



**MACRA**

Communication services for a digitally transformed nation

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

### **FM FREQUENCY REFARMING UPDATE**

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) wishes to inform the public that it has now commenced implementing resolutions made at the Annual Broadcasters Conference in December 2022 to extend the moratorium on the issuance of FM frequencies for 12 months. This is to effect a total overhaul of the FM band to find a long-lasting solution to the scarcity of frequencies between the region's 87.5 MHz to 108 MHz band allotment.

#### **STEPS TAKEN TO DATE**

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, MACRA met the technical personnel and engineers from all broadcasting stations at the Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe where the following issues were agreed upon:

- i. To conduct frequent meetings and update broadcasters on progress made.
- ii. To collect relevant data required for the project.
- iii. To assess the suitability of the current broadcasting sites.
- iv. To determine Optimal Transmission Sites for the Nation.
- v. To produce coverage maps for the identified sites.
- vi. To design a standard FM Network for a nation.
- vii. To produce the Implementation Strategy for the New FM Plan.
- viii. To produce recommended specifications of transmission equipment.
- ix. To recommend New Technologies to be Used in FM Networks.
- x. To Produce Scenarios on how best the FM network can be utilized.
- xi. To explore the reuse of frequencies by each broadcaster as much as possible.
- xii. To determine the number of frequencies that can be assigned at the identified Sites with consideration of 200 kHz Channel Separation.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO MANAGE THE REFARMING EXERCISE**

To manage the process, a task force has been established consisting of the following team.

Mr. Haswell Solomon- Zodiak Broadcasting Station

Mr. Zack Kasonda -Times Group

Mr. Chibaka Voice of Livingstonia

Mr. Martin Chirwa Blantyre Synod Radio

Mr. Mhango Dinosaur Community Radio

Mr. Aiden Gumeni MBC

Mr. Macloud Munthali Radio Radio ABC

Mr. Edward Kauka MACRA

Mr. Patrick Musiyapo MACRA

Mr. Dereck Kondwani MACRA

Mr. Micious Matsitsa MACRA

Ms. Mercy Jumbe MACRA

The committee will have its first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 to elect its leadership and map the way forward.

Broadcasters are requested to channel any suggestions they may have to the committee through the contacts details below:



Director General

MACRA

P/BAG 261

Blantyre

Email: [dg.macra@macra.mw](mailto:dg.macra@macra.mw)

Attention: Chairperson-FM Refarming Task Force

**Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**