped and power demand increased. With more than a hundred days of load shedding now having come and gone, Ramokgopa gave an update on the grid on Monday, as severe weather hits large parts of the country.*
- *DA Federal Chair Hellen Zille says the party stands by the ad showing a burning South African flag. The ad shows the flag being burnt while the voiceover tells viewers, 'This election is about survival'. The ad has received over three million views in just 35 hours. President Cyril Ramaphosa and others are outraged over how the DA uses the South African flag in its election campaign.*

The Licensee complies with clause 5.2 of the schedule of its licence.

3.9 Training and Skills Development Obligations

Clause 6 of the licence provides that:

"The Licensee shall over its licence period, allocate R400 000.00 (four hundred thousand Rand) per annum toward staff training with particular emphasis on women and Blacks".

The Licensee submits that R R2 265 983.48 (two million two hundred sixty-five thousand nine hundred eighty-three rand forty-eight cents) on staff training and R2 058 051.08 (two million fifty-eight thousand fifty-one rand eight cents) went towards training staff from historically disadvantaged individuals (HDI's).

The Licensee complies with clause 6.1 of its licence.

3.10 Community-related Obligations

Clause 7.1 provides that:

"The Licensee shall:

7.1.1 raise at least R250 000 (two hundred and fifty thousand Rand) in cash and goods annually".

The Licensee submits that R275 000 (two hundred seventy-five thousand rand). The goods and cash were raised to assist causes which support the youth, homeless women and children as well as the deaf.

Below is a table that reflects the licensee's performance in relation to clause 7.1.1 of the schedule to its licence.

Table 3: Fundraising for Charity

Charity	Execution	Amount
Norma's Daycare Centre	On 11 July 2023 as we got closer and closer to Mandela Day the breakfast show identified an old age daycare centre that is doing incredible work for the elderly—Norma's Daycare Centre which is situated in Pretoria and takes care of over 130 elderly folks. The NPO care centre which was founded in 2006 is run under the Department of Social Development and operates from two centres in Ga-Rankuwa. The Centre's Caretaker and nurse Sister Margaret Sefolo spoke candidly about some of the challenges the centre faces and its most pressing needs such as beds, mattresses, proper roofing and food supplies. Following the interview the day care centre received new beds, new mattresses, new roofing and painting, food, as well as assistance with plumbing.	Donation value: R80,000.00

Charity	Execution	Amount
Sipho (pseudonym)	On 26 September 2023 a listener called the Clement Manyathela show and shared his unfortunate encounter with the Gauteng Crime Prevention wardens' during which he sustained injuries. After the call, the station was contacted by the Urology Hospital at Hatfield which offered Sipho a surgery and the R30,000.00 cost would be waived.	Donation value: R30,000.00
SASSA recipients	In September 2023 after broadcasts regarding non-payment of SASSA old age pension and grant recipient, listeners donated R5,000.00 and R10,000.00 respectively after a SASSA pension fund recipient and a SASSA grant called in to express their challenges in light of the non-payments by SASSA.	Donation value: R15,000.00
Home of Hope for Girls	In December 2023 as part of the Truck of love initiative with Spar, groceries to the value of R30,000.00 were donated.	R30,000.00
Angels Baby Sanctuary	In December 2023 as part of the Truck of love initiative with Spar, groceries to the value of R30,000.00 were donated.	R30,000.00
Ithemba Recovery Foundation	In December 2023 as part of the Truck of love initiative with Spar, groceries to the value of R30 000 were donated.	R30,000.00
The Itlhokomeleng Association for the Aged & Disabled	In December 2023 as part of the Truck of love initiative with Spar, groceries to the value of R30 000 were donated.	R30,000.00
Leamogetswe Safety Home	In December 2023 as part of the Truck of love initiative with Spar,	R30,000.00

Charity	Execution	Amount
	groceries to the value of R30.000.00 were donated.	
	Total donation value	R275 000

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

7.1.2 provide airtime worth R250 000 (two hundred and fifty thousand Rand) annually, towards supporting community organisations such as those benefiting:

- a) people infected or affected by HIV & AIDS:
- b) the terminally ill and/or the elderly:
- c) schools;
- d) women;
- e) children;
- f) animal welfare; and or
- g) natural/environmental disasters such as fires and floods”.

The Licensee submits that for the period under review, it provided to the value of R R980,450.00 (nine hundred eighty thousand four hundred fifty rand). The table below shows the detailed breakdown of the value in airtime and the beneficiary community organisations.

Table 4: Fundraising for Charity - Community organizations

No.	Community Organisation	Value
1.	Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue and Rehabilitation	R29.270.00
2.	Afrika Tikkun	R67.665.00
3.	Angels Baby Sanctuary	R56.925.00
4.	Breadline Africa NPC	R50.900.00
5.	Carel Du Toit Centre	R29.270.00
6.	Choc Childhood Cancer Foundation SA	R29.270.00
7.	Ebenezer Psychiatric Home	R29.270.00
8.	Gift A Child	R29.270.00
9.	Impactful Initiatives	R29.270.00
10.	Khusela Public Safety NPC	R29.270.00
11.	Ladles of Love	R121.010.00
12.	Little Eden	R34.895.00
13.	Nicarela Charity	R46.800.00
14.	Pass It On Training Centre	R29.270.00
15.	Prostate Cancer Foundation	R31.115.00
16.	RADA Inspirational Centre	R29.270.00
17.	Rare Diseases South Africa NPC	R29.270.00
18.	Reach for a Dream	R58.540.00

No.	Community Organisation	Value
19.	South African Guide-Dogs Association for the Blind	R29.270.00
20.	Tears of Foundation	R29.270.00
21.	The Association of Palliative Care Centres	R29.270.00
22.	The Johannesburg Parent and Child Counselling Centre	R29.275.00
23.	The Rotary Club of Riverside	R44.580.00
24.	The Society For Animals In Distress (NPO)	R28.965.00
25.	Wings For Life	R29.270.00
	Grand Total	R980 450 00

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

Clause 7.2 of the licence provides that:

"The Licensee shall train staff from community sound broadcasting services in its geographic coverage area in the areas of: programme presenting and production, news, sales, marketing and sound engineering through mentoring and on-the-job training that is, having such staff "shadow" Radio 702 presenters, producers, news reporters, sales representatives, marketing staff and sound engineers while at work".

The Licensee submits that it hosted a Community Radio Conference wherein presenters engaged the community broadcasters which focused on *inter alia* future proofing of radio news in the era of digital content, building a sustainable community media and the importance of support as well as tips for leading with purpose and passion whilst getting results. The conference was attended by representatives from Alex FM, UJ FM, TUT FM, Radio Veritas and Voice of Wits.

Furthermore, the licensee hosted a job shadowing programme which focused on programme presenting and production, news, sales, marketing and sound engineering.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.2 of the schedule of its licence.

4. REGULATIONS

4.1 Complaints

The Licensee is required, in terms of the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations⁴, to submit a Form 12A which reports on all complaints received during the period under review.

The Licensee is a member of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). Complaints related to the code of conduct are administered by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa (BCCSA).

The Licensee has not reported having any complaints for the period under review.

The Licensee complies with the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations.

4.2 SA Music Content Regulations

The Authority on 23 March 2016 published ICASA South African Music Contents Regulations⁵ which repealed ICASA South African Music Content regulations published on 31 January 2006. The regulations were to be effective eighteen (18) months after publication i.e. 23 September 2017 which falls within the period under review. The quotas were revised from 25% to 35% for commercial sound broadcasting services.

Regulation 3 (2) of the ICASA South African Music Contents Regulations stipulates that:

"Every holder of a commercial sound broadcasting licence must ensure that after eighteen (18) months from the date of gazetting of these Regulations, a minimum of 35% of the musical works broadcast in the performance period consist of South African music and that such South African music is spread reasonably evenly throughout the said period".

During the year under review, the monitoring exercise revealed that Talk Radio 702 carries not more than 15% (fifteen percent) of music spread reasonably evenly throughout the Performance Period.

The Licensee complies with regulation 3.2 above.

⁴ ICASA Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations, 2011 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 34863 dated, 15 December 2011.

⁵ ICASA South African Music Content Regulations, 2016 as published in *Government Gazette* No.39844 dated, 23 March 2016

4.3 **Standard Terms and Conditions Regulations**

During the year under review, there were no instances of non-compliance by the Licensee with the Regulations regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Licences⁶.

The Licensee complies with the above Regulations.

4.4 **Regulations in respect of the Prescribed Annual Contributions of Licensees to the Universal Service and Access Fund**

Regulation 3 (1) of the Regulations in respect of Prescribed Annual Contributions of Licensees to the Universal Service and Access Fund (USAF)⁷, as published in the Government Gazette, No. 31499 of April 2009, stipulates that:

"Every holder of a Licence granted in terms of Chapter 3 or converted in terms of chapter 15 of the Act, must pay an annual contribution of 0.2% of the annual turnover, derived from the licensee's licence activity to the Fund (the Fund)".

Further, Regulation 3 (3) stipulates that:

"A broadcasting service licensee who has paid an annual contribution to the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) must set off that contribution against its prescribed annual contribution to the Fund"

Talk Radio 702 's financial year ends on, 30 June. The Licensee's evidence demonstrates that the payment was made to the MDDA in December 2023.

The Licensee complies with the above regulations.

⁶ Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Licences Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual & Electronic Communications Network Services, 2010 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 33296 dated, 14 June 2010, as amended.

⁷ USAF Regulations, 2011 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 34010 dated, 10 February 2011.

4.5 **General Licence Fees Regulations**

Regulation 3 (1) of the General Licence Fees Regulations⁸ provides that:

“The annual Licence fees prescribed in these regulations and as set out in schedule 2 apply to holders of individual and class ECS Licences, individual and class ECNS Licences and individual commercial Broadcasting Licences”.

Schedule 2 of the Annual Licences Fees regulations provides for Licensees to pay an annual licence fee in accordance with their licensed revenue and to be calculated using the set formula, read with the applicable percentages.

Regulation 7(a), 7(b) and 7(c) of Schedule 3 provides that:

- a) Are due annually based on the licensee financial year;*
- b) Are due and payable within 6 months from the end of the licensee’s financial year;*
- c) May only be paid by way of an electronic transfer or via direct deposit into the Authority’s bank account”.*

Talk 702’s financial year ends on 30 June. The Licensee paid its licence fees in January 2024 and submitted proof of payment⁹ thereof as per the Regulations.

The Licensee complies with the above regulations.

5. **CONCLUSION**

The Licensee has fully complied with its licence terms and conditions, for the period under review.

⁸ General Licence Fees Regulations, 2012 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 36323 dated, 28 March 2013, as amended.

⁹ Proof Licence Fees Payment for Talk 702 2023-2024

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Annexure A: Talk Radio 702's Broadcasting Service and Spectrum Licences.

Annexure B: ICASA Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations

Annexure C: ICASA South African Music Content Regulations.

Annexure D: Regulations on Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual
Broadcasting & Individual Electronic Communications Services.

Annexure E: USAF Regulations 2011.

Annexure F: ICASA South African Music Content Regulations.

Annexure G: Proof of payment for Talk Radio 702's Licence Fee and Contribution to
USAF.