



RADIO SONDER GRENSE ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

MARCH 2024

2022/2023 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (SABC) BROADCASTING AS RADIO SONDER GRENSE

Licence Period: 18 December 2018 to 17 December 2028

1. PREFACE

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“the Authority”) has a statutory mandate in terms of the Constitution, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act¹ (ICASA Act), the Electronic Communications Act² (“ECA”) and the Broadcasting Act³ to regulate broadcasting activities in South Africa in the public interest. Among the responsibilities of the Authority is the task to ensure compliance by broadcasting service Licensees with the terms and conditions of their licence and any relevant legislation and/or regulations.

The purpose of the report is to give an account of the compliance status of Radio Sonder Grense with the terms and conditions of its licence, for the 2022/2023 financial year. Aspects of compliance that are measured comprise the service licence’s conditions of Geographic Coverage Area, Broadcast Language, Format, Local content Obligations, General Programming Obligations, Training and Skills developments and Ownership and Control Obligations.

Further, the report will measure compliance with regulations that include South African Music Content, Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Licensees, Universal Service and Access Fund, General Licence Fees, and Code of Conduct for Broadcasters.

¹ Act No. 13 of 2000, as amended.

² Act No. 36 of 2005.

³ Act No. 4 of 1999.

2. BACKGROUND

Radio Sonder Grense ("RSG") is an individual public sound broadcasting service Licensee⁴, broadcasting on a full spectrum nationwide. It forms part of the South African Broadcasting Corporation's ("SABC") public service mandate.

RSG accesses its audience on the frequencies granted to it by the Authority as specified in its Radio Frequency Spectrum Licence. Its signal distribution is provided by Sentech (Pty) Ltd, via the Brixton Tower high site. The radio station broadcasts from its studios situated at the SABC's premises in Auckland Park, Johannesburg, to the various regions throughout the country.

3. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Ownership and Control

Clause 1 of the service licence of RSG provides that:

"1.1 Name of Company/Entity: The South African Broadcasting Corporation

1.2 Shareholders: The State 100%

*1.3 Ownership held by persons from historically disadvantaged groups:
N/A"*

The information reflected in clause 1 remained unchanged for the period under review.

The Licensee complies with clauses 1 of its Licence.

3.2 Geographic Coverage Area

Clause 1 of the Schedule to the service licence of RSG provides that:

"1. Name of the Station: RSG"

The name of the station has remained unchanged during the period under review.

The Licensee complies with clause 1 of the Schedule of its Licence.

⁴ Appendix A: Service and Frequency spectrum licences.

3.3 Licence Period

Clause 2 of the Schedule to the service licence of RSG provides that:

"2.1 The effective date of the Licence is 18 December 2018.

2.2 The Licence shall expire on 17 December 2028."

The Licensee complies with clause 2 of the Schedule of its Licence.

3.4 Geographic Coverage Area

Clause 3 of the Schedule to the service licence of RSG provides that:

"The geographic coverage area is as defined in the map attached to the radio frequency spectrum licence."

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the Licensee provides services within the geographic coverage area as defined in the map attached to its radio frequency spectrum licence.

The Licensee complies with clause 3 of the Schedule to its Licence.

3.5 Languages

Clause 4 of the Schedule to the service licence of RSG provides that:

"Principal Language: Afrikaans"

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the programming broadcast by the Licensee is in the principal language of Afrikaans.

The Licensee complies with clause 4 of the Schedule of its Licence.

3.6 Format

Clause 5 of the Schedule to the service licence of RSG provides that:

"5.1 The service authorised by this licence forms part of the public service division of the Licensee.

5.2 The licensed service shall be a full-spectrum service."

The Licensee confirms that the service it provides in terms of the licence referred to above forms part of the public service division of the Licensee and that such service is a full-spectrum service.

The Licensee complies with clause 5 of the Schedule of its Licence.

3.5 Local Content Obligations

Clause 6 of the Schedule to the service licence of RSG provides that:

"In each year, the Licensee shall, within thirty (30) days of end of the quarter, submit to the Authority written records indicating the extent of:

6.1 the different genres; and

6.2 the South African music content, in programming material broadcast on the service during that quarter, in each instance, distinguishing between the genres, providing the relevant details in relation to prime time and the period between 05h00 and 23h00 daily ("the South African broadcast period"), and expressing the relevant details both as an aggregate in minutes and as a percentage of the total of all such programming material."

The SABC submitted its quarterly written records indicating the different genres, its South African music content and programming material for the period under review. The quarterly written records expressed the relevant details as an aggregate in minutes as well as a percentage of the total of all such programming material.

Further, the information contained in the quarterly reports was compared to the findings of the monitoring exercise as undertaken during the period under review and the conclusion of this comparison is outlined in the report below.

The Licensee complies with clause 6 of the Schedule to its Licence.

3.6 General Programming Obligations

Clause 7.1 of the Schedule to the service licence of RSG provides that:

"7.1 General

7.1.1 The Licensee shall ensure that it's programming adequately reflects the diversity of South African religions.

7.1.2 *The Licensee shall take reasonable steps to provide programming that reflects the cultural and traditional needs of its audience.*

7.1.3 *The Licensee shall, during the South African performance period, provide programme material that caters and has due regard for the interests of all sectors of South African society and shall provide programming on health-related issues, gender issues relevant to all age groups."*

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the programming of the Licensee adequately reflects the diversity of South African religions. There are weekly programmes that focus on Christianity and Islam such as "Aand diens", "Binnekamer", "Ikra" and "Islam in Fokus", while other religions are touched on in various other programmes.

Further, the programming reflects the cultural and traditional needs of its audience and has due regard for the interest of all sectors of South African society. The programme "Intussen" that is broadcast daily from 09h00 until 12h00 and "Gesondheid op RSG" broadcast on Wednesdays from 11h30 during the week focuses on health-related and gender issues that are relevant to all age groups.

The Licensee complies with the entirety of clause 7.1 of the Schedule to its Licence.

Clause 7.2 of the Schedule to the Service Licence of RSG states that:

"7.2 News and Current Affairs

7.2.1 The Licensee shall broadcast at least sixty (60) minutes of news programming each day during the South African performance period."

The quarterly reports submitted by the SABC indicate that Radio Sonder Grense broadcasts one hundred (100) minutes of news programming per day on weekdays and sixty (60) minutes on weekends, during the South African performance period. The following were among the news stories covered, found by the monitoring exercise during the period under review:

- *"Die Gautengse Departement van Gesondheid gaan sy pas versnel met kritieke en gevorderde mediese prosedures. Die departement se*

woordvoerder sê meer as dertig duisend mense is op waglyse vir operasies. Die departement wil die agterstand met operasies uitwis deur teater prosedures in hospitale wat dieselfde gebied bedien beter te bestuur om die oorvleueling uit te skakel. Die woordvoerder sê die departement wil ook so gou moontlik kritieke poste vul."

- *"n Organisasie wat talle wyn produsente verteenwoordig (Vinpro) sê dit blyk dat vanjaar se opbrengs ietwat laer as verlede jaar gaan wees en selfs moontlik die laagste sedert 2006. Dit volg te midde daarvan dat die helfte van die oestyd reeds afgehandel is. Wyn produsente in die Wes-Kaap het tans te make met die voortsettende kragkrisis wat besproeing en die berging van druiwe in koelkamers bemoeilik."*
- *"Duisende leerlinge in die Oos-Kaap kan binnekort sonder vervoer wees omdat die taxi vereeniging SANTACO nie betaal is nie. Die vereeniging beweer dat die provinsiale Departement van Vervoer slegs enkele van sy lede vir skool vervoer betaal het. SANTACO beweer ook dat die tesourier slegs 100 miljoen rand beskikbaar gestel het vir vervoer en nie 320 miljoen ingevolge hul kontrak nie."*
- *"n Sekuriteitswag wat in die hof in Daveyton in Ekurhuleni verskyn met verband met twee verkrachtings word met nog veertien verkrachtings verbind. Die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag sê al die voorvalle het in Benoni en Thembisa plaasgevind. Die jongste slagoffer is vertien jaar oud."*

The monitoring exercise found that news is broadcast between 06h00 and 23h00 daily. The average news bulletin has a duration of three (3) minutes and thirty (30) seconds. On average the total daily news broadcast by the Licensee exceeds sixty (60) minutes.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.2.1 of the Schedule to its Licence.

Clause 7.2.2 of the Schedule to the Service Licence of RSG states that:

"The Licensee shall broadcast at least sixty (60) minutes of current affairs programming each day during the South African performance period."

The quarterly reports submitted by the SABC indicate that Radio Sonder Grense broadcasts one hundred and twenty (120) minutes of current affairs programming per day on weekdays and sixty (60) minutes per day on weekends, during the South African performance period.

The current affairs programming content that was found during the period under review, includes the following:

- "Monitor" broadcast between 06h00 and 07h00 on weekdays;
- "Spektrum" broadcast between 12h00 and 13h00 on weekdays;
- "Naweekaktueel" broadcast between 12h00 and 14h00 on Saturdays; and
- "Kommentaar" broadcast between 20h00 and 21h00 on Sundays.

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the current affairs programming broadcast by the Licensee exceeds sixty (60) minutes of current affairs programming each day during the South African performance period.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.2.2 of the Schedule to its Licence.

Clause 7.2.3 of the Schedule to the Service Licence of RSG states that:

"7.2.3 The Licensee shall in the production of its news and current affairs programming:

- (i) exercise full editorial control in respect of its contents of such programming;*
- (ii) include matters of international, national, regional and where appropriate, local significance;*
- (iii) meet the highest standards of journalistic professionalism;*
- (iv) provide fair, unbiased, impartial, and balanced coverage independent from governmental, commercial or other interference; and*
- (v) provide a reasonable opportunity for the public to receive a variety of points of view on matters of public concern."*

The Licensee submitted its editorial policy to the Authority⁵. The monitoring exercise found that the news and current affairs programming of the Licensee includes matters of international, national, regional and local significance and that such news and current affairs coverage is fair, unbiased, impartial and balanced. Further, the editorial policy of the Licensee confirms its full editorial control in respect of its news and current affairs programming and requires a high standard of journalistic professionalism. The monitoring exercise further confirms that the news and current affairs programming of the Licensee enables the public to receive

a variety of points of view on matters of public concern as the Licensee regularly hosts discussions held with experts from various fields on these matters.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.2.3 of the Schedule to its service Licence.

Clause 7.3 of the Schedule to the service Licence of RSG state that:

“7.3 Programming targeted at Children:

7.3.1 The Licensee shall, in the provision of the licensed service, broadcast at least one (1) hour of programming targeted at children (as contemplated in section 10 (1)(g) of the Broadcasting Act) per week during the South African performance period.

7.3.2 In the production and presentation of its children’s programming, the Licensee shall ensure that such children’s programming is:

- (i) broadcast at times of the day when children are available to listen;*
 - (ii) targeted at and appropriate for children between the ages of nought (0) to six (6) years and seven (7) to twelve (12) years, respectively;*
- And*
- (iii) educational and is made from the children’s point of view.”*

The quarterly reports submitted by the SABC indicate that Radio Sonder Grense broadcasts, sixty (60) minutes of programming targeted at children per week, during the South African performance period.

⁵ Appendix B: SABC Editorial Policy.

The following programming targeted at children were found during the period under review:

- "Nal'ibali" broadcast between 19h20 and 19h30 on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays;
- "Skuif Nader" broadcast between 19h20 and 19h30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and
- "Kiskenades" broadcast between 19h05 and 19h15 on Saturdays.

The monitoring confirmed that the programming outlined above total sixty (60) minutes of programming targeted at children per week during the South African performance period. Further, it was confirmed that the production and presentation of the programming is broadcast at times of the day when children are available to listen, targeted at and appropriate for children between the ages of nought (0) to six (6) years and seven (7) to twelve (12) years and educational and is made from the children's point of view.

The Licensee complies with the entirety of clause 7.3 of the Schedule to its Licence.

Clause 7.4 of the Schedule to the service Licence of RSG state that:

7.4 Educational Programming

The Licensee shall broadcast at least five (5) hours of educational programming (as contemplated in section 10 (1)(e) of the Broadcasting Act) per week within the South African performance period."

The quarterly reports submitted by the SABC indicate that Radio Sonder Grense broadcasts an average of six (6) hours and fifty (50) minutes of educational programming per week during the South African performance period.

The following educational programming was found during the period under review:

- "RSG Landbou" broadcast between 05h00 and 05h30 weekdays;
- "Kompas" broadcast between 19h30 and 20h00 weekdays;
- "RSG dokumentêr" broadcast between 20h00 and 20h30 on Thursdays;
- "Hoe Verklaar Jy Dit" broadcast between 11h30 and 12h00 on Wednesday;
- "Ons en die Onderwys" broadcast between 15h30 and 16h00 on Sundays.

The monitoring exercise confirmed that the educational programming broadcast by the Licensee exceeds the required five (5) hours of educational programming per week as prescribed by the licence. On average the total broadcast of educational programming is six (6) hours per week.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.4 of the Schedule to its Licence.

Clause 7.5 of the Schedule to the service Licence of RSG state that:

“7.5 Drama

The Licensee shall broadcast at least two and a half (2½) hours of drama per week within the South African performance period.”

The quarterly reports submitted by the SABC indicate that Radio Sonder Grense broadcasts an average of five (5) hours and thirty-five (35) minutes of drama per week during the South African performance period.

The drama programming that was found during the period under review, includes the following:

- *“Middagvervolgverhaal”* broadcast between 14h45 and 15h00 weekdays;
- *“Aandboekvoorlesing”* broadcast between 19h05 and 19h15 weekdays;
- *“Laataandboekvoorlesing”* broadcast between 21h10 and 21h20 weekdays;
- *“Kortom”* broadcast between 21h50 and 22h10 on Tuesdays.
- *“RSG Dokumenter”* broadcast between 20h00 and 21h00 on Thursdays.

During the programming identified above, dramas such as *“Die Swerfjare van Poppie Nongena”* by Elsa Joubert; *“Die Nagbesoekers”* by Albert Short; *“Mymeringe van 'n Ou Man”* by Dolf van Niekerk and *“Kinders”* by Erica Harris, amongst others, were broadcast. While book readings such as *“Ampie”* by Jochem van Bruggen; and *“Sneeu in die Karoo”* by Joanne Goosen were broadcast. The monitoring exercise confirmed that the Licensee on average exceeds three (3) hours of drama per week during the South African performance period.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.5 of the Schedule to its Licence.

Clause 7.6 of the Schedule to the service Licence of RSG state that:

“7.6 Informal Knowledge-Building Programmes

The Licensee shall broadcast at least three (3) hours of informal knowledge-building programming per week within the South African performance period.”

The quarterly reports submitted by the SABC indicate that Radio Sonder Grense broadcasts an average of twenty-three (23) hours of informal knowledge-building programmes per week during the South African performance period.

The following informal knowledge building programming was found during the period under review, include:

- "Regsake" broadcast between 11h30 and 12h00 on Mondays and Thursdays;
- "Doen Jou Eie Ding" broadcast between 11h30 and 12h00 on Fridays;
- "Wie Is Ek?" broadcast between 11h30 and 12h00 on Fridays;
- "Finansies" broadcast between 11h30 and 12h00 on Tuesdays;
- "Gesondheid" broadcast between 11h30 and 12h00 on Wednesdays;
- "Saterdagresep" broadcast between 14h00 and 14h30;
- "Tegnologie met Blaine" broadcast between 14h30 and 15h00 on Saturdays;
- "Leefwêreld van die gestremdes" broadcast between 16h30 and 17h00 on Saturdays;
- "Taaldinge" broadcast between 11h05 and 11h30 on Sundays;
- "Nal'ibali" broadcast between 19h20 and 19h30 on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays;
- "Skuiif Nader" broadcast between 19h20 and 19h30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays;
- "Kiskenades" broadcast between 19h05 and 19h15 on Saturdays; and
- "Sterre en planete" broadcast between 19h30 and 20h00 on Sundays

The monitoring exercise found that the programming as outlined above exceeded the Licensee's obligation to broadcast at least three (3) hours of informal knowledge building programming per week during the South African performance period.

The Licensee complies with clause 7.6 of the Schedule to its Licence.

3.7 Training and Skills Development Obligations

Clause 8 of the schedule to Radio Sonder Grense's licence stipulates that:

- "8.1 *The Licensee must adopt and implement equal opportunity employment Practice.*
- 8.2 *The Licensee must ensure that its management and staff are representative of South African society and that its human resource policies take into account the development of managerial, production, technical and other skills and expertise, particularly with regard to historically disadvantaged persons.*
- 8.3 *The Licensee shall endeavour to achieve fair and reasonable participation by historically disadvantaged persons with respect to:*
- (a) its management and control structures*
 - (b) skills development*
 - (c) enterprise development; and*
 - (d) procurement*
- 8.4 *The Licensee must, within thirty (30) days of the end of each financial year, provide the Authority the written information regarding its compliance with the above requirements."*

The SABC's Employment Equity and Transformation report for the year ended February 2023 outlines the licensee's efforts to comply with clause 8 and the subclauses. Notably, the Licensee continues to maximise its employment of people from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. In the year that ended February 2023, the SABC absorbed, into its workforce, one hundred and twenty six (126) interns out of one hundred and sixty-three (163) that completed the 2022/2023 internship programme with the Licensee.

Women continue to get into high positions within the Licensee and people from previously disadvantaged groups make up the majority at executive level. The Licensee's five-year target is to have at least 51.7% women making up the entire workforce by September 2025. The SABC has already reached the 2025 target; currently, women make up 52% of the Licensee's employees, and they are

represented at all occupational levels. The SABC’s Employment Equity report shows that the Licensee’s employment practices strive to promote a fair and equitable representation of race and gender at all levels.

Table 1: SABC’s 2025 Employment Equity Targets (Control/Management Echelon) against 2023 Actuals

Employment Category	September 2025 Target	February 2023 Actual
Black Board of Directors with Voting Rights	50%	85.72%
Female Board of Directors with Voting Rights	25%	33%
Black Executive Directors (GCEO, COO, CFO)	50%	66.67%
Black Female Executive Directors (GCEO, COO, CFO)	25%	0%
Black Executive Managers / Senior Management	60%	88 %
Black Female Executive Managers/Senior Management	30%	32%
Black Middle Management	75%	83%
Black Female Middle Management	38%	42%
Black Junior Managers	88%	93%

Black Female Junior Managers	44%	49%
Black People with Disabilities	2%	2%

Towards its obligation as laid out in clause 8.3 (b) and its Workplace Skills Plan, the SABC delivered one thousand three hundred and sixty-eight (1368) training interventions in the past reporting year. Eight hundred and seventy-six (876) employees took part in the training interventions and 96.5% of the participants were persons from historically disadvantaged groups.

The SABC’s reports on employment equity and skills development were received within the time frame specified in the License, thus complying with clause 8.4.

The Licensee complies with the entirety of clause 8 of the Schedule of its Licence.

3.8. Provision of audited financial statements to the Authority:

Clause 9 of the service licence provides that:

"Licensee shall provide the Authority with the audited annual financial statements of the licensed service within four (4) months of the end of the Licensee’s financial year, provided that the Licensee may on good cause apply to the Authority for an extension."

The Licensee submitted its audited annual financial statements to the Authority on 30 September 2023. The submission was within the prescribed time.

The Licensee complies with clause 9 of the Schedule to its Licence.

4. REGULATIONS

4.1 South African Music Content Regulations

Regulation 3(1) of the ICASA South African Music Content Regulations as published in the *Government Gazette* No. 39844 dated, 23 March 2016 stipulate that:

*"A holder of a public sound broadcasting service licence must ensure that after eighteen (18) months of the gazetting of these Regulations, a minimum of 60% increasing to 70% in the following year, of the musical works broadcast in the performance period consist of South African music and that such South African music is spread reasonably evenly throughout the said period"*⁶.

Some of the South African music tracks, during the period under review, include: *Sunset Sweatshop "Show Me Your Love"; Herman Kleinhans feat. Jan Blohm "Waar's Jy?"; Ndlovu Youth Choir "We Will Rise"; Janie Bay "Lewens"; Will Linley "Wrong Time"; Kurt Darren "Wat my Pa sou sê"; Dewald Wasserfall "Eendag As Ons Groot Is"; Taschè "Sal Jy Vir My Wag"; Karlien Van Jaarsveld "Ophou"; Spoegwolf feat. Jodi Jantjies "Erika Way"; Bottomless Coffee Band "Plek Aan My Tafel".*

The monitoring exercise confirmed that South African music content makes up an average of sixty-five (65) percent of all the music tracks broadcast by the Licensee. The Licensee further has regular interviews with South African artists and covers live music. These format factors contribute to the Licensee's overall South African music content.

The Licensee therefore has an average total of over seventy (70%) percent South African music content and such music content is further spread reasonably even throughout the performance period.

The Licensee complies with the South African Music Content Regulations.

⁶ Appendix D: ICASA South African Music Content Regulations, 2016 as published in *Government Gazette* No.39844 dated, 23 March 2016.

4.2 Compliance Procedure Manual – Form 12A

The Licensee is required, in terms of the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations⁷, to submit a Form 12A which reports on all complaints received during each financial year.

The monitoring exercise confirms that the Licensee submitted the required Form 12A. Further, the Licensee is a member of the National Association of Broadcasters (“NAB”) and complaints in relation to the Code of Conduct by Broadcasters are administered by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa (“BCCSA”).

The Licensee complies with the Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations.

4.3 Regulations regarding Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Licensees

The Authority is satisfied that during the period under review, the Licensee did not contravene the regulation in respect of the Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Licences⁸.

The Licensee complies with the Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Broadcasting Licensees.

⁷ ICASA Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations, 2011 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 34863 dated, 15 December 2011.

⁸ Standard Terms and Conditions for Individual Licences, 2010 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 33294 dated, 14 June 2010, as amended.

4.4 Universal Service and Access Fund Regulations

Regulation 3 of the USAF Regulations⁹ provides that:

- 1) *"Every holder of a licence granted in terms of Chapters 3, 4 and/or 9 or converted in terms of Chapter 15 of the Act, must pay an annual contribution of 0.2% of its Annual Turnover to the Fund.*
- 2) *A Broadcasting Service Licensee who has paid an annual contribution to the MDDA must set off that contribution against its USAF Contribution, provided that the MDDA contribution and the USAF contribution against which it is set off are for the same financial year".*

The Licensee made the prescribed payment directly to the MDDA and submitted proof thereof to the Authority on 31 October 2023.

The Licensee complies with Regulations 3(1) and 3(2) of the USAF Regulations.

5. CONCLUSION

The monitoring exercise concluded that during the period under review, the Licensee was compliant with all its compliance obligations.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Appendix A: Service and Frequency spectrum licences.

Appendix B: Editorial policies.

Appendix C: SABC Employment Equity and Transformation: Report to ICASA, Reporting period: 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

Appendix D: Skills and Development Report.

Appendix E: South African Music Content Regulations.

Appendix F: Compliance Procedure Manual Regulations.

Appendix G: Regulations Regarding Standard Terms and Conditions.

Appendix H: Universal Service Obligation Fund Regulations.

END.

⁹ USAF Regulations, 2011 as published in *Government Gazette* No. 34010 dated, 10 February 2011.