

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF ETHICS

Consultation Paper

Publication date: 22 JUNE 2012

Deadline for Responses: 12 JULY 2012

In accordance with Section 29(8) of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act, the Standards Committee of the Authority has unanimously agreed to amend the Code of Ethics launched in September 2011 to take into account shortfalls of the said Code and development in the broadcasting media sector.

In pursuance of the openness and fair policies adopted by the Authority, a public consultation is being launched to enable listeners and viewers to give their views and comments.

The Code of Ethics can be viewed on the IBA web site at <http://www.iba.mu>

The following amendments are being proposed:

News

With regard to Article 2.2 (i) of the Code of Ethics the following be added:

« News items and news programmes must be fair, impartial, objective and ethical. Items related to news should not be sponsored.»

With regard to Article 2.2 (ii) the following to be added as a first paragraph:

«Press reviews on radio and television are meant to be informative in nature and must be broadcast in a fair, independent and ethical manner. Licensees should ensure that the press review they broadcast covers a spectrum as wide as possible of the Mauritian press and does not focus on certain newspapers only so as not to create unfair competition.»

Abusive / Offensive Comments

It is proposed that the two paragraphs below be added to Article 4.4 of the Code of Ethics.

Paragraph 1:

“Due caution must be exercised regarding news items and programmes which could lead or add to social and/or cultural tensions or incidents. No piece of information broadcast should be of such a nature as to encourage or incite inter-cultural conflicts which could prejudice the relations among sections of the population, lead to public disorder and put national security at risk.”

Paragraph 2:

“Licensees are required to exercise due care and diligence in the broadcast of any news items or programmes pertaining to various crises such as tsunami, cyclone, drought, landslide, earthquake and other calamities so as not to create a situation of fear and panic.”

Your responses, in writing, should be addressed to the **Chairperson of the Standard Committee** c/o The Independent Broadcasting Authority, Level 2, The Celicourt, Sir Celicourt Antelme Street, Port Louis and should reach the Authority by latest **12 July 2012 at 5 p.m.**