

**SUBMISSIONS OF THE INTANDO YESIZWE PARTY TO THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION:**

1. The Independent Media Commission deals only with the State-controlled Broadcasting Services and other radio services.
2. The IYP is concerned about the restrictive interpretation that the IMC gives to the word "Media". We believe that during the transitional phase the entire political playing field should be levelled. It is therefore our view that the IMC should deal with the entire spectrum of the media.
3. On the 17th of May 1992, the State held a whites only referendum. Whilst the SABC subtly supported the referendum, it is the newspapers who came out strongly advocating for a "Yes" vote.

We have also seen that during the past whites only elections newspapers coming out in support of one political party or another.

While not arguing the merits of the newspaper's decisions, it is clear that they are not neutral when it comes to political matters. This begs the question: "Will they be neutral during the coming elections?" Who is therefore going to guard against them coming out in support of one party or another?.

4. The issue of the South African Press Association is a headache which we cannot ignore with hope that it will go away of its own. As the national news agency, it is responsible for collecting and distributing news to newspapers throughout the country. Its method of news gathering and operation also ensures that the SABC is able to follow up news items, and give same the prominence that SAPA accords news. SAPA incidentally was in the past, the main recipient of government statements.

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SAPA is therefore in a very powerful position to decide what readers should receive. Who is there to ensure that SAPA does not come out in support of one political party or another, and pushes out the statements of all other parties fighting the elections, on the ground of political ideology?

5. We appreciate the fact that the printing media should have the freedom of collecting information and publishing same, and we do not want to interfere with this right. Whilst we do not believe in censorship of the press, it is our view that the IMC should draw up a code of conduct by which SAPA and the newspapers should abide.