



Public Utilities
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**THE GAMBIA PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PURA)
BROADCASTING AND ONLINE CONTENT LICENSING, REGISTRATION AND AUTHORISATION GUIDELINES,**

2026

Approved by the Authority this _____ day of _____ 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These Guidelines set out the administrative procedures, requirements and practices governing the licensing, registration and authorisation of broadcasting and online content services in The Gambia.
- 1.2. These Guidelines apply to all persons and entities seeking authorisation under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.
- 1.3. The Guidelines are intended to guide applicants, licensees and registered entities on how to apply for, obtain, maintain, renew and vary authorisations issued by the Authority.
- 1.4. These Guidelines promote transparency, predictability, regulatory efficiency and technology-neutral regulation of broadcasting and online content services.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- 2.1. These Guidelines are issued pursuant to section 250(2) of the Information and Communications Act, 2009 and are binding on all applicants, licensees and registered entities.
- 2.2. Compliance with these Guidelines constitutes a condition of licence, registration or authorization.
- 2.3. The purpose of these Guidelines is to—
 - (a) provide detailed procedural guidance to applicants;
 - (b) ensure consistency and objectivity in regulatory decision-making;
 - (c) clarify documentary and evidentiary requirements; and
 - (d) support effective administration of the broadcasting and online content framework.
- 2.4. These Guidelines shall be read together with—
 - (e) the Complaints, Investigations and Consumer Protection Regulations, 2026;
 - (f) the Enforcement Regulations, 2026; and
 - (g) the Unified Fees Regulations, 2026.
- 2.5. Where any inconsistency arises, the provisions of the Act or Regulations shall prevail.

3. INTERPRETATION

- 3.1. Words and expressions used in these Guidelines shall have the meanings assigned to them under the Information and Communications Act, 2009 and the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.
- 3.2. In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:
“Authority” means the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA);

“**Authorisation**” includes a licence, registration or designation issued under the regulatory framework.

“**Applicant**” means a person or entity applying for a licence, registration or authorisation;

“**Content Service Provider**” means a person or entity exercising editorial control over content made available to the public;

“**Infrastructure Service Provider**” means a person or entity providing transmission, distribution, hosting or network infrastructure;

“**Public Broadcasting Infrastructure Provider**” means an entity designated under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026 to provide national broadcasting signal distribution or related broadcast transmission infrastructure services.

“**Public Service Broadcaster**” means a broadcaster designated under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026 as having a public service mandate.

4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

4.1. These Guidelines apply to—

- (a) applicants for broadcasting licences;
- (b) applicants for content service provider licences;
- (c) applicants for infrastructure or network service provider licences;
- (d) Designated Online Content Providers required to register under the Regulations;
- (e) persons meeting the criteria for designation as Social Media Users with Significant Public Reach (SPURs); and
- (f) online hosting, aggregation or communication services subject to designation or authorisation.

4.2. These Guidelines apply to both **new applications** and **existing licensees or registrants** seeking renewal, variation or approval of material changes.

5. TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL LICENSING AND AUTHORISATION FRAMEWORK

5.1 The Authority adopts a technology-neutral approach to the licensing and regulation of broadcasting and online content services.

5.2 Authorisations are determined by the **functional role** performed by the applicant rather than the delivery technology or platform used.

5.3 Under this framework—

- (a) content services are licensed based on editorial control and public dissemination;
 - (b) infrastructure services are licensed based on network operation and technical functionality;
- and

(c) certain online services are regulated through registration or designation.

5.4 Where appropriate, a single licence may authorise multiple service modalities, subject to clear specification in the licence instrument.

6. CATEGORIES OF LICENSING, REGISTRATION AND AUTHORISATION

6.1. Authorisation under the broadcasting and online content framework may take the form of:

- (a) Content Service Provider Licence;
- (b) Network or Infrastructure Service Provider Licence;
- (c) Registration; or
- (d) Designation by the Minister, where expressly provided under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

6.2. The form of authorisation required shall be determined by the Authority having regard to—

- (a) the nature and function of the service provided;
- (b) whether the applicant exercises editorial control over content;
- (c) the scale and reach of the service;
- (d) the level of regulatory risk and public interest impact; and
- (e) statutory requirements under the Act and applicable Regulations.

6.3. No person shall provide a broadcasting or regulated online content service unless duly authorised under the applicable category.

6.4. Where a service is designated by the Minister as a Public Service Broadcaster or Public Broadcasting Infrastructure Provider under the Regulations, such designation shall not require a competitive application process under these Guidelines, but shall remain subject to applicable compliance, reporting and regulatory oversight obligations.

7. CONTENT SERVICE PROVIDER LICENSING FRAMEWORK

7.1. A Content Service Provider Licence is required for any person or entity that—

- (a) exercises editorial control over broadcast or online audiovisual content; and
- (b) disseminates such content to the public in The Gambia.

7.2. A Content Service Provider Licence may authorise one or more of the following services—

- (a) radio broadcasting services;
- (b) television broadcasting services;
- (c) community broadcasting services;
- (d) subscription or pay-TV services;
- (e) digital or online linear content services; or
- (f) any combination of the above, as specified in the licence instrument.

7.3. The licence instrument shall clearly specify—

- (a) the authorised service modality or modalities;
- (b) the geographic scope of operation;
- (c) applicable technical parameters;
- (d) content obligations and standards; and
- (e) any special conditions imposed by the Authority.

7.4. A Content Service Provider Licence does not authorise the operation of transmission or network infrastructure unless expressly stated.

7.5. Where a broadcaster is designated as a Public Service Broadcaster under the Regulations, the licence instrument shall incorporate the public service mandate and additional accountability obligations prescribed in the Regulations.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK SERVICE PROVIDER LICENSING FRAMEWORK

8.1 A person providing broadcasting transmission, signal distribution, multiplexing, hosting or aggregation infrastructure may be required to obtain an Infrastructure or Network Service Provider Licence.

8.2 Infrastructure licences focus primarily on—

- (a) technical competence and network reliability;
- (b) compliance with applicable engineering and safety standards;
- (c) interoperability and access obligations; and
- (d) public interest considerations, including universal access.

8.3 An Infrastructure or Network Service Provider Licence does not confer editorial control or content responsibilities unless expressly provided under the Regulations.

8.4 Where an applicant provides both content services and infrastructure services, the Authority may—

- (a) require separate licences; or
- (b) issue a single consolidated licence with clearly delineated authorisations.

8.5 Where the Minister designates an entity as a Public Broadcasting Infrastructure Provider under the Regulations, such designation shall specify the scope of authorised infrastructure functions and shall be reflected in the applicable licence or authorisation instrument issued in accordance with the Act.

8.6 A Public Broadcasting Infrastructure Provider shall remain subject to technical compliance, non-discrimination, separation obligations (where applicable), access and reporting obligations as prescribed in the Regulations and any applicable licence conditions.

9. REGISTRATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA USERS WITH SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC REACH (SPURs)

Nature and Legal Effect of SPUR Registration

9.1 A person who meets the criteria for designation as a Social Media User with Significant Public Reach (SPUR) under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026 shall register with the Authority in accordance with this section prior to engaging in **monetised** dissemination of regulated content to the public in The Gambia.

9.2 Registration under this section—

- (a) is an administrative compliance mechanism;
- (b) does not constitute a broadcasting licence or a licence to practise journalism;
- (c) does not confer any exclusive right to disseminate content; and
- (d) does not restrict the constitutional right to freedom of expression, and shall be implemented in a lawful, reasonable, proportionate and non-discriminatory manner.

Eligibility and scope

9.3 This section applies only to persons who meet the SPUR criteria under the Regulations, having regard to factors including—

- (a) the level of public reach or audience size;
- (b) whether content dissemination is carried out on a sustained basis; and
- (c) whether the person engages in monetisation or commercial arrangements relating to such dissemination.

9.4 For the purposes of administrative assessment under these Guidelines, “monetised” dissemination may include—

- (a) paid advertising revenue share arrangements;
- (b) sponsorships, endorsements, or paid partnerships;
- (c) affiliate marketing links or commission-based promotions;
- (d) paid subscriptions or paid access arrangements;
- (e) paid appearances, promotions, or influencer marketing services; or
- (f) any other commercial arrangement prescribed or recognised under the Regulations.

9.5 Registration shall not be required for—

- (a) private individuals expressing opinions for non-commercial purposes;
- (b) ordinary users whose accounts do not meet the SPUR criteria prescribed under the Regulations; or
- (c) persons whose dissemination is purely private, non-public, or otherwise outside the jurisdictional scope of the Regulations.

Application requirements

9.6 An application for SPUR registration shall be submitted in the prescribed form and shall include, at a minimum—

- (a) full identification and contact details of the applicant;
- (b) a national identity document or passport (for verification purposes);
- (c) the social media platforms, account handles, channel names, or page identifiers operated by the applicant;
- (d) a brief description of the applicant’s content activities and audience reach metrics, where applicable;
- (e) disclosure of monetisation arrangements, including sponsorships or commercial partnerships;
- (f) a declaration of the primary content categories disseminated (e.g., news/current affairs, entertainment, lifestyle, sports, education, commentary); and
- (g) a signed undertaking to comply with applicable content standards, codes and lawful directives issued under the Act and Regulations.

9.7 Where the Authority reasonably requires additional information to verify whether the applicant meets the SPUR criteria under the Regulations, the Authority may request such further information, provided that the request is proportionate and relevant to the assessment.

Acknowledgement, processing and decision

9.8 The Authority shall acknowledge receipt of a complete SPUR registration application within seven (7) working days.

9.9 The Authority shall assess SPUR registration applications in a transparent, objective and non-discriminatory manner, and shall determine the application within a reasonable period, having regard to verification needs and administrative capacity.

9.10 The Authority shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision, and where registration is granted, shall issue a Certificate of Registration, including—

- (a) the registration number;
- (b) the period of validity; and
- (c) any applicable standard conditions prescribed under the Regulations.

Validity, renewal and changes in particulars

9.11 A SPUR registration certificate shall be valid for two (2) years unless otherwise provided under the Regulations.

9.12 An application for renewal shall be submitted prior to expiry and shall include—

- (a) updated account identifiers and contact details (where applicable);
- (b) updated disclosure of monetisation arrangements; and
- (c) a declaration of continued compliance with applicable content standards, codes and lawful directives.

9.13 A registered SPUR shall notify the Authority, within a reasonable period, of any material change in particulars, including—

- (a) change of primary account identifiers or platforms used for regulated dissemination;
- (b) significant change in monetisation arrangements; or
- (c) any change that may reasonably affect SPUR status under the Regulations.

Disclosure and compliance expectations (procedural)

9.14 A registered SPUR shall, where engaging in sponsorships or paid promotions, make reasonable disclosures of sponsored communications in a manner consistent with any codes or guidance issued under the Regulations.

9.15 Compliance monitoring and enforcement in relation to SPUR obligations shall be conducted in accordance with the Regulations and the applicable complaints, investigations and enforcement framework.

Register of SPURs and publication

9.16 The Authority shall maintain a Register of SPURs containing details of persons registered under this section, in such form as the Authority may determine.

9.17 The Authority may make publicly available limited information from the Register of SPURs, in accordance with applicable laws on privacy and access to information.

9.18 Without prejudice to section 9.17, publicly available information from the Register should ordinarily be limited to—

- (a) the name or public-facing identity used by the registrant;
- (b) platform and account/channel identifier(s);
- (c) registration number; and
- (d) registration status (valid, expired, suspended or cancelled).

9.19 Personal identification numbers, residential addresses, private contact information and other sensitive personal data shall not be published except where required by law or by a valid lawful order.

Suspension or cancellation

9.20 The Authority may suspend or cancel a SPUR registration only where—

- (a) the registration was obtained through fraud or material misrepresentation;
- (b) the registrant no longer meets the SPUR criteria prescribed under the Regulations;
- (c) a final determination under the applicable complaints, investigations or enforcement framework establishes serious or repeated breach of the Regulations or applicable codes warranting suspension or cancellation; or
- (d) the registrant has failed to comply with a lawful directive issued pursuant to the Act and Regulations, after due notice and opportunity to comply.

9.21 A suspension or cancellation under clause 9.20 shall be subject to—

- (a) written notice of the proposed action and reasons;
- (b) a reasonable opportunity to respond; and
- (c) compliance with procedural fairness and any formal hearing requirements under applicable law.

Appeals

9.22 A person aggrieved by a decision under this section may appeal in accordance with the Information and Communications Act, 2009 and any applicable appeals procedures under the Regulations.

10. REGISTRATION AND DESIGNATION OF ONLINE CONTENT SERVICES

10.1 The Authority may require certain online content providers exercising editorial control to register or be designated under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

10.2 Registration or designation under this section—

- (a) is intended to apply content standards to regulated online services;
- (b) does not confer broadcasting rights; and
- (c) does not imply infrastructure licensing unless expressly stated.

10.3 The Authority shall notify registrants or designated entities of—

- (a) applicable obligations;
- (b) reporting or compliance requirements; and
- (c) any conditions attached to registration or designation.

11. AUTHORISATION OF ONLINE HOSTING AND AGGREGATION SERVICES

11.1. Online hosting, aggregation or communication services may be designated or authorised by the Authority in accordance with the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

11.2. Such designation or authorisation shall—

- (a) recognise the functional role of the service;
- (b) avoid imposing editorial responsibility beyond what is prescribed under law; and
- (c) ensure compliance with lawful directives issued by the Authority.

11.3. Designation of an online hosting or aggregation service does not, of itself, classify the service as a broadcaster.

12. APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 12.1. All applications for licensing, registration or authorisation under these Guidelines shall be submitted to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) in the manner prescribed under this section.
- 12.2. An application shall be submitted—
- (a) in the prescribed application form issued by the Authority;
 - (b) in both electronic and hard-copy format, unless otherwise directed by the Authority; and
 - (c) together with all required supporting documents and proof of payment of applicable fees.
- 12.3. Electronic submissions shall be made through—
- (a) the official PURA email address designated for licensing applications; or
 - (b) an online licensing portal where established by the Authority.
- 12.4. Hard-copy submissions shall be delivered to the PURA Secretariat during official working hours and shall be clearly marked with—
- (a) the name of the applicant;
 - (b) the type of authorisation sought; and
 - (c) the date of submission.

13. APPLICATION FORMS AND PRESCRIBED DOCUMENTATION

- 13.1 The Authority shall prescribe standard application forms for—
- (a) Content Service Provider Licences;
 - (b) Infrastructure or Network Service Provider Licences;
 - (c) Registration of Designated Online Content Providers; and
 - (d) Registration of Social Media Users with Significant Public Reach (SPURs).
- 13.2 Without prejudice to section 13.1, an applicant for a Content Service Provider Licence shall submit, at a minimum—
- (a) certificate of incorporation, registration or equivalent legal status document;
 - (b) ownership and shareholding structure, including beneficial ownership disclosures;
 - (c) identification documents of directors, shareholders and key management personnel;
 - (d) detailed description of the proposed service and content format;
 - (e) proposed programme schedules and content categories;
 - (f) technical specifications, transmission plans and equipment details (where applicable);
 - (g) business plan and financial projections demonstrating sustainability;
 - (h) evidence of payment of applicable fees under the Unified Fees Regulations, 2026; and
 - (i) a signed declaration of compliance with the Act, Regulations, codes and guidelines.

- 13.3 Applicants that are education or academic institutions shall, in addition to the general requirements, submit proof of accreditation or certification issued by the National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA), where applicable.
- 13.4 An applicant for an Infrastructure or Network Service Provider Licence shall additionally submit—
- (a) network architecture and infrastructure deployment plans;
 - (b) technical standards and interoperability information;
 - (c) environmental, safety and site compliance documentation; and
 - (d) access or sharing arrangements, where applicable.
- 13.5 An application for registration or designation of online content services, including SPURs, shall include—
- (a) identification and contact details of the applicant;
 - (b) platform, account or service identifiers;
 - (c) description of content activities and audience reach;
 - (d) disclosure of monetisation or commercial arrangements; and
 - (e) a signed undertaking to comply with applicable content standards.
- 13.6 Where an application is incomplete, inaccurate or misleading, the Authority may—
- (a) request clarification or additional information; or
 - (b) return or reject the application without substantive assessment.

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, COMPLETENESS AND VALIDITY OF APPLICATIONS

- 14.1 Upon receipt of an application, the Authority shall issue a written acknowledgement to the applicant within seven (7) working days.
- 14.2 An application shall be deemed complete only where—
- (a) all prescribed forms have been duly completed;
 - (b) all required documents have been submitted; and
 - (c) applicable fees have been paid.
- 14.3 Where an application is incomplete, inaccurate or misleading, the Authority may—
- (a) request clarification or additional information;
 - (b) suspend processing pending compliance; or
 - (c) return or reject the application without substantive assessment.
- 14.4 The statutory or indicative assessment timelines shall commence only upon confirmation of a complete application.

15. ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION & DECISION-MAKING

- 15.1 The Authority shall assess applications in a transparent, objective and non-discriminatory manner.
- 15.2 In evaluating an application, the Authority may consider—
- (a) technical competence and capacity;
 - (b) financial viability and sustainability;
 - (c) ownership, control and corporate governance structure;
 - (d) compliance history (where applicable);
 - (e) contribution to media diversity and pluralism;
 - (f) public interest considerations; and
 - (g) alignment with national broadcasting and content policy objectives.
- 15.3 The Authority shall endeavour to conclude its assessment within ninety (90) days of receipt of a complete application.
- 15.4 Where public consultation, technical verification or inter-agency consultation is required, the assessment period may be extended, and the applicant shall be notified in writing of the reason for the extension and the revised indicative timeline.
- 15.5 Decisions of the Authority shall be communicated in writing and shall—
- (a) specify the type and duration of authorisation granted, together with any conditions imposed; or
 - (b) where refused, state reasons and available remedies.

16. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND THIRD-PARTY INPUT

- 16.1 Where required by law or where the Authority considers it necessary in the public interest, the Authority may—
- (a) publish notice of an application; and
 - (b) invite written comments from the public or affected stakeholders.
- 16.2 Public consultation shall be conducted in a manner that is proportionate to—
- (a) the scale of the proposed service;
 - (b) the potential public interest impact; and
 - (c) competition or spectrum considerations, where applicable.
- 16.3 Comments received during public consultation shall be considered as part of the overall assessment but shall not be determinative.

17. DECISION OUTCOMES AND COMMENCEMENT OF AUTHORISATION

- 17.1 Where an application is approved, the Authority shall—

- (a) issue the relevant licence, registration or authorisation instrument; and
- (b) specify the effective date of commencement.

17.2 No person shall commence operations until—

- (a) the relevant authorisation has been formally issued; and
- (b) all pre-commencement conditions, if any, have been satisfied.

17.3 An authorisation issued under these Guidelines shall be subject to—

- (a) the Act;
- (b) the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026;
- (c) applicable codes and guidelines; and
- (d) any specific conditions imposed by the Authority.

18. DURATION AND VALIDITY OF AUTHORISATIONS

18.1 The duration of a licence, registration or authorisation issued under these Guidelines shall be determined in a technology-neutral manner, having regard to—

- (a) the functional role of the service (content or infrastructure);
- (b) the scale and geographic reach of operations;
- (c) the level of capital investment and infrastructure deployment;
- (d) public interest considerations; and
- (e) regulatory certainty and sustainability.

18.2 Without prejudice to section 18.1, the Authority shall ordinarily apply the following indicative validity periods, which shall be expressly stated in the authorisation instrument—

(a) Content Service Provider Licences:

Radio, television, community broadcasting, subscription broadcasting, or online linear content services: **ten (10)**.

(b) Network or Infrastructure Service Provider Licences

Transmission, multiplexing, signal distribution, hosting or aggregation infrastructure: **fifteen (15) years**.

(c) National-scale or strategically significant infrastructure licences, including a Public Broadcasting Infrastructure Provider designated under the Regulations:

Where substantial national infrastructure investment is involved: **fifteen (15) years, extendable up to twenty (20) years**.

(d) Registrations and designations

Designated Online Content Providers and SPURs: **two (2) years, renewable**.

- 18.3 The applicable duration shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall not depend solely on the delivery technology or platform used.
- 18.4 Nothing in these Guidelines shall prevent the Authority from granting a longer or shorter duration where justified by public interest or sector-specific considerations, provided reasons are recorded.

19. RENEWAL OF LICENCES, REGISTRATIONS AND AUTHORISATIONS

- 19.1 A licensee or registered entity seeking renewal shall submit a renewal application not less than ninety (90) days before the expiry of the existing authorisation.
- 19.2 A renewal application shall include—
- (a) updated corporate, ownership and contact information;
 - (b) a declaration of continued compliance with—
 - i. the Act;
 - ii. the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026;
 - iii. applicable licence conditions; and
 - iv. codes and guidelines issued by the Authority;
 - v. evidence of payment of applicable renewal fees; and
 - vi. any additional information required by the Authority.
- 19.3 In assessing a renewal application, the Authority may consider—
- (a) compliance history;
 - (b) fulfilment of licence obligations;
 - (c) quality of service and content performance;
 - (d) public complaints or enforcement history; and
 - (e) continued relevance of the service to public interest objectives.
- 19.4 Renewal shall not be automatic and may be granted subject to a valid Annual Compliance Certificate submitted in accordance with clause 23 of this Guideline, and to revised or additional conditions, where appropriate.

20. VARIATION, TRANSFER AND AMENDMENT OF AUTHORISATIONS

- 20.1 A licensee or authorised entity shall not—
- (a) materially vary the nature of its service;
 - (b) change ownership or control;
 - (c) alter technical parameters; or
 - (d) assign, transfer or sub-license an authorisation,

without the prior written approval of the Authority.

- 20.2 An application for variation or transfer shall—

- (a) be submitted in the prescribed form;
- (b) clearly describe the proposed change; and
- (c) demonstrate continued compliance with applicable requirements.

20.3 The Authority may recommend to the Minister that a variation or transfer request be approved with conditions, or that it be refused, having regard to public interest and regulatory objectives.

21. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

21.1 Every licence, registration or authorisation issued under these Guidelines shall be subject to—

- (a) standard conditions applicable to the category of authorisation; and
- (b) specific conditions imposed by the Authority.

21.2 Conditions may relate to—

- (a) content standards and obligations;
- (b) technical performance and service quality;
- (c) reporting and information disclosure;
- (d) local content or public interest obligations;
- (e) compliance monitoring and inspections.

21.3 Conditions imposed under this section shall be—

- (a) lawful;
- (b) reasonable and proportionate; and
- (c) consistent with the Act and Regulations.

22. COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

22.1 Authorised persons shall comply with—

- (a) the Act;
- (b) the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026;
- (c) licence or registration conditions; and
- (d) lawful directives of the Authority.

22.2 The Authority may monitor compliance through—

- (a) periodic reporting;
- (b) inspections and audits;
- (c) complaints and investigations conducted under the Complaints, Investigations and Consumer Protection Regulations, 2026.

22.3 Compliance monitoring under these Guidelines shall be conducted in coordination with, and not in duplication of, procedures under the Complaints and Enforcement Regulations.

23. ANNUAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

- 23.1 Every licensee, registrant or authorised entity under these Guidelines shall, not later than 31st March of each calendar year, submit to the Authority an Annual Compliance Certificate in the prescribed form.
- 23.2 The Annual Compliance Certificate shall be a formal declaration signed by—
- (a) a director or equivalent principal officer of the licensee; and
 - (b) an authorised compliance or technical officer, certifying compliance during the preceding calendar year with—
 - i. Information and Communications Act, 2009;
 - ii. the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026;
 - iii. the applicable licence, registration or authorisation conditions;
 - iv. codes, guidelines and directives issued by the Authority; and
 - v. any remedial or enforcement directives previously issued.
- 23.3 The Annual Compliance Certificate shall be accompanied by such supporting information or disclosures as the Authority may reasonably require, including—
- (a) technical compliance confirmations;
 - (b) content compliance summaries;
 - (c) ownership and control confirmations; and
 - (d) declarations relating to complaints, investigations or enforcement actions.
- 23.4 Submission of an Annual Compliance Certificate shall not preclude the Authority from—
- (a) conducting inspections, audits or investigations; or
 - (b) taking enforcement action where non-compliance is identified.
- 23.5 Failure to submit an Annual Compliance Certificate within the prescribed period, or submission of a materially false or misleading certificate, shall constitute a breach of licence or authorisation conditions and may give rise to enforcement action under the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Enforcement) Regulations, 2026.
- 23.6 The Authority may prescribe different compliance certification requirements for different categories of licensees, registrants or authorised entities, having regard to—
- (a) the nature and scale of operations; and
 - (b) regulatory risk and public interest considerations.

24. REFUSAL, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION

- 24.1 Where grounds exist for the refusal, suspension or revocation of a broadcasting licence, the Authority shall—
- (a) conduct the necessary assessment or investigation; and

- (b) make a reasoned recommendation to the Minister in accordance with the Information and Communications Act, 2009.

24.2 In respect of registrations or designations issued directly by the Authority, the Authority may take appropriate action in accordance with—

- (a) the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026; and
- (b) the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Enforcement) Regulations, 2026, as amended from time to time.

24.3 All actions under this section shall be subject to—

- (a) procedural fairness;
- (b) the right to be heard; and
- (c) applicable formal hearing procedures where required.

24.4 Where an entity has been designated as a Public Service Broadcaster or Public Broadcasting Infrastructure Provider, any recommendation for revocation or variation of designation shall be made to the Minister in accordance with the Regulations and the Act.

25. FEES, COST RECOVERY AND ENFORCEMENT INTERFACE

25.1 All fees payable in respect of licensing, registration, renewal, variation or enforcement shall be those prescribed under the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Unified Fees) Regulations, 2026.

25.2 These Guidelines do not create, vary or impose any fee.

25.3 Enforcement actions, administrative sanctions, penalties and cost-recovery measures shall be applied in accordance with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Enforcement) Regulations, 2026.

26. APPEALS, TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND REVIEW

26.1 A person aggrieved by a decision of the Authority under these Guidelines may appeal in accordance with—

- (a) the Information and Communications Act, 2009; and
- (b) any other applicable written law.

26.2 The Authority may grant reasonable transitional periods to existing operators to ensure orderly compliance with new licensing or registration requirements.

26.3 These Guidelines may be reviewed and amended by the Authority from time to time to reflect—

- (c) legal developments;

- (d) technological change; or
- (e) regulatory experience.

27. STANDARD FORMS AND ANNEXES

27.1 For operational clarity, the following standard administrative forms shall be annexed to these Guidelines and may be updated by the Authority without amendment of the Guidelines—

ANNEX A – Broadcasting & Content Service Provider Licence Application Form

Includes:

- (a) Applicant details
- (b) Service description
- (c) Editorial control declaration
- (d) Ownership & beneficial ownership disclosures
- (e) Technical and programming overview

ANNEX B – Infrastructure / Network Service Provider Licence Application Form

Includes:

- (a) Infrastructure scope and coverage
- (b) Technical specifications
- (c) Interoperability and redundancy plans
- (d) National-scale designation indicator

ANNEX C – Designated Online Content Provider Registration Form

Includes:

- (a) Platform identification
- (b) Nature of content
- (c) Editorial control declaration
- (d) Monetisation disclosures

ANNEX D – SPUR Registration Form

Includes:

- (a) Identity verification
- (b) Account/platform details
- (c) Commercial and sponsorship disclosures
- (d) Undertaking of compliance

27.2 The Authority may issue guidance notes to accompany any Annex for clarity or sector-specific application.

28. INTERNAL PROCESSING AND SERVICE STANDARDS (NON-JUSTICIABLE)

28.1 For administrative efficiency, the Authority shall aim to observe the following internal service standards, which are indicative and non-justiciable—

- (a) Acknowledgement of complete applications: within 7 working days
- (b) Initial technical and regulatory screening: within 30 days
- (c) Substantive assessment and decision: within 90 days, subject to extensions

28.2 Failure to meet an indicative timeline shall not invalidate any decision or process.

29. TRANSITION FROM LEGACY LICENCES AND AUTHORISATIONS

29.1 All licences, registrations and authorisations issued prior to the commencement of these Guidelines shall—

- (a) remain valid until their stated expiry; and
- (b) be deemed issued under the technology-neutral framework upon renewal or variation.

29.2 The Authority may issue transitional directives to align legacy authorisations with—

- (a) new duration standards; or
- (b) revised categorisation frameworks.

30. LEGAL STATUS AND ENFORCEABILITY

30.1 These Guidelines are binding administrative instruments, and compliance with them is a condition of—

- (a) any licence;
- (b) registration; or
- (c) authorisation issued by the Authority.

30.2 Non-compliance with these Guidelines may give rise to—

- (a) regulatory directives;
- (b) refusal of applications;
- (c) non-renewal; or
- (d) enforcement action under applicable Regulations.

31. COMMENCEMENT AND PUBLICATION

31.1 These Guidelines shall take effect on the date of their approval by the Authority.

31.2 The Authority shall—

- (a) publish the Guidelines on its official website; and
- (b) circulate them to relevant stakeholders for information and compliance.

32. SAVING AND CONSISTENCY

32.1 Nothing in these Guidelines shall be construed as—

- (a) limiting freedom of expression under the Constitution; or
- (b) expanding regulatory powers beyond those conferred by law.

32.2 In the event of inconsistency—

- (a) the Act prevails over Regulations;
- (b) Regulations prevail over Guidelines.

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