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Lakeside Proper, Evaton, Sebokeng

Question 1

Is there a need for the introduction of DSB technologies in South Africa?

Answer: yes, it will be much easier to use compared to the current analogue technology meaning it will be much user friendly to the visually impaired society.

- **Since digital signals are more robust , compressed than the current analogue and can be transmitted successfully at lower transmitter powers they will create the availability of frequencies for Community Radio Stations on the freed-up spectrum to give our citizens more platforms for debate, news and entertainment. There's still a need for more Community Radio stations but without the DSB technology being implemented, freedom of expression is being limited and our constitution compromised/violated.**
- **Digital radio is much easier to use and it will create easier access and availability of internet radio**

Question 2

Do you think the list of technical standards to which the DSB equipment must conform are exhaustive?

Answer: No, they will be complimenting the current rather than replacing the current technical standards and they are falling under the same Type Approval Framework that prescribes the national standards for the performance and operation of equipment and electronic communications facilities, including radio equipment

Question 3

In the absence of a policy directive for providing standard for DSB, should the authority provide licences for other DSB technologies?

Answer: Yes, there's no way this country can diversify media without allowing other DSB technologies to exist. This is not good for the country but the best decision to take.

Question 4

South Africa through its international agreements at ITU and SADC level agreed on DAB+ and DRM systems. Please indicate which other digital sound broadcasting technologies if any should be considered for South Africa?

Answer: RAVIS system because it's advanced technology and quality while boosting our SMME's, creating employment and skills transfer because it bring the following three factors:

- 1. Mass replacement of old analogue receivers.**
- 2. Upgrade of transmitters.**
- 3. General growth of the market potential.**

Question 5

To use the spectrum efficiently, the digital sound broadcasting network can be planned on a single frequency network. Do you think it would be applicable for purposes of digital sound broadcasting?

Answer: yes, just like the DSB trials have vividly indicated on the first trial with the SABC using a single frequency in a SFN configuration, covering the majority of the Gauteng province the end-to-end technical functionality and other successes were achieved. This will make a possibility of Provincial Radio Stations.

Question 6

6.1 Should the Authority consider one or more mux operator (s) for DSB?

6.2 Would you propose a total switch-off of the traditional analogue AM and FM sound broadcasting?

Answer: 6.1- Yes for Economic reasons and for Media diversification

6.2- Yes, the total switch-off is a must so that technically there won't be any future clash of spectrum between the DSB technology and the Analog or any complications. Moreover, for Global Change reasons this will assist

Question 7

Should the authority adopt the strategy used in other international markets of licensing DSB services in the primary Markets first and then a nationwide roll-out?

Answer: yes because there's still a huge demand of new allocations for frequencies that are necessary. If the authority does not adopt strategies used by other international markets it might not have active regulations to accommodate new frequencies and also have lots of challenges in implementing and sustaining the DSB services.

Question 8

Can the current sound broadcasting market afford new DSB licensees in Community, Commercial and Public Service?

Answer: yes, especially if the governments can subsidize community stations and support them also with advertising. The community broadcaster can benefit and sustain itself also through subscribers but the prices must be reasonable because the majority of our people are still struggling from unemployment, low salaries, debts, and businesses are struggling to even pay for adverts on radios.

I focus mostly on community radios because they play a very important role in our communities since they are very close to the people and talk to them directly. I'm also in the process of starting one for my community and I believe the DSB technology will make it possible to achieve my goal.