East African Communications Organisation

Communications for all in East Africa

27TH EACO ASSEMBLIES

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY OF BROADCAST OPERATORS

8TH JULY 2021, ONLINE

I would like to welcome you to the 27th EACO Assembly of Broadcast Operators.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for finding time to participate in this very important forum which will deliberate on key issues, challenges and areas of development within the telecoms sector in the East African Region.

I hereby also thank RURA for hosting this Assembly even though it is virtual. I also extend thanks to EACO Secretariat for the preparations of the Assemblies and Congress events taking place this week.

I will now briefly highlight the key activities and challenges we encountered during the past year two years with focus on broadcasting.

A. **Some of the key Trends in the Broadcasting Sector have been as follows:**

   i. **5G Broadcast.**
      5G broadcast is the next evolution of broadcasting technology. With the evolution of broadband technologies, the terminals for users to watch videos have gradually shifted from televisions to computers, tablets, and smart phones.

   ii. **Digital Audio Broadcasting**
      With many countries experiencing congestion in the FM broadcasting, DAB is providing alternative solutions.

Through one transmitter, up to 18 audio streams can be achieved.

iii. Spectrum requirements for Broadcasting
Discussions are ongoing on hew to effectively deliver broadcasting and having the right amount of spectrum.

B. Challenges in the Broadcasting Industry
i. COVID 19: This has greatly affected a number of business, with limitation to movement of persons. This has affected access to ICT services.

ii. The broadcastings sector content developers are affected by Copyrights infringement and piracy challenges.

iii. Local content development and regulation

iv. Changes in the way traditional way broadcasting is delivered especially through the use of the internet,

C. Highlight of EACO Activities
A number of activities have been taking place with in EACO some of these include
i. Review of the EACO strategic plan took place in March 2021. The status of the activities for the different WG were reviewed and it was agreed to maintain the activities that were no

ii. Policy Harmonisation at the EACO Working Groups especially WG5 which look at Broadcasting issues. These include:
a. Sustainability of Free To Air Television
b. Conditional Access Modules for DTT
c. Digital right Management guidelines
d. Framework for Digital sound broad

iii. A Broadcasting workshop was held on 28th April 2021. The

workshop focused on Digital Contents, Management, trends in broadcasting and Digital audio/sound Broadcasting.

The details of the workshop can be obtained via the EACO website: http://eaco.int/eventsdocuments/index.php

D. Recommendation

i. Broadcast Operators are encouraged to Participate in the work of EACO under WG5

ii. Ensure to identify and address topical issues affecting the ICT industry on broadcasting in East African Region