

RESOLUTIONS OF THE MISA 2004 AGM

WHEREAS Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights grants everyone the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media

AND WHEREAS the Windhoek Declaration recognizes the establishment, maintenance and fostering of an independent, pluralistic and free media as essential to the development and maintenance of democracy in a nation and for economic development,

RECOGNISING the importance of the electronic media in the fulfillment and enjoyment of the abovementioned rights,

REALISING the important role which the public media should play in order for everyone to fully enjoy the rights so conferred by the various charters, articles and declarations,

NOTING that most public broadcasters in the region are not fulfilling their mandates as public service broadcasters,

FURTHER NOTING that Section 6 of the African Commission for Human and People's Rights Declaration on Principles of Freedom of Expression states that state broadcasters should be transformed into public service broadcasters,

AND FURTHER NOTING that the public service broadcasters have a key transformative role in the promotion of gender equality,
WE, the members and participants to the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Annual General Meeting 2004 and a conference on the transformation of state media into public media which preceded the AGM do hereby resolve as follows:

1. MISA should co-ordinate the formation of a broad based coalition involving all sectors of the society including but not limited to:
 - (i) politicians
 - (ii) parliamentarians
 - (iii) religious groups
 - (iv) traditional leaders
 - (v) civic society organizations
 - (vi) students
 - (vii) academics
 - (viii) media and legal practitioners as a united front
2. In a consultative process, MISA should develop a draft broadcasting policy guidelines for use in the campaign for broadcasting reforms having regard to the research carried out on the subject.
3. In drafting the above-mentioned policy on public service broadcasting, recourse shall be had to:

- (i) editorial independence of the public broadcaster
 - (ii) the issue of funding without compromising the independence of the public broadcaster
 - (iii) the selection and appointment of board members of the public service broadcaster which should be done through a public process and appointments being a clear prerogative of Parliament.
 - (iv) A framework that allows the public to input into the public broadcasting system
4. MISA should also engage the print media and put in place mechanisms for the transformation of the state owned print media into public service media. At the same time, MISA should work with stakeholders in the print media to establish a process of self-regulation.
 5. MISA National Chapters are being mandated to drive the campaigns for media reforms in their countries using country specific strategies and report progress to the next AGM.
 6. MISA Regional Secretariat should seek the co-operation of the Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA) in ensuring that there are broadcasting reforms in Southern Africa. The same shall also apply to the Southern African Editors' Forum.
 7. To attend, lobby and actively participate in the ordinary sessions of the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) as well as the Forum for participating NGOs held prior to each ordinary session of the ACHPR.
 8. MISA should engage the SADC Parliamentary Forum and call for the creation of norms and standards on public broadcasting.
 9. Where possible, National Chapters can have recourse to litigation to compel public broadcasters to act in line with their mandates.
 10. MISA should carry out public awareness campaigns on what a public service broadcaster is, its role and function together with the role and function of the board.

Thus done at Maseru at the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Media Institute of Southern Africa. 27th Day of August 2004.