### THE ZANZIBAR BROADCASTING COMMISSION ACT NO.7 OF 1997

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ACT NO.7 OF 1997

I     ASSENT

( SALMIN AMOUR )

PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR
AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

12th March, 1998

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
ZANZIBAR BROADCASTING COMMISSION AND
FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO IT

ENACTED by the House of Representatives of Zanzibar.

PART I
PRELIMINARY

Short title and Commencement.  1. This Act may be cited as the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission Act, 1997 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, appoint.

Interpretation.  2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:-

“broadcaster” means a person who is licensed under this Act to carry on a broadcasting services in the media;

“broadcasting apparatus” means an apparatus for the reception and or transmitting of television broadcasts or for the reception of sound broadcasts, and where an apparatus is designed or constructed for the reception of both television and sound broadcasts, such apparatus shall be deemed to comprise two sets of apparatus, one for the reception of television broadcasts and one for the reception of sound broadcasts, as the case may be;
“broadcasting service” means a radio and television communication service in which the transmissions are intended for direct transmissory reception by members of the general public, and the word “broadcast” used as a verb shall be construed accordingly;

“broadcasting station” means any place or premises whatsoever used for the purpose of carrying on a broadcasting service together with the transmitters, apparatus and equipment, including vehicles, required in connection with them;

“Commission” means the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission established by section 5 of this Act;

“dealer” means a person who:-

(a) carries on a trade, business or industry in which broadcasting apparatus are assembled, manufactured, imported, bought, sold, hired, exchanged, or

(b) deals in motor vehicles in which broadcasting apparatus are installed;

(c) auctions broadcasting apparatus:-

“Minister” means the Minister for the time being responsible for information;

“licence” means a licence issued under the provisions of this Act;

“licensed premises” means a place or premises in respect of which a broadcaster’s licence, dealer’s licence or repairer’s licence is in force;

“radio and television communication service” means the transmission of writing, signs, signals, pictures and sounds of all descriptions of any kind, wholly or partly by means of electromagnetic waves of frequencies between ten kilocycles per second and three million megacycles per second;
“repair” in relation to broadcasting apparatus includes providing maintenance service of any kind and fitting spare parts;

“repairer” means a person who by way of trade, business or industry carries out repairs to or provides maintenance services for broadcasting apparatus.

3.(1) This Act shall apply to all persons carrying on business which involves:-

(a) the offering for sale, selling, letting on hire or dealing otherwise in broadcasting apparatus;

(b) the ownership and operation of a broadcasting service;

(c) the ownership and operation of a satellite dishes, busters and other equipment of that nature.

(2) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, exempt from the provisions of this Act:-

(a) any business or any category of businesses involving broadcasting;

(b) any person carrying on any business or any category of such persons.

4.(1) The Minister may:-

(a) provide for and carry on broadcasting Services in Zanzibar to be known as Zanzibar Broadcasting Services, for the education, entertainment and information of listeners and viewers in Zanzibar;

(b) provide for and carry on such broadcasting services for reception by listeners and viewers outside Zanzibar as he deem desirable;

(c) carry on or operate such other services including diffusion services and such undertakings in connection with these services as he may deem necessary or expedient;
(d) establish, maintain, or continue to maintain and operate in any part of Zanzibar such number and size of broadcasting stations as he may consider necessary of expedient for the carrying out of the provisions of this section.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the Zanzibar Broadcasting Services may be constituted in two branches as follows:-

(a) a branch to be known as voice of Tanzania Zanzibar, which shall be responsible for radio broadcasting; and

(b) a branch to be known as Television Zanzibar (TVZ) which shall be responsible for television broadcasting.

**PART II**

**THE ZANZIBAR BROADCASTING COMMISSION**

5.(1) There is hereby established a Commission to be known as the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission.

(2) The Commission shall be an autonomous body corporate:-

(a) with perpetual succession and a common seal;

(b) in its corporate name, be capable of suing and being sued;

(c) for and in connection with the purposes of this Act, be capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of movable and immovable property in its corporate name.

6.(1) The Commission shall consist of:-

(a) a Chairman who shall be appointed by the President;

(b) executive Secretary who shall be the Chief Executive Officer and who shall be appointed by the President;
(c) not less than four nor more than eight other members appointed by the Minister;

(d) a State Attorney from the Attorney-General’s Office.

(2) The members of the Commission shall elect from amongst their number a person who shall be Vice-Chairman and shall hold office for so long as he remains a member of the Commission.

(3) A person shall not be eligible for appointment as a member of the Commission if he:-

(a) is not a Zanzibari or Tanzanian;

(b) is an undischarged bankrupt;

(c) has previously been convicted of an offence involving morale turpitude or for which he was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of six months or more.

(4) One member appointed under subsection (1)(c) of this section, shall be appointed among representative of the frequency management office and one of them shall be experts in broadcasting.

(5) The term of office of the members shall be three years but they shall be eligible for reappointment for and other period of three years.

(6) The Chairman shall hold office at the pleasure of the President.

7.(1) Subject to this Act and to any regulations made under it, the functions of the Commission shall be:-

(a) to issue broadcasting licences;

(b) to regulate and supervise broadcasting activities, including but not limited to, the relaying of sound, radio and television programmes from places in Zanzibar to places outside Zanzibar with the intention that such broadcasts are received regularly in the United Republic or any part of it;
(c) to maintain a register of all persons licensed as broadcasters, dealers in broadcasting stations;

(d) to regulate the activities of broadcasters and their conduct of broadcasting as well as that of dealers in broadcasting apparatus;

(e) to be responsible for the standardisation, planning and management of the frequency spectrum available for broadcasting and to allocate such spectrum resources in such manner as to ensure the widest possible diversity of programming and optimal utilization of the spectrum resources, giving priority where possible to the broadcaster transmitting the maximum number of hours per day and to community-based broadcasters;

(f) to protect policy, security, culture and tradition of Zanzibar not to be destroyed; and

(g) to inspect institutions which carry on broadcasting business;

(h) to give any direction to the broadcasting business which in its opinion deem necessary.

(2) The Commission shall perform any other function which may be assigned to it by the President in writing under his hand or by or under any other written law.

(3) The Commission shall, in the performance of its functions under this Act, establish and maintain, as far as may be practicable, a system of consultation, coordination and operation with the Tanzania Telecommunication Company and with any other body or organisation established by or under any other written law and having function similar to those specified in subsection (1) of this section, or having functions which relate to broadcasting or any radio communication generally.

8. No member of the Commission shall be held personally liable for any act or default of the Commission done or omitted bona fide in the course of carrying out the responsibilities and functions of, or exercising the power conferred upon the Commission.
Executive Secretary and Secretariat of Commission.

9.(1) There shall be a full time secretariat of the Commission which shall be under the direction of the Executive Secretary.

(2) The Minister shall, after consultation with the Commission, appoint a Registrar who may be a person holding an office of emolument in the public service and who shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

(3) The Registrar shall perform his functions under the supervision of the Commission.

(4) The Commission may, from time to time, with the prior approval of the Minister, appoint any person with expert knowledge in a particular field to assist the Commission with advice in connection with any matter connected with its functions.

(5) A person appointed under subsection (4) of this section shall be paid such remuneration as may be determined by the Commission with the approval of the Minister.

(6) The Commission may from time to time and subject to such directions as the Minister may give in that behalf, appoint at such salaries and upon such terms and conditions as it may think fit, such other officers and employees of the Secretariat of the Commission as it may deem necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the business and activities of the Commission.

Responsibilities of the Officers of the Commission.

10.(1) The Chairman shall be the head and supervisor of the day to day activities of the Commission and shall preside the meetings of the Commission.

(2) The Executive Secretary shall be the chief executive officer of the day to day functions of the Commission, and before taking up the office, shall take oath of allegiance before the President.

(3) The Executive Secretary shall also be the Secretary of the Commission.
(4) The Registrar shall perform such functions as the Commission may specify from time to time and shall in addition perform the following prescribed duties:-

(a) to register all institutions which carry on broadcasting business in accordance with this Act;

(b) to issue a registration certificate to the operator of the broadcasting business;

(c) to cancel or not to register any institution which carries on broadcasting business which fails to comply with the specified conditions;

(d) to keep the register of the registration of institutions and owners of broadcasting business.

PART III
BROADCASTING LICENSING

11. No person shall transmit or receive and transmit, or otherwise operate a broadcasting service, deal in broadcasting apparatus or do or permit anything to be done for which a licence is required under this Act, unless he is in possession of an appropriate licence.

12.(1) An application for a licence under this Act may be made only by:-

(a) a Zanzibari or Tanzanian;

(b) a Company registered in Zanzibar at least 20% of whose share holding is beneficially owned by Zanzibar Government;

(c) a Company not registered in Zanzibar but at least 30% of whose share holding is beneficially owned by Zanzibar Government which is not, directly or indirectly, controlled by persons who are not Zanzibaris.

(2) Any application for the grant of a licence under this Act shall be made to the Commission in such form and manner and shall contain or be accompanied by -

(a) a prescribed application fee;
(b) a prescribed deposit;

(c) the applicant’s proposals in relation to the policy and nature of the service and a programme schedule in regard to the daily transmission time allocated to different programmes;

(d) network plan, technical specifications of the equipment and studio and installations programme;

(e) the training programme involving local staff;

(f) statement of account setting out the financial resources available to the application to conduct a broadcasting service; and

(g) such other information as the Commission may deem necessary in order to decide on the ability of applicant to provide a technically viable and socially acceptable broadcasting service.

(3) When considering an application for the grant of a broadcasting licence, the Commission shall have regard to:-

(a) the expertise, experience and financial resources available to the applicant;

(b) the desirability or otherwise of allowing any person or association of person, to have control of a substantial interest in more than one broadcasting service;

(c) compliance with the prescribed technical broadcasting standards;

(d) whether the conditions of a broadcasting licence shall unjustly benefit one holder of a broadcasting licence above another;

(e) the allocation of spectrum resources in such a manner as to ensure the widest possible diversity of programming and the optimal utilisation of such resources, provide that priority may be given to
broadcasters transmitting the maximum number of hours per day;

(f) the reservation of spectrum resources for future use;

(g) the desirability of giving priority to community based or national development broadcasts;

(h) the extent to which the applicant is determined and has planned to train local staff in matters concerning radio or television broadcasting.

(4) The Commission under any circumstances shall not permit any person to have both radio and television station at a time but such person shall be granted only one of them.

(5) The Commission shall publish in the Gazette and in official newspaper published in Zanzibar or out side Zanzibar in respect of every application for the issue of a licence which it has received.

(6) Any person may, within fourteen days of publication of a notice under subsection (4) of this section lodge with the Commission written representations if he wants to oppose the grant of a licence to the applicant, and such representations shall be taken into account when the Commission considers the application.

Issue of Licence.

13.(1) Where the Commission is satisfied that a particular applicant meets the requirements of this Act for a licence holder, it shall grant him a licence in the prescribed form and subject to payment of the prescribed fee.

(2) Upon the grant by the Commission of an application under section 13 of this Act, it shall cause notice of that decision to be published in the Gazette and in any newspaper published in Zanzibar, as well as to be given to the applicant.

(3) Where the Commission decides to grant an application for a licence, it may attach conditions to the licence in relation to:-
(a) the frequencies that may be used in the operation of a station, the power limitations in respect of a station, the technical servicing and inspection of a station and any other technical specifications;

(b) the prevention of electric and other disturbances of radio reception or the transmission over any telegraph line;

(c) the broadcasting or non-broadcasting of reports, announcements, news or other information which is required to be broadcast in the public interest; and

(d) the location of a transmitter station, when applicable, and the specific geographical area to which the broadcast may be made.

(4) The Commission may, in respect of any particular broadcasting licence, and after giving the licence holder an opportunity to make written representations to the Commission in that behalf, amend any of the prescribed conditions, including adding further conditions:-

(a) if the Commission is of the opinion that it is in the interest of orderly spectrum management; or

(b) in order to give effect to any international treaty in relation to broadcasting to which Zanzibar, is a party; or

(c) at the request of the licence holder.

(5) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Commission granting or refusing an application may appeal to the Minister in the form and manner to be prescribed in regulations.

(6) The Minister may, from time to time, upon advice of the Commission, specify other matters or activities connected to broadcasting or apparatus in relation to which a licence shall be required in accordance with this Act.

14.(1) A broadcasting licence, a dealer’s licence, and renewal of a repairers licence and any other licence shall be issued licence for such period as the Commission may determine, but which shall not:-
(a) in the case of a radio broadcasting licence, exceed three years;

(b) in the case of a television broadcasting licence, exceed five years;

(2) The Commission may upon application by the holder renew a licence upon its expiry for such period not exceeding five years as it may determine.

(3) An application for the renewal of a licence shall be made within the three months proceeding the last three months before the date of expiry of the existing licence.

(4) The Commission may, when considering an application for the renewal of a licence, require such new or additional information as it may deem necessary to make a finding.

(5) If at the date of expiry of a licence the Commission has not yet reached a decision in respect of an application to renew it the licence shall continue to be of effect until the application for its renewal is granted or refused by the Commission.

(6) If after broadcasting licence is granted a prescribed period elapses before any broadcast is made under the licence, that licence shall lapse.

**PART IV**

**COORDINATION AND SUPERVISION OF BROADCASTING**

15.(1) It shall be the duty of every person a licence granted under this Act to comply with all conditions subject to which the licence was granted.

(2) The Commission may from time to time and with the prior approval of the Minister by notice published in the Gazette specify such duties or further duties to be discharged by holders of such licences as may be specified by the Commission.
Subject to this section, it shall be the duty of every person holding a broadcasting licence under this Act:-

(a) to present all news in a factually accurate, impartial and non-partisan manner as allowed by the law;

(b) to present current affairs in a balanced, clear, factual, accurate and impartial manner;

(c) to encourage the development of Zanzibar and Zanzibari expression by providing a wide range of programming that reflects Zanzibar opinions, ideas, values and artistic creativity by displaying Zanzibar cultures and entertainment programmes;

(d) to serve the needs and interests and reflect the circumstances and aspirations of Zanzibar men, women and children in a democratic Zanzibar society;

(e) to produce and maintain programmes of high standards;

(f) to make maximum use of Isles creative and other resources in the creation and presentation of programming;

(g) to limit advertisements to a maximum of 30% percent of the total daily broadcasting time;

(h) to contribute through programming to shared national consciousness, identity and continuity;

(i) to provide programming that caters for culture arts, sports and education pertaining to Zanzibar and Africa;

(j) to comply with generally accepted standards of journalistic ethics in the editing of any programme to be broadcast as formulated in the Code of Conduct for the Media Professions;

(k) to keep and store sound and video recordings of all programmes broadcast for a minimum period of three months after the date of transmission of
the broadcast, or for such further period as the
Commission may direct;

(l) to disclose the name of the producer of every
programme at the end of transmission of a
programme;

(m) to respect copyright and neighboring rights
obligations in respect of any broadcast material.

16.(1) The Commission shall supervise compliance by
licence holders with the conditions and duties pertaining to
licences held under this Act.

(2) Where the Commission, as a result of
inspection or of complaint by any person, is of the opinion
that conditions or duties under this Act, have been materially
breached by a licence holder, it shall request him in writing to
make written representations to the Commission regarding
the alleged breach.

(3) If after considering the written representations
made by a licence holder, the Commission is of the opinion
that, he has materially contravened a condition or duty, it
may issue an order:-

(a) warning the licence holder;

(b) directing the licence holder to effect a programme
charge within a period not longer than thirty days
from the date of receipt of the directions;

(c) directing the licence holder to disclose, free of
charge and in such manner as the Commission may
direct, the finding of the Commission;

(d) imposing a fine on the licence holder, not less than
one million shillings (1,000,000/=);

(e) suspending the broadcasting licence for a period
determined by the Commission; or

(f) revoking the broadcasting licence.
17.(1) A licence holder shall broadcast a counter version presented by any person or body of persons affected by an assertion of fact in any programme transmitted that the assertion of fact is in fact false.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a licence holder shall not transmit a counter version if:-

(a) the person or organisation concerned has no direct interest in the transmission of the counter-version; or

(b) the counter-version is not of reasonable length, and in particular, if it is substantially longer than the part of the broadcast which dealt with the false assertion of fact.

(3) The counter version referred to in subsection (1) shall:-

(a) be limited to a factual account;

(b) not contain any material which may reasonably be anticipated to expose the licence holder to legal action if such material were to be broadcast;

(c) be made in writing;

(d) specify the programme and the assertions to which objection is raised; and

(e) be signed by the person affected or, in the case of an organisation, by the chief executive officer thereof.

(4) The person or body of persons affected shall not be entitled to insist on the transmission of a counter-version is presented to the licence holder after the expiry of a period of thirty days from the date of broadcast of the false assertion of fact.

(5) The licence holder shall subject to subsection (2) and (4) of this section:-
18. (1) The Minister may, upon advice by the Commission, by notice published in the Gazette, appoint any person or persons to be an inspector or inspectors for the purposes of this Act.

(2) An inspector or authorized officer of the Commission, may carry out an inspection of broadcasting stations and either licences under this Act, plant and apparatus, and premises used by licence holders to transmit or broadcast.

PART V
ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

19. The Commission may after consultation with the Minister delegate any of its functions under this Act to any officer or committee of the Commission.

20. (1) The Commission shall cause to be kept and proper accounts and shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, cause such accounts relating to such financial year together with:-
21. The Executive Secretary shall, at the end of each financial year, prepare a report on the activities of the Commission during that financial year and submit such report to the Minister.

Funds of Commission.

22. The funds and resources of the Commission shall consist of:-

(a) such sums as may be provided for the purposes of the Commission by House of Representatives, either by way of grant or loans;

(b) such sums as the Commission may receive by way of grant-loan from any person or organization;

(c) such sums as the Commission may, from time to time, with the consent of the Minister, borrow for the purposes of the Commission;

(d) such sums as the Commission may, in any manner, become payable to or vested in the Commission either under the provisions of this Act or any other written law, or incidental to the carrying out of its functions;

(e) 40% of the revenue collected by the Commission.

Power to Invest.

23. The Commission may invest its fund in such Investments as are authorized by, and subject to such conditions as are prescribed by the written law of Zanzibar in relation to investment of funds.
24. The Minister shall cause to be laid before the House of Representatives of Zanzibar as soon as may be practicable after he has received them:-

(a) copies of the statements referred to in subsection (1) of section 20 of this Act, together with a copy of the auditor’s report;

(b) a copy of the Executive Secretary report.

25. The Minister may, by writing under his hand, give the Commission directions of a general or specific nature and the Commission shall comply with every such direction.

**PART VI**

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

26.(1) Any person who:-

(a) carries on the business of a broadcaster, or a dealer in broadcasting apparatus without an appropriate licence;

(b) contravenes or fails to comply with the conditions of a broadcasting or other licence under this Act;

(c) fails or refuses to furnish a return or to supply information in the manner and in the time prescribed or furnishes a false or in complete return or supplies false or incomplete information; or

(d) on being required to do so, fails or refuses to produce to an inspector or a police officer a licence or a book, record or document relating to any broadcasting apparatus which is in his possession or under his control; or

(e) interferes with or obstructs the transmission or reception of any radio communication;

(f) wilfully delays or obstructs an inspector or a police or other authorized officer in the exercise of powers conferred upon him by or under this Act;
(g) fails or refuses to comply with any order or direction lawfully given to him by the Commission;

(h) fails or refuses to comply with the terms and conditions of the licence he holds;

(i) for the purposes of obtaining, whether for himself or another person, the issue of a licence, makes a declaration or statement which he knows to be false in any material particular or does not know or believe to be true, or knowingly makes use of a declaration or statement or document containing the same, is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not less than five million shillings (5,000,000/=) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty four months or to both that fine and imprisonment.

(2) A court convicting a person of an offence under this Act may, in addition to any penalty that it may impose, order the forfeiture to the government of any broadcasting apparatus or other material in relation to or in connection with or by means of which the offence was committed.

27.(1) The Minister or any person authorised by the Minister, may by order under his hand require any licence holder to broadcast forthwith or within or at any time and in any manner specified, any announcement which as its content any matter which the Minister deems to be in the interest of national security or in the public interest.

(2) If the Minister is of opinion that, the broadcasting of any matter or matter of any class or character, would be contrary to the national security or public interest he may, by notice in writing delivered at the principal office of the licence holder, prohibit the licence holder from broadcasting such matter or matter of such class or character and the licence holder shall comply with any such notice so delivered.

28.(1) A licence issued under this Act to any person shall not be transferred to another person, except with the approval of the Commission granted upon an application for such transfer in the prescribed form.
(2) Where a company is the holder of a licence under this Act, no person other than an existing shareholder of that company, shall, except with the prior written approval of the Commission, enquire shares or any other interest in such company which results in such person directly or indirectly acquiring a controlling interest in the company.

29.(1) The Minister may make regulations prescribing all matters which are by this Act required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for the better carrying out or giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Minister may by regulations made under subsection (1) of this section and published in the Gazette provide for:-

(a) the registration of dealers and the information to be supplied in connection with applications for registration;

(b) the keeping of books, records and documents, the furnishing of returns and the supply of information relating to dealings in receivers;

(c) the prescription of licences to be issued under this Act;

(d) the collection of licence fees payable under this Act;

(e) the form and manner in which applications for licences are to be made and the information to be supplied in connection with it;

(f) the circumstances in which and the terms and conditions subject to which licences shall be issued;

(g) the form of licences and the terms and conditions to be contained in licences.

30. The Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation Decree No.25/61. No. 25 of 1961 is hereby repealed.
1. (a) The Commission shall ordinarily meet at such time and places as it deem necessary for the transaction of its business, but shall meet at least once every three months.

(b) The Chairman or in his absence, the Vice chairman, may at any time call meeting of Commission, and shall call special meeting of the Commission, upon written request by a majority of the members in office.

(c) The Chairman or in his absence, the vice-chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Commission. In the absence of both the chairman and the vice-chairman, the members present shall appoint a member from amongst themselves to preside the meeting.

(d) Half of the members, shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Commission, save that the quorum for a meeting at which the Commission is to determine an application for a broadcasting licence shall be not less than two-thirds of the members of the Commission as then constituted.

(e) A decision may be made by the Commission without a meeting, by circulation of the relevant papers among the members and the expression of the views of the members in writing, but any member may require that the decision be confirmed at a meeting of the Commission. This will be done only when members available for a meeting would not form a quorum while the issue demands quick decision.

(f) Any minutes purporting to be signed by the person presiding at a meeting of the Commission shall, in the absence of proof of error be deemed to be correct record to the meeting whose minutes are supposed to be.
(g) The validity of any act or proceedings of the Commission shall not be affected by any vacancy among its members or by any defect in the appointment of any of them.

(h) A member of the Commission shall be paid such allowances and other terms as may be determined by the Minister upon advice of the Commission.

(i) Subject to this Schedule the Commission may regulate its own proceedings.

PASSED in the House of Representatives on the 2nd day of October, 1997.

( KHAMIS JUMA CHANDE )
CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ZANZIBAR