



Ref: V/N-NAE/19/087

Mr. Beejhayee Ramdenee, Director, MBC
Mr. Nicolas Adelson, Managing Director, Viva Voce Ltée (Radio One)
Mr. Eshan Kodarbux, Executive Chairman, Radio Plus Ltd
Mr. Balkrishna Kaunhye, Managing Director, Top FM Ltd
The Director, First Talk Ltd (Waaza FM)
The Company Secretary, Mayfair and Purely Communications Ltd (Planet FM)
Mr. Sherry Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Mauritius Telecom Ltd
Mrs. Ghislaine Tchibozo, General Manager, MC Vision Ltd
Mr. Jimmy Hope, General Manager, Mediacom Ltd
Mrs. Roselys Collard, Director, Vitiro Ltd (DSTV)

04 November 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The National Assembly Elections 2019

The National Assembly Elections 2019 is scheduled for 07 November 2019. In this context, your attention is drawn, *inter alia*, to the following paragraphs of the Guidelines for Private and Public Broadcasters.

A.1 Preamble

(1) (b) Broadcasting licensees shall, in particular, ensure that, during the 24 hours starting from midnight immediately preceding polling day and up to the close of polling, they do not broadcast any political programme and politically-related matter which may reasonably upset the balance to be observed throughout the election broadcast period pursuant to these Guidelines. This includes opinion and intention polls. Surveys are covered under A.11.

(c) For the purpose of subparagraph (b) –

“political programme” and “politically-related matter” do not include a party election broadcast, such broadcast being, in any event, subject to the requirements laid down in Part B (and more particularly paragraph B.2(2) of these Guidelines

A.7 Right of reply

(2) In addition, in respect of a programme broadcast during the 24 hours starting from midnight immediately preceding polling day, broadcasting licensees shall ensure that political parties which are entitled to a right of reply are as far as possible, given the opportunity to reply at a reasonable time before polling day.

A.8 Polling day and counting day

(1) (a) There shall be no paid or free political announcement 48 hours starting from midnight immediately preceding polling day and up to the close of polling.

(b) News coverage on polling day and counting day shall be confined to statements of facts which are not open to controversy.

(c) No person intervening in a Radio/TV programme broadcast on polling day and up to the close of polling shall, directly or indirectly, invite or persuade any voter to cast his vote in favour of any political party.

(d) No interview –

(i) in the course of which a voter has been led to reveal the political party for which, he has voted (or intends to vote); or

(ii) carried out in such a manner as to attempt to ascertain from a voter the political party for which, he has voted (or intends to vote), shall be broadcast on polling day.

(2) Broadcasting licensees shall not interfere, within polling stations or counting centres, with the voting and counting process.

(3) Paragraph (2) above shall be without prejudice to the powers of the Returning Officer within a polling station or counting centre.

(4) The whole counting process in any counting centre shall neither be broadcast live nor be recorded to be broadcast at a later time or shall be dealt with otherwise as directed by the Electoral Supervisory Commission.

(5) Broadcasting licensees may inform the public of the number of votes cast in favour of any political party or candidate at any stage of the counting process, whenever such information is made available to them by, or on behalf of, the Returning Officer in charge of the Counting Centre.

(6) The broadcasting licensee shall clearly indicate whether results being broadcast are official or final or are official only in respect of part of the ballot papers counted.

(7) The official proclamation of results may be broadcast live.

A.11 Surveys

(1) Broadcasting licensees shall not broadcast, by any means whatsoever, any political or politically-related survey, or comment on any political or politically-related survey, as from the date of withdrawal of candidatures to the end of polling day.

(2) No broadcasting licensee shall carry out any political or politically-related survey by any means or cause to broadcast the result or outcome of such survey.

You are reminded that should you fail to comply with Guidelines for Private and Public Broadcasters, the IBA Act and Codes, the laws of Mauritius and your licence conditions, there are applicable sanctions which the Authority may impose and these include, but are not limited to, **suspension and revocation** of licence.

Yours faithfully,


K. Ramphul
Acting Director