
MEDIA RELEASE

The nbc Radio and Television Coverage on Ohamakari

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (nbc) has a clear mandate to inform, educate, and entertain the Namibian public. In addition, the national broadcaster has to promote and maintain peace and unity in the country.

The corporation adds tremendous value by playing a crucial role in providing and disseminating information relevant to the socio-economic development of the nation. It is a fact that the nbc promotes free speech and freedom of expression through all its multi-media platforms. This is evident in the types of programming the nation can access via radio, television and on social media.

The public is afforded time and space through our various talk shows, news bulletins and call-in programmes to express themselves freely. Furthermore, the nation is accorded the unique opportunity to enjoy radio broadcasts in their respective languages. This means that nbc continues to promote the traditions and cultures of all Namibians in and through its platforms. Also unprecedented, the nbc caters for minority Namibians through the German and Tswana Radio Services as well as to marginalized groups such as the SAN through the !AH Radio.

Just like any law abiding organization, the national broadcaster operates in the framework of the laws that regulate the country. Hence, it is against this background, that the corporation developed its own rules, regulations and editorial policies to be fair to each and every Namibian. "Since its inception nbc takes pride in that it has never been prescribed to by the minister, government and/or outsiders how to conduct its daily operations, particularly the news output. nbc is NOT a puppet organization of anyone and will never be", says Director-General, Mr Stanley Similo.

In keeping with the laws that govern Namibia and to ensure its impartiality, the nbc has made a conscious decision for its producers, announcers and reporters to use officially recognized titles only when referring to chiefs in its programming. As a national broadcaster, the corporation wants to guard against the impression that it is singling out one particular tribe and/or promoting another. The nbc management has further resolved that should anyone call in to air a comment on

It's Ours

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radio or TV they are free to call the chiefs whatever title they prefer. These measures are aimed at maintaining peace and harmony amongst all the people of Namibia.

In reference to further concerns raised by members of the public, the nbc would like to emphasize that its radio and television crews did indeed cover the Ohamakari event as part of its normal radio programming. Programming to this effect was already broadcast on the radio on Monday 15 August 2016, with the TV coverage being scheduled for 16 August 2016. On the issue of live broadcasts: these can only be done when resources are available and they are at the discretion of the news management. Therefore the issue around live broadcasts and recorded programming isn't something new within our business, it all depends on resources available. Comments made to the effect that the nbc is a puppet of Government are devoid of any truth and must be condemned in the strongest terms. There is also no truth in the matter that the Government of the Republic of Namibia is listening into news and programmes material gathered by the nbc in the course of it executing its mandate. Comments aimed to suggest such are very mischievous in nature and can be likened to scaremongering.

Obviously each and every media organization has its own code of conduct, reporters/producers guidelines and editorial policy. nbc's policy is crystal clear on freedom of expression and potential hate speech. It is at the discretion of the news management to prevent potential hate speech that will disturb the peace in the country.

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ABOUT nbc (www.nbc.na)

nbc's Purpose is to become a leading Multimedia Public Broadcaster of Choice in the world. It is the only Namibian broadcasting house that runs radio broadcasting in ten (10) Namibian languages and three (3) Public Service TV channels. nbc offers local, SADC and international news, current affairs and entertainment programming and covers more than 78% of the Namibian population. It further broadcasts beyond the Namibian borders on the DSTV audio bouquet and online at www.nbc.na