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1 July 1993

Melody Emmett
Co-ordinator of Technical Committees
Multi-Party Forum
World Trade Centre

Dear Ms Emmett

DRAFT BILL ON THE PROPOSED INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (IBA)

As you are aware, the draft bill referred to above was tabled and made available for public comment on June 22, 1993. The deadline set by the MPF for such comment was July 5 (next Monday).

As the bill envisages substantial and highly contentious changes to South Africa's broadcasting dispensation, we believe it is essential that those drafting it do so only after taking account of as wide a range of opinions as possible.

This has not been the case. The MPF has given the public just two weeks to get a copy of the draft bill (no mean feat in itself), study it, and formulate a meaningful and considered response. We believe this is impractical. The draft bill is 84 pages long and is incomplete.

We therefore request that the MPF extends the period allowed for public comment by at least three weeks, that is until July 26.

We also request that once written submissions have been received, the MPF holds public hearings on the draft bill, or instructs the technical committee responsible to do so.

We are concerned that the inadequate time set aside and mechanisms established for public submissions will result in only token and wholly inadequate contributions by the public on the issue of the IBA.

We believe that this would not be in keeping with the MPF's commitment to an open process on all issues, and to a substantial public role on the issue of broadcasting in particular.

We would appreciate your making known our concerns and our request to the appropriate MPF structures as soon as possible, and to all participating parties.

Yours faithfully

**KAREN STANDER
GENERAL SECRETARY**