



PRESS STATEMENT

Reminder for Broadcasters to Uphold Professional Standards in News and Programme Coverage

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) wishes to remind all licensed broadcasters and online content service providers of their obligation to uphold professional, ethical, and legal standards in news reporting and programme production at all times.

These obligations are stipulated in the Communications Act, 2016, particularly the Second Schedule, and are further aligned with established media ethics and professional journalism standards. Content licensees are required to ensure that all news is reported truthfully, accurately, and objectively, and that it is presented in an appropriate context and in a balanced manner, without intentional or negligent departure from the facts.

Where reports are founded on opinion, supposition, rumour, or allegation, broadcasters are reminded that such information must be clearly presented as unverified. This requirement is especially important in the current media environment, where misinformation can quickly go viral through digital and social media platforms.

MACRA further reminds content licensees that when presenting programmes in which controversial issues of public importance are discussed, reasonable efforts must be made to present differing points of view, either within the same programme or in a subsequent programme within a reasonable period of time

and in substantially the same time slot, as provided for under the Communications Act.

The Authority therefore urges all broadcasters to exercise due diligence in verifying information with relevant authorities before publication or broadcast, and to consistently uphold principles of fairness, balance, and accuracy in line with both the law and media ethics.

MACRA remains committed to engaging content licensees and supporting responsible journalism that promotes informed public discourse and serves the public interest.

Dated this 21st Day of January 2026

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Mayamiko Nkoloma

ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL