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COMMENTS ON FIFTH REPORT OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE IMC AND THE ITA

1. I urgently request an extension of two weeks to prepare a fully motivated response. I only received a copy of the report on wednesday June 30th.

2. ITEM 42. Section (1) (p.48)

It is completely unacceptable that the present public broadcasting service be allowed to "provide the same services as were provided immediately prior to the commencement of the Act". The CE of the SABC himself referred to the "lopsided broadcasting industry which inhibits a well managed, mission-orientated organisation". He went on to speak of "a dichotomy that is unique in the world, a public service broadcaster that is funded commercially".

The structure and function of the SABC will have to be redefined even in Wynand Harmse's own words on 23rd June in Sandton.

3. CHAPTER 2. Section 3. Policy. (p.24)

This policy statement needs the addition of a positive statement about human rights principles to eliminate discrimination, and promote tolerance and human rights as set out in the 1976 Paris UNESCO Declaration.

ITEM 4 on page 25 is weak and meaningless.

ITEM 5 needs to be developed in human rights terms.

ITEM 11 is dangerous and meaningless. The lack of logic poses a serious threat to public broadcasting.

4. CHAPTER 8. (p.63)

Item 61 is illogical and arbitrary. Why should television not carry party political broadcasts? Ridiculous and unmotivated.

5. SCHEDULE 3. (p 78)

ITEM 2 is old-fashioned, cliched and defined by the negative. Needs a positive human rights statement about what broadcasting should do - encourage tolerance, use education to establish human rights etc.

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