



VISION FM ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

MARCH 2025

2023/2024 BROADCASTING COMPLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT

DON'T BLAME GOD MINISTRIES NPC TRADING AS VISION FM

LICENCE PERIOD: 03 August 2019 to 02 August 2024

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"), 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 compliance by broadcasters with the terms and conditions of their licence, and any relevant legislation and regulations.

The report is intended to give an account of Don't Blame God Ministries NPC'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 Licence Area, Programming, Local Content Regulations, Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions and Code of Conduct.

2. BACKGROUND

Don't Blame God Ministries NPC broadcasting as Vision FM is a class sound broadcasting service licensee broadcasting to Mopani District and surrounding areas in the Limpopo Province as set out in the Licensee's radio frequency spectrum licence. The radio station has for the period under review submitted a renewal notice in accordance with the applicable Regulations.

¹ Act No. 13 of 2000, as amended.

² Act No. 36 of 2005.

3. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Licence Period³

Clause 2 of the service licence stipulates the licence period

"The effective date of the Licence is 23 May 2019 until 22 May 2024"

The Licensee did, for the period under review submit their renewal notice in accordance with the applicable timeliness stipulated in the Act and applicable regulation. The Licence was renewed and issued for seven (7) years as per Regulation 4 (1) of the Amendment Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licenses, 2021.

3.2 Geographic Coverage Area

Clause 3 of the service licence stipulates that:

The Licensee shall provide services to Mopani District area in Limpopo Province as set out in the Licensee's radio frequency spectrum licence".

The Licensee provides community broadcasting services as per their spectrum licence. The Licensee has been granted four (4) frequencies within the Mopani District to ensure that they are able to cover the licensed area, with transmission sites in Mamphakathi, Giyani, Phalaborwa and Maruleng.

The Licensee complies with its geographic coverage area.

3.3. Community

Clause 4.2 of the schedule to the service licence of Vision FM provides that:

"The Licensee shall provide for the participation of community members in the affairs of the station in the following ways:

³ Broadcasting Service Licence.

4.2.1 *The Licensee shall hold at least two (2) meetings annually with its community focusing on programming and programming related matters for the selection and provision of programmes;*

4.2.2 *The Licensee shall furnish the Authority with proof of such meetings as well the attendance thereof by members of the community;*

The Licensee submitted two community programming meetings for 08 April 2023 and 12 November 2023, respectively. The minutes of the meetings reflect that discussions were focused on the programming review of the station, with matters of focus being on proposals for news programmes and/or formats, how to handle the changes when it comes to news shows and presenters, the participation of listeners in the programmes, the music on the station amongst others.

Furthermore, inputs on the news contents and the balance thereof in terms of local and national news of interest and language usage on the news reports and general programming⁴.

The Licensee complies with their community programming committee obligations.

4.2.3 *The Licensee shall hold Annual General Meetings (AGM) for the following purposes:*

4.2.3.1 *To provide feedback on the Licensee’s compliance with licence conditions,*

4.2.3.2 *To provide feedback on the Licensee’s operational and financial performance, and any Special Annual General Meeting as and when required by the constitution; and*

4.2.3.3 *To elect members of the controlling structure, e.g. Board of Directors, Trustees etc. subject to the Licensee’s founding documents”.*

The Licensee submits that it held its AGM on 24 February 2024, with minutes and attendance register being attached. The meeting reflects that reports on the operations of the radio station were presented, which included the process for licence renewal to ICASA, changes to the programmes for 2025, labour-related matters and the structure of the governance structures for the license holder

⁴ Appendix B

which is the church, and the plans to transfer the licence from the church to another entity in order manage the separation of powers amongst other issues⁵.

The Licensee complies with their AGM obligations.

3.3 Programming

Clause 5.1 of the service licence stipulates that:

The Licensee shall provide programming as follows:

Clause 5.1.1 Local News and Information:

"The Licensee shall broadcast news to a total of 50 minutes of news per day, of which 70% will be local, 20% regional and 10% national news."

The monitoring exercise conducted for the period under review indicated that the Licensee broadcasts ten (10) news bulletins between 06H00 and 17H00, with bulletins on weekends news broadcast from 06H00 until 13H00. The news bulletins are an average of five minutes which equates to an average of fifty (50) minutes during weekdays, with forty minutes over the weekend. The Licensee read their news bulletins in all of their languages of broadcast.

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

- *"President Ramaphosa has signed two (2) proclamations authorising the Special Investigating Unit to investigate allegations of serious maladministration in the affairs of the Department of Home Affairs and PRASA.*
- *Social grants are expected to increase to keep in line with inflation an increased access to those who are eligible, but this does not include the Social Relief also known as the 350 grants.*
- *The Minister in the Presidency responsible for electricity Kgosietsso Ramokgopa will address the Free State Investment in the University of the Free State."*

⁵ Appendix C

The Licensee meets its weekday news obligations but fails to meet its news obligation over the weekend.

Clause 5.1.3 of the service licence stipulates that the format should be as follows:

65 % Talk and 35% music”.

The monitoring exercise confirms that the radio station is talk-driven throughout the performance period. Most of the programming is informal knowledge-building programming which is religious in nature, current affairs, and educational programmes, with music being supplementary to the content.

The Licensee complies with their format.

Clause 5.1.4 of the service licence stipulates that the language of broadcast is:

“10% English, 40% Sepedi and 50% Xitsonga”

The radio station’s programming is dominated by Xitsonga and Sepedi, with English being supplementary. The majority of the presenters engage with the listeners and guests using the indigenous languages as contained in the licence. The news bulletins are split between the main indigenous languages of broadcast with English bulletins coming from the GCIS during weekdays.

The Licensee complies with their language obligations.

4. REGULATIONS

4.1 South African Music Content Regulations

Regulation 3.3 of the Regulations on South African Music Content⁶ as published on 23 March 2016 provides that:

“A holder of a community sound broadcasting service licence must ensure that after eighteen (18) months from the date of the gazetting of these regulations, a

⁶ ICASA South African Music Content Regulations, 2016 as published in *Government Gazette* No.39844 dated, 23 March 2016

minimum of 60%, increasing by 10% annually to reach 80% 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”.

The Licensee submitted their Form 8A⁷ and their local music content is an average of ninety three percent (93%). Some of the music artists that were monitored include *Princess M – Ntshava Leyi, Miriam Makeba – Pata Pata, Themba Chauke – Risuna, Brenden Praise - Mukutsuri ft. Mpho.Wav* amongst others.

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

4.3 Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Class Licensees

There were no incidents of non-compliance with any provision of the Regulations on Standard Terms and Conditions for Class broadcasting licences.

4.4 Complaints

The Licensee is required, in terms of the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations⁸, to submit a Form 12A which reports on all complaints received during the period under review.

The Licensee broadcast the complaints promo of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa (“BCCSA”). The Licensee has not reported having any complaints for the period under review.

5. CONCLUSION

Vision FM has complied with many of its service licence obligations and applicable Regulations. However, the Licensee does not meet its news obligation over the weekend as their news output is measured daily. Furthermore, the radio station under the community to be served is of geographic nature, but the radio station’s content is predominantly of a Christian nature whilst they are not a community of interest. There will be engagement with the Licensee to ensure that non-

⁷ Form 8A of the CPMR

⁸ ICASA Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations, 2011 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 34863 dated, 15 December 2011.

compliance aspects are addressed, and a programming regulatory workshop will be conducted with the management team accordingly.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Appendix A: Vision FM service licence.

Appendix B: Programming Committee Minutes and Attendance Registers

Appendix C: AGM Minutes and Attendance Register

Appendix D: Form 8A of the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations

Appendix E: SA Music Content Regulations

Appendix F: Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations