

**Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications**

**The Honourable: Comely Maxegwana**

Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Communications

Parliament Street,

Cape Town

8000

By email: hmaxegwana@parliament.gov.za

Cc: Thembinkosi Ngoma

Committee Secretary

tngoma@parliament.gov.za

The Honourable Baleka Mbete

Speaker of the National Assembly

**bmbete@parliament.gov.za**

Dear Sirs

**MEDIA MONITORING AFRICA / SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION – FILLING OF FOUR VACANCIES ON THE SABC BOARD**

1. We refer to the current Parliamentary process to fill vacancies on the Board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation ('**'SABC'**').
2. In terms of the Parliamentary press release dated 17 October 2018, twelve candidates were shortlisted to fill the four board member vacancies on the Board of the SABC.
3. The interviews were scheduled for 30 October 2018. To date, there has been no communicated progress or public comment or update regarding the outcome of the interviews.
4. The Portfolio Committee on Communications' fourth term programme ("**the Programme**"), dated 9 October 2018 is set to end on 30 November 2018.
5. We are extremely concerned that there is no indication on the Programme that the proposed shortlisted candidates will be discussed and accordingly appointed to fill the vacancies on the SABC Board, prior to the end of the Parliamentary term.
6. We remain equally concerned that when Parliament resumes from its recess in 2019, that constituency work and other Parliamentary business will result in further delays within the Committee and the National Assembly to the appointment of the remaining Board members.
7. The delays to the remaining appointments to fill the vacancies of Board members has become an issue of national importance.
8. As the country begins to prepare for national elections in 2019, the importance of an effective public broadcaster should be evident to this Committee. These appointments are undoubtedly urgent, have a negative impact on the current challenges faced by the SABC and its current Board and Executive Management and may further serve to delay the necessary implementation of a turn-around strategy for the SABC.
9. Moreover, this Committee and Parliament are under a range of constitutional and legal obligations to promptly fill any vacancies on the Board. This includes, but is not limited to, the duty to comply with section 237 of the Constitution, which provides that “*all constitutional obligations must be performed diligently and without delay*”.
10. It is incumbent upon this Committee to prioritise the processing of the shortlist and the potential appointees to the Board and to make the remaining four appointments without any further delay.
11. Should these appointments not be announced by 30 November 2018, we will seek legal recourse and approach a court for appropriate relief in this regard.

Yours faithfully

**WILLIAM BIRD**

**MEDIA MONITORING AFRICA**