



## **ESWATINI COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION NOTICE 3/ 2019**

PROPOSED DECISION IN TERMS OF SECTION 32 OF THE ESWATINI COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ACT, 2013, READ TOGETHER WITH SECTION 4(A) OF THE ESWATINI BROADCASTING GUIDELINES, 2017:

- **TO ISSUE COMMUNITY RADIO LICENCES TO ESWATINI TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS (UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES).**
- **TO ISSUE A COMMUNITY RADIO LICENCE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI (UNESWA).**

### **1. THE COMMISSION**

The Eswatini Communications Commission is a regulatory body established in terms of the Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) Act, 2013 to regulate the electronic communications sector including; telecommunications networks and services, broadcasting services, postal services, the use and allocation of radio frequency spectrum, data protection and e-commerce.

### **2. POWERS TO REGULATE BROADCASTING SERVICES**

In terms of Section 6 (c) of the ESCCOM Act, the Commission regulates and supervises the provision of radio and television broadcasting services and the content of those services. The Commission issues the proposed decision in accordance with Sections 9 and 11 of the Electronic Communications Act (ECA), 2013.

### **3. PROPOSED DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

#### **3.1. GRANT OF TEMPORARY LICENCES TO TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS**

### **(UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES).**

Section 5.4(13) of the Broadcasting Guidelines provides that "The Commission may grant a temporary community broadcasting service licence under the same conditions outlined in clause 5.3, in a remote area where spectrum is not scarce and where community need is demonstrated".

With the view of promoting the development of broadcasting services which are responsive to the needs of the people of Eswatini and to promote skills in the sector at tertiary level by preparing students for the real world of broadcasting, the Commission is proposing to grant Temporary Community Broadcasting licences to such institutions. The grant of the temporary licence will enable the Commission to assess the quality of broadcast by the institutions before the granting of a long-term licence in due course.

Licensing of these institutions shall not be automatic but will be subject to the applicant meeting all the requisite licencing requirements which the Commission shall specify in the application form and having demonstrated the need to provide a broadcasting service.

### **3.2. GRANTING OF COMMUNITY RADIO LICENCE TO UNESWA**

UNESWA has submitted an application to establish a Community Radio Station at the Kwaluseni campus to be available only within the three (3) UNESWA campuses (Kwaluseni, Luyengo and Mbabane) whose objectives are the following:

- a) To prepare Journalism and Mass Communication (JMC) students for the real world of radio broadcasting by performing the diverse operations of a radio station in a well-equipped studio;
- b) To disseminate accurate news and information about significant events on the three campuses of UNESWA;
- c) To provide members of the UNESWA Community a forum for discussing academic, administrative and social issues;
- d) To give UNESWA students an avenue to expose and exhibit various artistic talents, especially, in music, acting, and debate;

- e) To offer students of the Institute of Distance Learning a platform to complement their learning through educational broadcasts;
- f) To encourage student and staff participation in community development projects
- g) To provide a showcase for young/budding Eswatini musicians;
- h) To be an avenue for academics to educate the Community about their research endeavours and findings;
- i) To provide JMC advertising students a platform for developing their copywriting and campaign skills;
- j) To serve as a channel of communication for recognised groups within UNESWA Community.

#### **4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND REQUEST FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

As part of the public consultation process contemplated in Section 32 of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013, the Commission hereby invites written comments from interested stakeholders and the general public on the proposed Decision document to issue the licence to UNESWA and other Tertiary Institutions. This document is also available to the public through the Commission's website at [www.sccom.org.sz](http://www.sccom.org.sz). The deadline for submission of comments is 17h00 on the **17 June, 2019**. Enquiries and comments should be addressed to:

The Chief Executive  
Eswatini Communications Commission  
P.O. Box 7811  
Mbabane  
Email: [legal@sccom.org.sz](mailto:legal@sccom.org.sz)

Mvilawemphi Dlamini  
**Chief Executive**