

CC
TE
ME

F.38

[38]



National Community Radio Forum

c/o SPEAK, 156 President Street, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa

Tel: (011) 29 6166
Fax: (011) 294354

30 June 1993

Melody Emmett
Coordinator of technical committees
Multi-Party Forum
World Trade Centre

Dear Ms Emmett

I am writing on behalf of the National Community Radio Forum (an organisation representing emerging community radio initiatives in South Africa).

We are concerned about the apparent lack of commitment to public involvement in the drafting of the draft bill on the proposed Independent Broadcasting Authority.

As you are aware the Multi-Party Forum has set a two week deadline (ending July 5 1993) for comment on this draft bill.

We believe this deadline is impractical and that the time set aside for comment is inadequate. This bill has important implications for the initiatives we represent and it is impossible for us to make adequate and considered contributions on the changes suggested to South Africa's broadcasting dispensation in only two weeks.

It is essential that those drafting the bill, do not finalise it without taking account of as wide a range of opinion as possible.

We therefore request that the MPF extend the period allowed for public comment by at least three weeks - i.e. to July 26. We further request that once written submissions have been received the MPF hold public hearings on the draft bill, or instruct the technical committee responsible to do so.

If this is not done, we believe it will result in only a token attempt to facilitate public involvement in this matter, contrary to the MPF's stated commitment to an open process on all issues.

Yours sincerely



Libby Lloyds

on behalf of the NCRF

354