

Ref: ADM/VMC/RP/12/307

**Mr. Rashid Cassam
Coordinator on A.5 amendment
Radio Plus
4B, Labourdonnais Street
Port Louis**

05 December 2012

Dear Sir,

**Re: Amendment of Clause A.5 of the Directive for Village Council,
Municipal City Council and Municipal Town Council Elections 2012**

I am directed to communicate to you the following.

At the meeting of the 26th November 2012 between representatives of the IBA and of radio stations, it was agreed that the latter will come forward with specific undertakings to guarantee fairness and pluralism in political and politically-related programmes.

Following various correspondences between the parties and the submission of the undertakings, as reviewed by the IBA, on 3rd December 2012, the IBA Board has, at its meeting of the 4th December 2012 after deliberations, agreed to review Clause A.5 of the aforementioned Directives accordingly.

We are pleased therefore to inform you of the amendment which is as follows:

New Clause A.5

A.5 Phone-in/call-in programmes

Broadcasting licensees shall **not** broadcast any live or recorded phone-in or call-in programmes on political matters or politically-related matters from, and inclusive of, **the date fixed by the Electoral Supervisory Commission for the withdrawal of candidates up to and including close of polling**, except subject to the following conditions:

1. broadcast licensees shall ensure, within the limits of presently available technologies, that:-
 - (a) there is no capture of air by the same individuals or groups; and

- (b) to allow as many callers as possible to air their comments, with a view to having a diversity of views expressed.
2. necessary mechanisms for control will be put in place to ensure fairness on air, balance and avoid any slippage.
 3. the hosts of programmes will ensure the responsibility in 1 and 2 above and will abstain from giving their personal opinion and views to ensure fairness and impartiality.
 4. the Broadcast Delay Mechanism will be strictly applied with a view to preventing any character assassination, defamation or insult on air.
 5. no statements will be made that may disrupt social peace and harmony.

Broadcast licensees further agree not to broadcast any live or recorded phone-in or call-in programmes on political matters or politically-related matters during the 48 hours starting at midnight immediately preceding Polling Day and up to the close of Polling Day

The Authority reserves the right to seek information to ensure that radio licensees comply with A5 (1) above.

We wish to place on record that TOP FM has in a letter to the IBA dated the 29th November 2012 given firm unequivocal undertaking not to broadcast phone-in programmes covering 'political and politically related matters' until the proclamation of the results of municipal elections.

Your attention is moreover drawn to sections 24, 25 and 37 (1) (g) of the IBA Act.

Yours faithfully,

D. Suraj Bali
Director

Attachment:

1. Letter from Top FM dated 29 November 2012