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**FINAL DRAFT
OF THE
INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION
BILL**

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE
INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION AND INDEPENDENT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY**

31 August 1993

INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION BILL

To establish the Independent Media Commission for the purpose of ensuring, during the period of the first national election for the National Assembly and other legislatures under the Constitution, held after the commencement of this Act, the equitable treatment of political parties by broadcasting services and that state-financed publications and state information services do not advance the interests of any political party; to define the composition, powers, functions and duties of the said Commission; and to provide for incidental matters.

BE IT ENACTED by the State President and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows: -

ARRANGEMENT OF ACT

SECTION NO.	SUBJECT MATTER OF SECTIONS, AND CHAPTERS
<i>1</i>	<i>Definitions</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Establishment of Independent Media Commission</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Primary objects of Commission</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Constitution of Commission and appointment of commissioners</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Persons qualified to be commissioners</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Persons disqualified from being commissioners</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Term of office of commissioners</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>Removal from office</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>Vacancies in Commission</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>Remuneration and allowances</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>Meetings of Commission</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>Disclosure of conflicting interests</i>

- 13 *Proceedings of Commission not invalid in certain circumstances*
- 14 *Staff of Commission*
- 15 *Establishment and appointment of committees of Commission*
- 16 *Appointment of experts*
- 17 *Powers and functions of Commission*
- 18 *Prohibition on broadcasting of party election broadcasts and political advertisements except in certain circumstances*
- 19 *Party election broadcasts on sound broadcasting services during election period*
- 20 *Political advertising on sound broadcasting services during election period*
- 21 *Equitable treatment of political parties by all broadcasting licensees during election period*
- 22 *State-financed publications and state information services*
- 23 *Hearings*
- 24 *Orders and recommendations of Commission*
- 25 *Expenditure in connection with functions of Commission*
- 26 *Reporting responsibility of Commission*
- 27 *Offences and penalties*
- 28 *Delegations*
- 29 *Limitation of liability*
- 30 *Regulations*
- 31 *Extraterritorial extension of Commission's jurisdiction by agreement between Republic and any state or territory previously part of Republic*
- 32 *Application of this Act in respect of certain private broadcasters licensed elsewhere*
- 33 *Application of Act in event of conflict with other laws*
- 34 *Dissolution of Commission and cessation of Act*
- 35 *This Act binding on State*
- 36 *Short title and date of commencement*

AGENDA FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION BILL

The following issues have been considered by the Technical Committee:

1. Section 1: Definitions

- (1) "election" - the definition has been changed to conform with the definition used in the draft Electoral Bill
- (2) "election period" - the definition has been maintained after discussion with the Technical Committee on Elections.
- (3) "political party" - we have added the words "as the case may be" and taken ^{out} at the reference to section 6(1)(d)

2. Section 4(2)(a)

|| We do not have a directive from the Negotiating Council relating to whether the State President should appoint the Commission. No change has been made to this section.

3. Section 6(1)(d):

- (1) The wording of this section has been changed to also exclude an office bearer of any party, movement, organisation or body of a party political nature;
- (2) The Negotiating Council at the previous meeting resolved that the word "body" be deleted because of the uncertainty of its meaning.

- (3) The Technical Committee recommends that consideration be given to again include the word "**body**" in the section as it widens the scope of the discretion which the appointing body will have in determining the application of the disqualification.

4. ~~Section 11(3)~~

On rereading the Bill we have changed the period from 7 days to 48 hours.

5. **Section 32**

As instructed by the Negotiating Council a new section 32 has been inserted deeming the persons in control of Radio 702, Capital Radio and Trinity to be Broadcasting licensees for purposes of the application of clauses 18, 19, 20 and 21.

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY/TABLING
IN THE NEGOTIATING COUNCIL**

INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION BILL

(FINAL DRAFT)

Prepared by the Technical Committee on the Independent Media Commission and the Independent Telecommunications Authority, Multi Party Negotiation Process, for discussion.

31 August 1993

1. Definitions

In this Act, unless inconsistent with the context -

"**Authority**" means the Independent Broadcasting Authority established by section 3 of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act, 1993;

"**broadcasting**" means a form of unidirectional telecommunication intended for the public or sections of the public, or subscribers to any broadcasting service, having appropriate receiving facilities, whether carried out by means of radio or any other means of telecommunication or any combination of the aforementioned;

"**broadcasting licence**" means a licence granted and issued by the Authority in terms of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act, 1993, or deemed by that Act to have been so granted and issued to a person for the purpose of providing a defined category of broadcasting service;

"**broadcasting licensee**" means the holder of a broadcasting licence;

"**broadcasting service**" means a single defined service which consists in the broadcasting of television or sound material to the public or sections of the public or to the subscribers to such service, and includes the broadcasting of text;

"**chairperson**" means the chairperson of the Commission referred to in section 4 (1)(a) and includes any commissioner acting in the stead of such person in accordance with the provisions of section 11(2);

"**Commission**" means the Independent Media Commission established by section 2 and, in relation to the exercise or performance of any power, function or duty conferred or imposed upon the Commission by or in terms of this Act, includes any committee of the Commission acting under a delegation or authorisation in terms of

section 28;

"commissioner" means any member of the Commission referred to in section 4(1);

"committee" means a committee established and appointed in terms of section 15;

"community" includes a geographically-founded community or any group of persons or sector of the public having a specific, ascertainable common interest;

"community broadcasting service" means a broadcasting service which -

- (a) is fully controlled by a non-profit entity;
- (b) serves a particular community;
- (c) encourages members of the community served by it or persons associated with or promoting the interests of such community to participate in the selection and provision of programmes to be broadcast in the course of such broadcasting service; and
- (d) may be funded by donations, grants, sponsorships, advertising or membership fees, or by any combination of the aforementioned;

"complainant" means an aggrieved political party contemplated in section 23;

"Constitution Act" means the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1993;

"election" means the first election conducted in terms of the Electoral Act, 1993, for the National Assembly or any other legislature;

"election period" means the period commencing on the day immediately following after the closing day determined under the Electoral Act, 1993, for the submission of lists of the nature referred to in the definition of "political party" in this section, and ending on the day immediately following after the dissolution of the Independent Electoral Commission in terms of section 9 of the Independent Electoral Commission Act, 1993;

"Independent Electoral Commission" means the Independent Electoral Commission established by the Independent Electoral Commission Act, 1993;

"party election broadcast" means a direct address or message broadcast free of charge on a broadcasting service and which is intended or calculated to advance the interests of any particular political party;

"political advertisement" means an advertisement broadcast on a broadcasting service which is intended or calculated to advance the interests of any particular political party, for which advertisement the relevant broadcasting licensee has received or is to receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other consideration;

✳ **"political party"**, except in the case of section 2(2), means any registered party as defined in section 1 of the Electoral Act, 1993, or any alliance of such registered parties (as the case may be), which, for the purpose of any particular election has, before the commencement of the relevant election period, submitted its list of candidates for the National Assembly or other legislature contemplated in the Constitution Act;

"prescribed" means prescribed by regulation in terms of section 30;

"private broadcasting service" means a broadcasting service operated for profit and controlled by a private person;

"public broadcasting service" means -

- (a) any broadcasting service provided by the South African Broadcasting Corporation in accordance with the provisions of the Broadcasting Act, 1976 (Act No. 73 of 1976);
- (b) a broadcasting service provided by any other statutory body; or
- (c) a broadcasting service provided by a person who receives his or her revenue, either wholly or partly, from licence fees levied in respect of the licensing of persons in relation to sound radio sets and in relation to television sets, or from the state,

and shall include a commercially-operated broadcasting service provided by a person referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this definition;

"radio" means an electromagnetic wave propagated in space without artificial guide and having by convention a frequency of lower than 3000 GHz;

"respondent" means a broadcasting licensee, a state-financed publication or a state information service contemplated in section 23(2);

"sound broadcasting service" means a broadcasting service destined to be received by a sound radio set;

"sound radio set" means a device designed or adapted to be capable of receiving, by radio, the transmissions broadcast in the course of a broadcasting service and reproducing them in the form of sounds, but not also in the form of images or visible signs or signals;

"State" includes the government and administration of any self-governing territory contemplated in the Self-Governing Territories Act, 1971 (Act No. 21 of 1971);

"state-financed publication" means any newspaper, book, periodical, pamphlet, poster or other printed matter, or any other object in or on which sound has been recorded for reproduction, which is wholly or partly financed by the State for the purpose of the promotion of state policy or the policy of a department of State;

"state information service" means the services provided by the South African Communication Service and includes any other information service directly or indirectly controlled by the State;

"telecommunications" means any system or method of conveying signs, signals, sounds, communications or other information by means of electricity, magnetism, electromagnetic waves or any agency of a like nature, whether with or without the aid of tangible conductors, from one point to another, and the derivative noun "telecommunication" shall be construed accordingly;

"television broadcasting service" means a broadcasting service consisting in the sending of visual images or other visible signals, whether with or without accompanying sounds, where the visual images are such that sequences of them are seen as moving pictures;

"television set" means any apparatus designed or adapted to be capable of receiving transmissions broadcast in the course of a television broadcasting service;

"this Act" includes the Schedules to this Act, and any regulations made from time to time under section 30; and

"Transitional Executive Council" means the Transitional Executive Council established by section 2 of the Transitional Executive Council Act, 1993.

2. Establishment of Independent Media Commission

- (1) There is hereby established a juristic person to be known as the Independent Media Commission which shall exercise and perform the powers, functions and duties conferred and imposed upon it by this Act.
- (2) The Commission shall function without any political or other bias or interference and shall be wholly independent and separate from the State, the government and its administration or any political party, or from any other functionary or body directly or indirectly representing the interests of the State, the government or any political party.

3. Primary objects of Commission

The primary objects of the Commission shall be -

- (a) to ensure equitable treatment of all political parties by broadcasting services; and
- (b) to ensure that state-financed publications and state information services are not, directly or indirectly, used to advance the interests of any political party, whether directly or indirectly,

during the election period, so as to promote and contribute towards the creation of a climate favourable to free political participation and a free and fair election.

4. Constitution of Commission and appointment of commissioners

- (1) The Commission shall consist of -

- (a) a chairperson; and
 - (b) not more than six other members.
- (2) (a) Each commissioner, including the chairperson, shall be appointed by the Transitional Executive Council with due regard to the provisions of this Act, with particular reference to the provisions of section 2(2). *on the other hand*
- Sub P...*
- (b) The appointments contemplated in paragraph (a) shall be made simultaneously, be made known by notice in the **Gazette** and be effective as from the date of publication of such notice.

5. Persons qualified to be commissioners

- (1) The chairperson of the Commission shall be -
 - (a) a judge or retired judge of the Supreme Court of South Africa; or
 - (b) a practising advocate or practising attorney of at least ⁵~~ten~~ years' standing or a magistrate with at least ten years' appropriate experience.
- (2) At least two of the commissioners shall have experience in the field of the broadcasting media and at least one in the field of the print media.
- (3) The commissioners shall -
 - (a) be persons who, in the opinion of the Transitional Executive Council, are of high standing and merit and are suited to serve on the Commission by virtue of their qualifications, expertise and experience;

- (b) be persons who are committed to fairness, freedom of expression, the right of the public to be informed and openness and accountability on the part of those holding public office;
- (c) when viewed collectively, represent a broad cross-section of the population of the Republic; and
- (d) be persons who are committed to the objects and principles of this Act.

6. Persons disqualified from being commissioners

- (1) A person shall not be appointed or remain a commissioner if such person -
 - (a) is not a citizen of and not permanently resident in the Republic;
 - (b) holds an office of profit under the State, subject to the provisions of section 5(1);
 - (c) is a member of Parliament or of the Transitional Executive Council or of any provincial government or is a member of the legislature of the Republic of Transkei, the Republic of Bophuthatswana, the Republic of Venda or the Republic of Ciskei or of any self-governing territory, or is a member of any local authority;
 - (d) is, or during the preceding twelve months was, an office-bearer or employee of any party, movement, organisation or body of a party political nature;
 - (e) directly or indirectly, whether personally or through his or her spouse, partner or associate, has a direct or indirect financial interest in the telecommunications, broadcasting or print media industry;

12 with.

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- (f) or his or her spouse, partner or associate, holds an office in or is employed by any company, organisation or other body, whether corporate or incorporate, which has a direct or indirect financial interest of the nature contemplated in paragraph (e);
 - (g) is an unrehabilitated insolvent;
 - (h) is subject to an order of a competent court declaring such person to be mentally ill or disordered;
 - (i) is convicted, after the commencement of this Act, whether in the Republic or elsewhere, of any offence for which such person has been sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine;
 - (j) at any time prior to the date of commencement of this Act has been convicted, or at any time after such commencement is convicted -
 - (i) in the Republic, of theft, fraud, forgery and uttering a forged document, perjury or an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1958 (Act No. 6 of 1958); or
 - (ii) elsewhere, of any offence corresponding materially with any offence referred to in subparagraph (i); or
 - (iii) whether in the Republic or elsewhere, of any other offence involving dishonesty; or
 - (k) is or has been convicted of any offence under this Act.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), "spouse" includes a **de facto** spouse.

7. Term of office of commissioners

- (1) Subject to the provision of this Act, the commissioners shall hold office until the dissolution of the Commission in terms of section 34.
- (2) A commissioner may at any time, upon at least three months' written notice tendered to the Transitional Executive Council, resign from office.

8. Removal from office

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7, a commissioner may be removed from office by the Transitional Executive Council on account of misconduct or inability to efficiently perform the duties of his or her office or by reason of his or her absence from three consecutive meetings of the Commission without the prior permission of the chairperson or without other good cause shown.
- (2) A commissioner shall not be removed from office in terms of subsection (1) except after due inquiry, and then only upon a decision of the Transitional Executive Council.

9. Vacancies in Commission

- (1) There shall be a vacancy in the Commission -
 - (a) if a commissioner becomes subject to a disqualification referred to in section 6;
 - (b) when a commissioner's written resignation in terms of section 7(2) takes effect; or

- (c) if a commissioner is removed from office in terms of section 8.
- (2) A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled by the appointment of another commissioner by the Transitional Executive Council in terms of this Act as soon as may be reasonably practicable after the occurrence of such vacancy.

10. Remuneration and allowances

Commissioners shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as the Transitional Executive Council, in consultation with the Minister of State Expenditure, may determine.

11. Meetings of Commission

- (1) The meetings of the Commission shall be held at such times and places as may be determined by resolution of the Commission whenever necessary so as to conduct its business expeditiously: Provided that the first meeting shall be held at such time and place as the chairperson may determine.
- (2) In the event of the chairperson being absent, the remaining commissioners shall from their number elect an acting chairperson who, while he or she so acts, may exercise and perform all the powers, functions and duties of the chairperson.
- (3) The chairperson may at any time in his or her discretion convene a special meeting of the Commission which shall be held at such time and place as the chairperson may direct: Provided that the chairperson shall upon having been presented with a requisition for that purpose signed by at least two commissioners, call for a special meeting, and if the chairperson fails to convene a special meeting within forty-eight hours as from such presentation,

such two commissioners may, upon the expiration of such seven days, convene a special meeting.

- (4) The quorum for any meeting of the Commission shall be a majority of the total number of commissioners.
- (5) A decision of the Commission shall be taken by resolution agreed to by the majority of commissioners at any meeting of the Commission and, in the event of an equality of votes regarding any matter, the chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.
- (6) The Commission may, in its discretion, allow members of the public to attend any meeting of the Commission.
- (7)
 - (a) The Commission shall cause minutes to be prepared and kept of the proceedings of every meeting thereof and cause copies of such minutes to be circulated to all the commissioners.
 - (b) The minutes prepared in terms of subsection (1), when signed at a subsequent meeting of the Commission by the chairperson, shall in the absence of proof of error therein be deemed to be a true and correct record of the proceedings which they purport to minute and shall, at any proceedings in terms of this Act or before a court of law or any tribunal or commission of inquiry, constitute **prima facie** evidence of the proceedings of the Commission and the matters they purport to minute.

12. Disclosure of conflicting interests

- (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), a commissioner shall not vote nor in any other manner participate in the proceedings at any meeting of the

Commission, nor be present at the venue where such a meeting is held if, in relation to any matter before the Commission, he or she has any interest which precludes him or her from performing his or her functions as commissioner in a fair, unbiased and proper manner.

- (2) If at any stage during the course of any proceedings before the Commission it appears that any commissioner has or may have an interest which may cause such a conflict of interests to arise on his or her part -
 - (a) such commissioner shall forthwith and fully disclose the nature of his or her interest and leave the meeting so as to enable the remaining commissioners to discuss the matter and determine whether such commissioner is precluded from participating in such meeting by reason of a conflict of interests; and
 - (b) such disclosure and the decision taken by the remaining commissioners regarding such determination, shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in question.
- (3) If any commissioner fails to disclose any interest as required by subsection (2) or, subject to the provisions of that subsection, is present at the venue where a meeting of the Commission is held or in any manner whatsoever participates in the proceedings of the Commission, the proceedings of the Commission shall be null and void.

13. Proceedings of Commission not invalid in certain circumstances

Subject to the provisions of section 12, a decision taken by the Commission or any act performed under the authority of such a decision shall not be invalid merely by reason of any irregularity in the appointment of a commissioner or a vacancy in the Commission or the fact that any person not entitled to sit as a commissioner sat as

such at the time when such decision was taken, provided such decision was taken by a majority of commissioners present at the time and entitled to so sit and the commissioners present and so entitled at the time constituted a quorum.

14. Staff of Commission

- (1) (a) The Commission shall appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person as chief administrative officer for the purpose of assisting the Commission, subject to its directions and control, in the performance of all financial, administrative and clerical functions and work arising from the implementation of this Act.
- (b) The Commission shall appoint such other staff as it deems necessary with a view to assisting it with all such work as may arise through the exercise and performance of its powers, functions and duties in terms of this Act.
- (2) The staff of the Commission shall receive such remuneration, allowances and other employment benefits and shall be appointed on such terms and conditions and for such periods as the Commission may determine, subject to the provisions of section 34(1).
- (3) In exercising its powers in terms of subsection (2), the Commission shall consult with the Minister of State Expenditure.

15. Establishment and appointment of committees of Commission

- (1) The Commission shall establish and appoint the following two committees, namely -

- (a) a broadcasting committee which shall assist the Commission in the exercise and performance of its powers and functions contemplated in section 17(1)(a); and
 - (b) a state-financed publication and state information services committee which shall assist the Commission in the exercise and performance of its powers and functions contemplated in section 17(1)(b).
- (2) The Commission may establish and appoint such other committees for such purposes as it may deem necessary with a view to assisting it in the effective exercise and performance of any of its other powers, functions and duties in terms of this Act.
- (3) The Commission shall from its number designate a chairperson for each committee.
- (4) A committee shall have two or more additional members, as may be determined by the Commission, who shall be persons -
- (a) who are not subject to any of the disqualifications of the nature contemplated in section 6; and
 - (b) who, on account of their qualifications, expertise and experience in relation to the mandate or terms of reference of the relevant committee, are suited to serve thereon.
- (5) Whenever the office of a member of a committee becomes vacant, the Commission shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.
- (6) The provisions of sections 5(3), 10, 11, 12, 13 and 25 shall **mutatis mutandis** apply in respect of any committee, and for that purpose any reference to the Commission shall be construed as a reference to the committee in

question.

- (7) The Commission may at any time extend, limit or dissolve any such committee.

16.- Appointment of experts

- (1) The Commission may appoint as many experts, including experts from other countries, as may be deemed necessary with a view to assisting it in the exercise and performance of its powers, functions and duties and for the performance of any work arising therefrom.
- (2) The terms, conditions, remuneration and allowances applicable to any expert by virtue of his or her appointment in terms of subsection (1), and the work to be performed or service to be rendered by virtue of such appointment, shall be in accordance with a written agreement entered into between the Commission and the expert concerned.
- (3) Upon having performed the work or completed the service pursuant to the agreement contemplated in subsection (2), the expert concerned shall submit a report in regard thereto to the Commission for its consideration.
- (4) The Commission, on receipt of the report referred to in subsection (3), may refer the matter back to the expert -
 - (a) for such further attention as may be determined by the Commission;
 - (b) to perform such further functions as the Commission may deem necessary or desirable.

17. Powers and functions of Commission

- (1) The Commission, in order to achieve the objects of this Act, shall -
 - (a) monitor all broadcasting services in the Republic and enforce compliance by broadcasting licensees with the provisions of this Act relating to -
 - (i) party election broadcasts and political advertisements; and
 - (ii) equitable treatment of all political parties; and
 - (b) monitor all state-financed publications and state information services, during the election period, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and exercise and perform such other powers and functions as may be assigned to it by or in terms of this Act.
- (2) The Commission shall inform the Transitional Executive Council and the Independent Electoral Commission of any matter which has come to its knowledge in the exercise and performance of its powers, functions and duties in terms of this Act which, in its opinion, may have an adverse impact upon the creation or achievement of a climate favourable to free political participation and the holding of the election on a free and fair basis.

18. Prohibition on broadcasting of party election broadcasts and political advertisements except in certain circumstances

No party election broadcast and no political advertisement shall be broadcast on any broadcasting service except during the election period and then only if and to the extent authorised by the provisions of sections 19 and 20.

19. Party election broadcasts on sound broadcasting services during election period

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a public sound broadcasting licensee shall permit a party election broadcast only during the election period and then only if such a broadcast is produced on behalf of the political party in question at the instance of its duly authorised representative.
- (2) The Commission shall determine the time to be made available to political parties for the purposes of subsection (1), including the duration and scheduling of party election broadcasts, duly taking into account the financial and programming implications for the broadcasting services in question.
- (3) The Commission shall consult with the relevant public sound broadcasting licensees and all the political parties prior to making any determination in terms of subsection (2).
- (4) In making any determination in terms of subsection (2), the Commission may impose such conditions upon a public broadcasting licensee with respect to party election broadcasts as it deems fit, having due regard to the fundamental principle that all political parties are to be treated equitably.
- (5) A party election broadcast shall not contain any material which may reasonably be anticipated to expose the broadcasting licensee to legal liability if such material were to be broadcast.
- (6) A party election broadcast shall comply with a technical quality acceptable to the Commission.
- (7) No party election broadcast shall be broadcast later than forty-eight hours prior to the commencement of the polling period.

- (8) A private or community sound broadcasting licensee shall not be required to broadcast party election broadcasts, but if he or she elects to do so, the preceding provisions of this section shall **mutatis mutandis** apply.

20. Political advertising on sound broadcasting services during election period

- (1) A sound broadcasting licensee shall not be required to broadcast a political advertisement, but if he or she elects to do so, he or she shall afford all other political parties, should they so request, a like opportunity.
- (2) A sound broadcasting licensee may broadcast a political advertisement only if it has been submitted on behalf of a political party at the instance of its duly authorised representative.
- (3) In making advertising time available to political parties, no sound broadcasting licensee shall discriminate against any political party or make or give any preference to any political party or subject any political party to any prejudice.
- (4) A political advertisement shall not contain any material which may reasonably be anticipated to expose the broadcasting licensee to legal liability if such material were to be broadcast.
- (5) A political advertisement shall comply with a technical quality acceptable to the Commission.
- (6) No political advertisement shall be broadcast later than forty-eight hours prior to the commencement of the polling period.
- (7) This section shall be subject to the provisions of any law relating to the expenditure of political parties during an election.

21. Equitable treatment of political parties by all broadcasting licensees during election period

- (1) If during the election period the coverage of any broadcasting service extends to the field of the election and the political parties and issues relevant thereto, the broadcasting licensee concerned shall afford reasonable opportunities for the discussion of conflicting views and shall treat all political parties equitably.
- (2) In the event of any criticism against a political party being levelled in a particular programme of any broadcasting service without such political party having been afforded an opportunity to respond thereto in such programme or without the view of such political party having been reflected therein, the broadcasting licensee concerned shall be obliged to afford such political party a reasonable opportunity to respond to the criticism.
- (3) If, within forty-eight hours before the commencement of the polling period or during the polling period, a broadcasting licensee intends broadcasting a programme in which a particular political party is criticised, the licensee shall ensure that the political party is given a reasonable opportunity to respond thereto in the same programme, or to do so as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter.
- (4) The preceding provisions of this section shall not apply in relation to the contents of any party election broadcast in the circumstances contemplated in section 19 and any political advertisement in the circumstances contemplated in section 20.

22. State-financed publications and state information services

- (1) The publisher of any state-financed publication in existence immediately prior to the commencement of this Act shall be required, within fourteen days of

such commencement. to submit to the Commission the prescribed information concerning such publication.

- (2) The publisher of any state-financed publication which is published for the first time after the commencement of this Act, shall be required, no less than fourteen days prior to the proposed date of publication, to submit to the Commission the prescribed information concerning such publication.
- (3) The Commission may require the publisher of a publication referred to in subsection (2) to provide the Commission with a copy of such publication prior to the printing thereof.
- (4) A state-financed publication shall be submitted by its publisher to the Commission free of charge within forty-eight hours of the completion of the printing thereof.
- (5) No state-financed publication shall contain any advertisement or other material which is intended or calculated to support or advance the interests of any political party, whether directly or indirectly.
- (6) The provisions of subsection (5) shall **mutatis mutandis** apply in respect of any statement, material or advertisement made or issued by any state information service.

23. Hearings

- (1) Any political party which has reason to believe that a broadcasting licensee, the publisher of a state-financed publication or any state information service has contravened the provisions of this Act in relation to such party, and which was unable to resolve the matter with the licensee, publication or information service, may in relation thereto lodge a complaint with the Commission.

- (2) A complaint contemplated in subsection (1) shall be in writing and shall be served on the licensee, publisher or information service referred to in subsection (1) and be lodged with the Commission.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), a complaint may be delivered by hand or sent by registered post, telefax or telex.
- (4) The Commission shall as soon as may be reasonably practicable, having due regard to the urgency of the matter, investigate and adjudicate any complaint received by it and shall, in doing so, afford the complainant and the respondent a reasonable opportunity to make representations and to be heard in relation thereto.
- (5) The Commission shall determine the form and procedure as regards the adjudication of any complaint.
- (6) The complainant and the respondent shall be entitled to legal representation at any hearing held by the Commission for the purpose of adjudicating a complaint.
- (7)
 - (a) After having considered the complaint and any representations and evidence (if any) in regard thereto, the Commission shall make a ruling on the matter.
 - (b) Any ruling of the Commission in terms of paragraph (a) shall be published in such manner as the Commission may in its discretion determine.
- (8) Hearings held in terms of this section shall be open to the public.
- (9)
 - (a) The Commission shall keep a record of all complaints received by it and of all its proceedings, rulings and findings in relation thereto.

- (b) The records referred to in paragraph (a) shall be filed in the offices of the Commission and be open to public inspection by interested parties during the normal office hours of the Commission.
 - (c) The Commission shall at the request of any interested party and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed (if any), furnish him or her with a certified copy of or extract from any record referred to in paragraph (a).
- (10) With regard to the summoning and examination of witnesses, the administering of the oath or an affirmation, recalcitrant witnesses and the production of books, documents, objects and material, the Commission shall have such powers as shall be prescribed.
- (11) For the purposes of this section, a state-financed publication and state information service shall be represented by the official of the State at the head of the state-financed publication or state information service in question.
- (12) The provisions of subsections (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (11) shall **mutatis mutandis** apply in relation to any investigation instituted **mero motu** by the Commission in regard to any suspected contravention of the provisions of this Act by any broadcasting licensee, state-financed publication or state information service.

24. Orders and recommendations of Commission

- (1) If the Commission, in making a ruling referred to in section 23, has found the respondent to have contravened the provisions of this Act, it may -
 - (a) make an order requiring a respondent -
 - (i) who is a public sound broadcasting licensee, to broadcast a