



Public Utilities
Regulatory Authority
Equity in development

**THE GAMBIA PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PURA)
JOURNALISTS REGISTRATION GUIDELINES, 2026**

Approved by the Authority this _____ day of _____ 2026

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1. PURPOSE AND LEGAL BASIS

- 1.1. These Guidelines are issued pursuant to Regulation 23 and Regulation 24 of the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.
- 1.2. The purpose of these Guidelines is to establish administrative procedures for the registration of journalists operating within regulated editorial environments.
- 1.3. Registration under these Guidelines—
 - (a) is an administrative compliance mechanism;
 - (b) does not constitute a licence to practise journalism;
 - (c) does not restrict constitutional freedom of expression; and
 - (d) applies only within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Authority.

2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

- 2.1 Registration applies only to persons who practise as journalists for—
 - (a) a licensed broadcaster; or
 - (b) a Designated Online Content Provider exercising editorial control over news, current affairs, or factual programming.
- 2.2 These Guidelines do not apply to—
 - (a) independent bloggers not affiliated with a regulated entity;
 - (b) private individuals expressing opinions;
 - (c) persons engaged in non-editorial content production.
- 2.3 A freelance journalist shall be eligible for registration only where the journalist is contracted by or contributing to a licensed broadcaster or a Designated Online Content Provider exercising editorial control over news, current affairs, or factual programming.

3. APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

- 3.1. An application shall be made in the prescribed form.
- 3.2. The application shall include—
 - (a) full name and contact information;
 - (b) national identity document or passport;
 - (c) confirmation letter from employing broadcaster or designated provider;
 - (d) where freelance, written confirmation of contractual engagement;
 - (e) evidence of professional training or equivalent experience;
 - (f) signed undertaking to comply with applicable Codes of Practice.
- 3.3. The Authority shall acknowledge receipt within seven (7) working days.

3.4.Registration shall not be withheld on arbitrary or discriminatory grounds.

4. CERTIFICATE AND VALIDITY

4.1.Upon approval, the Authority shall issue a Certificate of Registration.

4.2.Registration shall be valid for two (2) years.

4.3.Renewal shall require submission of updated employment confirmation and declarations.

5. OBLIGATIONS OF BROADCASTERS AND DESIGNATED PROVIDERS

5.1 A licensed broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider shall ensure that any journalist engaged in news or current affairs programming is duly registered.

5.2 Failure to ensure compliance may constitute a breach of licence conditions.

6. REGISTER OF JOURNALISTS

6.1 The Authority shall maintain a Register of Journalists.

6.2 The Register shall contain—

- (a) name of journalist;
- (b) registration number;
- (c) affiliated regulated entity;
- (d) status of registration.

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

6.4 Personal identification details shall not be publicly disclosed except as required by law.

7. SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION

7.1 The Authority may suspend or cancel registration only where—

- (a) the registration was obtained through fraud or material misrepresentation;
- (b) the journalist is no longer engaged by a licensed broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider;
- (c) a final determination under the applicable complaints and investigations framework establishes serious misconduct warranting suspension;
- (d) the journalist fails to comply with lawful directives issued pursuant to the Act.

7.2 Suspension or cancellation shall be subject to—

- (a) notice of proposed action;
- (b) opportunity to respond;
- (c) procedural fairness.

7.3 Enforcement relating to content breaches shall primarily be directed at the licensed broadcaster or designated provider responsible for editorial control.

7.4 Nothing in these Guidelines shall be interpreted as conferring on the Authority any power to pre-approve journalistic content or to exercise editorial control over journalistic practice.

8. APPEALS

8.1 A journalist aggrieved by a decision under these Guidelines may appeal in accordance with—

- (a) the Information and Communications Act, 2009; and
- (b) the applicable complaints and investigations regulations.

9. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

9.1 Existing journalists operating within regulated entities shall be granted a transitional period of ninety (90) days from the commencement of these Guidelines to regularise registration.

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ANNEX A - PURA JOURNALIST REGISTRATION APPLICATION FORM

(For Journalists Operating Within Licensed Broadcasters or Designated Online Content Providers)

Issued pursuant to **Regulation 23** of the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

1. SECTION 1: APPLICANT DETAILS

(1) Full Name (as per National ID / Passport):

(2) Date of Birth:

(3) Nationality:

(4) National ID Number / Passport Number:

(5) Residential Address:

(6) Contact Information:

Mobile Number: _____

Email Address: _____

2. SECTION 2: PROFESSIONAL STATUS

(1) Name of Licensed Broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider:

(2) Type of Engagement (tick one):

Full-time Employee

Part-time Employee

Contracted Contributor

Freelance (attached to regulated entity)

(3) Confirmation Letter Attached from Media House / Regulated Entity:

Yes

No (Application will not be processed without confirmation)

3. SECTION 3: PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE

(1) Journalism Qualification (if applicable):

Institution: _____

Qualification: _____

Year Obtained: _____

(2) If no formal qualification, provide summary of relevant journalistic experience (attach additional sheet if necessary):

12. Years of Professional Practice:

4. SECTION 4: DECLARATIONS

I hereby declare that:

I am currently practising journalism for a licensed broadcaster or a Designated Online Content Provider exercising editorial control over news, current affairs, or factual programming.

The information provided in this application is true and complete.

I understand that registration under this framework does not constitute a licence to practise journalism and does not restrict constitutional freedom of expression.

I undertake to comply with applicable Codes of Practice and ethical standards issued under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

I acknowledge that registration may be suspended or cancelled only in accordance with Regulation 23 and the applicable complaints and investigations framework.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

5. SECTION 5: EMPLOYER / PLATFORM CONFIRMATION

(To be completed by Licensed Broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider)

Name of Regulated Entity:

Licence/Registration Number:

We confirm that:

The applicant is engaged by this entity in the capacity stated above.

The applicant performs journalistic functions relating to news, current affairs, or factual programming.

We undertake to notify the Authority if the applicant ceases engagement.

Name of Authorised Officer: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Official Stamp (if applicable)

Date: _____

6. SECTION 6: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (PURA)

Application Received Date: _____

Application Complete: Yes No

Additional Information Requested: Yes No

Decision:

Approved

Refused (Reason attached)

Registration Number Issued: _____

Validity Period: From _____ To _____

Authorised Officer (PURA): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Notes to Applicant

1. Registration is valid for two (2) years and must be renewed prior to expiry.
2. Registration applies only while the applicant is engaged by the regulated entity identified above.
3. The Authority maintains a Register of Journalists containing limited publicly accessible information (name, registration number, affiliated entity, status).
4. Personal identification information will not be publicly disclosed except as required by law.

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ANNEX B - PURA JOURNALIST REGISTRATION RENEWAL FORM

(For Journalists Operating Within Licensed Broadcasters or Designated Online Content Providers)

Issued pursuant to **Regulation 23** of the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

7. SECTION 1: JOURNALIST DETAILS

(1) Full Name (as per existing registration):

(2) Registration Number:

(3) Current Registration Expiry Date:

(4) National ID Number / Passport Number (for verification only):

(5) Updated Contact Information (if applicable):

Residential Address:

Mobile Number: _____

Email Address: _____

8. SECTION 2: CURRENT PROFESSIONAL STATUS

(1) Name of Licensed Broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider:

(2) Type of Engagement (tick one):

Full-time Employee

Part-time Employee

Contracted Contributor

Freelance (attached to regulated entity)

(3) Has there been any change in your engagement status since last registration?

No

Yes (Provide details below)

(4) Updated Employer / Platform Confirmation Letter Attached:

Yes

No (Renewal will not be processed without confirmation)

9. SECTION 3: COMPLIANCE DECLARATION

I hereby declare that:

I remain engaged in journalistic practice within a licensed broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider exercising editorial control over news, current affairs, or factual programming.

I have complied with applicable Codes of Practice and ethical standards issued under the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

No material misrepresentation was made in my original registration.

I understand that registration does not constitute a licence to practise journalism and does not limit constitutional freedom of expression.

I undertake to notify the Authority should my engagement with the regulated entity cease.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

10. SECTION 4: EMPLOYER / PLATFORM CONFIRMATION

(To be completed by Licensed Broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider)

Name of Regulated Entity:

Licence / Registration Number:

We confirm that:

- The applicant remains engaged by this entity in the stated capacity.
- The applicant continues to perform journalistic functions relating to news, current affairs, or factual programming.
- We undertake to notify the Authority if the applicant ceases engagement.

Name of Authorised Officer: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Official Stamp (if applicable)

Date: _____

11. SECTION 5: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (PURA)

Renewal Application Received Date: _____

Application Complete: Yes No

Compliance Check Conducted: Yes No

Decision:

Renewal Approved

Renewal Refused (Reason attached)

Renewed Validity Period:

From _____ To _____

Authorised Officer (PURA): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Notes to Applicant

1. Renewal applications must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to expiry.
2. Registration remains valid only while the journalist is engaged by a regulated entity.
3. Failure to renew before expiry may require submission of a new registration application.
4. The Authority may request additional information where reasonably necessary to verify continued eligibility.

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ANNEX C - PURA NOTICE OF CESSATION OF ENGAGEMENT
(Journalist Registration Compliance Notification Form)

Issued pursuant to **Regulation 23** of the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

1. PURPOSE OF THIS FORM

This form shall be submitted by a licensed broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider to notify the Authority that a registered journalist has ceased engagement with the regulated entity.

Failure to notify the Authority may constitute a breach of licence or registration conditions.

2. SECTION 1: DETAILS OF REGULATED ENTITY

(1) Name of Licensed Broadcaster or Designated Online Content Provider:

(2) Licence / Registration Number:

(3) Registered Business Address:

(4) Contact Person (Compliance Officer / HR / Authorised Representative):

(5) Contact Email: _____

(6) Contact Phone Number: _____

3. SECTION 2: DETAILS OF JOURNALIST

(1) Full Name of Journalist:

(2) Journalist Registration Number (if known):

(3) Type of Engagement:

Full-time Employee

Part-time Employee

Contracted Contributor

Freelance Contributor

(4) Date Engagement Commenced:

(5) Date Engagement Ceased:

4. SECTION 3: REASON FOR CESSATION (Tick One)

Resignation

Termination of Employment

Expiry of Contract

End of Freelance Engagement

Organisational Restructuring

Other (Specify below)

5. SECTION 4: DECLARATION BY REGULATED ENTITY

We hereby notify the Authority that the above-named journalist is no longer engaged by this entity in any journalistic capacity relating to news, current affairs, or factual programming.

We understand that:

- The Authority may update the Register of Journalists accordingly.
- Registration status may be reviewed in accordance with Regulation 23.
- Failure to provide timely notification may constitute a compliance breach.

Name of Authorised Officer: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Official Stamp (if applicable)

Date: _____

6. SECTION 5: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (PURA)

Notification Received Date: _____

Register Updated: Yes No

Effective Status Update:

Registration Suspended Pending Update

Registration Cancelled

Registration Maintained (Where Alternative Engagement Confirmed)

Processed By: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Administrative Note

This form shall be submitted within fourteen (14) days of cessation of engagement.

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PURA JOURNALIST REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

Issued pursuant to Regulation 23 of the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026

THE GAMBIA PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PURA)

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION – JOURNALIST

Registration Number: _____

This is to certify that:

Name: _____

National ID / Passport Number: _____

is duly registered with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority as a journalist operating within a regulated editorial platform in accordance with Regulation 23 of the Broadcasting and Online Content Regulations, 2026.

Affiliated Licensed Broadcaster / Designated Online Content Provider:

Licence / Registration Number of Regulated Entity:

This registration:

- Is valid from _____ to _____.
- Applies only while the above-named journalist is engaged by the regulated entity identified above.
- Does not constitute a licence to practise journalism.
- Does not restrict or limit the constitutional right to freedom of expression.
- Is subject to compliance with applicable laws, Regulations, and Codes of Practice.

Issued this _____ day of _____ 20____.

For and on behalf of Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)

Authorised Officer

Signature: _____

Official Seal

Administrative Control

Status of Registration may be verified through the official Register of Journalists maintained by the Authority.

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