

**Annual Report  
and Accounts  
1988**

# **BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**

**MALTA**



**Annual Report  
and Accounts  
1988**

**BROADCASTING  
AUTHORITY**

**MALTA**



*Published in 1989 by the  
Broadcasting Authority  
National Road, Blata l-Bajda,  
Malta.*

*Telephone: 221281, 223289  
Cables: BROADCASTS — MALTA*

*Typeset and printed by Independence Print  
Designed by Victor Fenech*

**Annual Report  
and Accounts  
1988**

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**



*The Broadcasting Authority in session. The members (left to right) are: Mr. Laurence Mizzi, Mr. Joseph Sammut, Mr. Henry Zammit Cordina (Secretary to the Authority), Dr. Joseph Micallef Stafrace, Mr. Antoine Ellul (Chief Executive), Prof. Kenneth Wain and Mr. Joseph J. Camilleri*

# Broadcasting Authority



National Road, Blata l-Bajda, Malta

Telephone: 221281 - 223289 Cables: BROADCASTS-MALTA

Our Ref. 67/62/3

Your Ref.

21st July, 1989

H.E. Dr. V. Tabone, M.D., D.O.(Oxon)  
D.O.M.S.(Lond.), D.M.J., F.R.C.S. (Edin.),  
President of the Republic of Malta,  
The Palace,  
Valletta.

Dear Mr President,

In accordance with Section 13(4) and (5) of  
the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961, I have  
pleasure in enclosing the Broadcasting  
Authority's Annual Report and Accounts for  
the financial year ended 31st December 1988.

Yours sincerely,

J. Micallef Stafrace  
Chairman

A.J. Ellul  
Chief Executive



# Contents

	Page
<b>INTRODUCTORY</b>	9
<b>PROFILE OF THE YEAR</b>	13
The Authority and its Staff	13
Overseas Contacts	14
Visiting Lecturers Scheme	15
Programme Policy	15
Programme Monitoring	17
Broadcasting Services not under Contract with the Authority	18
Parliament and Broadcasting	19
Ministerial Broadcasts	20
Party Political Broadcasts	21
<b>APPENDICES</b>	23
I. Procedure Governing Ministerial Broadcasts	25
II. Procedure Governing Party Political Broadcasts	27
III. Guidelines on Current Affairs Programming on all Broadcasting Media	34
IV. Syllabus for Programme Editors Examination	39
V. List of Organisations taking part in Access Programmes	43
VI. Accounts	45





# Introductory

1988 has been another problematic year for broadcasting in Malta. Following the overheated atmosphere generated during the previous year when radio and television had to cope with the varied demands made upon them during that election year, the broadcasting media now found themselves reluctantly in the news rather than reporting on it. In fact the media news services became a public issue with certain sections of the Press reflecting harsh criticism levelled at the Authority and Xandir Malta by political and other interests.

This state of affairs was brought about by an abnormal situation involving sustained political activity, at times erupting into controversy over certain political issues, coupled with extensive rapportage which these activities attracted in the news media.

There is no doubt that politics and politicians are a prime source of news but, as any journalist would appreciate, a sifting process is inevitably involved to make sure that only the legitimate news is included in a news bulletin rather than the publicity-aimed rhetoric which is so readily available. If these basic principles of good journalism are not heeded — and there were several occasions during the year when they were not — the result can be a dull news bulletin sounding too much like a party political broadcast. This situation also gives rise to accusations of political bias and considerable loss of interest by the audience.

Loss of confidence may have occurred because the essential professional standards of broadcasting journalism may have been subordinated to short-sighted political considerations. As a consequence, the professional journalistic judgement of news staff may stagnate, leading to the blunting of skills.

During the year under review the Authority was repeatedly called upon to intervene in matters relating to news broadcasts. This sector of broadcasting became the dominant factor forcing the Authority to devote its limited resources almost exclusively to this focal point of attention. Information resulting from news statistics compiled by the Authority reveal that during 1988, the 8 o'clock news bulletin on television carried 2,548 items which reported either on some government function or party political or trade unionistic activity. On average this works out at seven such news items per day.

It is recognised, of course, that the Broadcasting Authority has an obligation to ensure that the broadcasting services are conducted in the general public interest. In carrying out this duty the Authority has the right to candidly tell professional broadcasters why it agrees with certain aspects of criticism raised about the service they provide. It is expected that they,

in turn, will abide by the Authority's directives which are solely motivated by conviction that the observance of proper journalistic standards maintained within the framework of fairness and impartiality will improve the news service, retain the confidence of its audience and ensure credibility.

On the other hand, the Authority has an equal obligation to defend the broadcasters from pressures which are exerted upon them by those who would like to use the media for their own ends. Once the Authority is convinced that proper professional judgement is exercised by the broadcasters it has no hesitation in publicly making clear why it is not prepared to interfere with the editorial independence of broadcasters or admonish them when they exercise their editorial freedom responsibly.

There were several occasions during the year when the Authority's watchdog functions were exercised in both directions.

What is of the greatest importance is that there is general understanding of what news is all about and the accepted manner in which the broadcasting media, as distinct from newspapers, convey it to the public. The guiding principle is conciseness, but there are other factors to be considered. Traditionally news has been the reporting of events and in doing so the broadcaster is legally bound to observe accuracy and impartiality. These objectives, in so far as news is concerned, are the corner-stone of the Authority's policy. However, putting this policy into practice is not an altogether easy matter.

1988 was once more another year when people were acutely conscious of news and what this information service is supposed to deliver. News value was bandied about and was widely discussed. However, any formulae which emerged were just as widely disagreed upon. Defining "news value" has always been a challenge. In 1976, the Authority attempted to define the term and this resulted in the following generic guideline:

"The criterion for the inclusion of any item in a News Bulletin is to be based on its news value and it is the responsibility of the Head of News or of the person acting in that capacity to decide what constitutes it, by sifting material presented to him by his reporters and the various information agencies at his disposal. As the words themselves imply, items of news value must first of all consist of "tidings", "new information" or "fresh events reported" and, secondly, they should consist of significant and interesting new information available at the time of broadcast, which an average person, who wishes to be kept informed of what is happening locally or world-wide, should be told about."

Much larger countries than Malta have grappled with similar situations. Perhaps, the definition that is most apposite is provided in recent guidelines issued by the BBC for its own staff (BBC 1987 publication: *"Fairness and Impartiality in Political Broadcasting"*). It may be useful to reproduce it



### **"What constitutes News Value"**

*Public Seminar organised by  
The Broadcasting Authority  
and  
The University of Malta  
in collaboration with the  
American Center*

*A select panel of speakers under the chairmanship of  
DR. DANIEL MASSA*

*Guest Speaker: PROFESSOR HERBERT ZETTL  
Director, Institute of International Media Communication  
San Francisco State University*

*Friday, 15th January 1988 at 6.00 p.m.  
at the Conference Hall, Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana*

*Picture at top shows Professor Herbert Zettl addressing the public seminar on "What constitutes News Value"; on his left are the members of the panel of speakers. Bottom picture shows the invitation card for the seminar.*

here:

"News is new and honestly and accurately reported information which is:

- i) about current events, of any kind anywhere in the world;
- ii) set against a background of other honestly and accurately reported information previously gathered as news;
- iii) selected fairly by trained journalists, but without artificial balancing and without political motive or editorial colouring;
- iv) included in a programme because it is interesting, significant or relevant to the programme's audience in the eyes of those journalists and presented fearlessly and objectively but with respect for the law".

The preceding year's annual report referred to the question of news value in general terms but indicated that the Authority was sufficiently concerned about the matter to the extent that it sought outside expert assistance in this field. The arrangements commenced last year resulted in the visit to Malta in January 1988 by Professor Herbert Zettl, the Director of the Institute of International Media Communication at San Francisco State University. More details about Professor Zettl's lecturing assignment during his ten-day visit to Malta are given in a subsequent section of this annual review.

# Profile of the Year

## *The Authority and its Staff*

The Broadcasting Authority is a Constitutional body whose principal object is to preserve due impartiality in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy. It is also incumbent on the Authority to fairly apportion broadcasting facilities and time between persons belonging to different political parties. In addition to these functions, the Authority provides, through Programme Contractors, sound and television broadcasting services in Malta.

The powers, responsibilities and obligations laid upon the Broadcasting Authority are vested in the Chairman and Members who exercise them through a permanent staff headed by the Chief Executive. The Chairman and Members of the Authority on 31st December 1988 were the following:

Dr. Joseph Micallef Stafrace, B.A., LL.D., — Chairman

Mr Joseph J. Camilleri, B.A., M.A., A.I.E. (Lond.)

Mr Laurence Mizzi, S.Th.Dip.

Mr Joseph Sammut

Dr. Kenneth Wain, B.A., (Hons.) (Lond.), M.A., Dip.Ed. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Lond.)

The Chairman and Members of the Authority are not required to make broadcasting their sole concern although it is expected of them to give broadcasting matters a fair amount of their time. They are drawn from a variety of background and experience in order to represent the public interest. They are also the ultimate authority in local broadcasting.

During the year under review, the Broadcasting Authority met in formal session on 45 occasions when it discussed and reviewed broadcasting policy and dealt with numerous complaints received from the political parties, the trade unions and other constituted bodies. Several meetings were held with a number of these bodies including the political parties, the General Workers Union, the Pensioners' Association, the youth group which campaigns on environment (*Zghazagh għall-Ambjent*) and the Association of game shooters and conservationists (*Kaċċaturi, Nassaba u Konservazzjonisti*).

The Authority is assisted in its process of planning and supervision by a staff of 12 persons. The four principal officers of the Broadcasting Authority are:

The Chief Executive	— Mr Antoine Ellul
The Secretary to the Authority	— Mr Henry Zammit Cordina
The Officer i/c Finance and Administration	— Mr Michael Camilleri

The Authority's Legal Adviser is Professor Dr. Joseph A. Micallef, LL.D., Dr. Jur. (E.U.R.).

Over the years the Authority lost most of its trained staff and had to resort to requesting secondment of civil servants to help in its monitoring and secretarial work. This is not the ideal solution to its staff shortage and steps were taken during the year to commence direct recruitment from amongst suitably qualified persons who show the right aptitude for work connected with broadcasting. In view of the provisions of Section 38 of the New Education Act, the Authority decided to hold a public competitive examination to fill vacancies in its Programme Editor grade. This was the first time that recruitment for the Authority's staff was being conducted by the Board of Local Examinations. The examination (the requirements and syllabus are attached as an appendix to this report) is being held early in 1989. The Authority records its appreciation for the work put in, and dedicated service given, by all members of its staff. Since this is the Authority's 27th year of operation it is not surprising that two staff members celebrated during the year the 25th anniversary of their employment with the Authority. The occasion was suitably commemorated and the Authority expressed its thanks and good wishes to the two employees concerned — Miss Anna Anastasi, the Chief Executive's Secretary, and Mr Michael Camilleri, the Officer in charge of Administration and Finance.

For several years it has been difficult to provide the right kind of training for the Authority's programme and monitoring personnel. Professional training in radio and television programme production techniques is essential if the Authority is to carry out its duties satisfactorily. As the cost of overseas training is very high, the Authority requested assistance from the Independent Broadcasting Authority of Britain which offered an attachment for the head of the Monitoring Staff. This attachment experience proved useful, but more formal training is required to provide the Authority's staff with the requisite skills.

### *Overseas Contacts*

The Authority was represented at the General Assembly of the European Broadcasting Union which was held in Greece from the 1st to the 4th July and at the bi-annual conference of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association which convened at Nassau in the Bahamas in September. The Authority has been a full member of both organisations since the early 1960's and has derived much benefit and assistance from its membership.

Both conferences were attended by a record number of broadcasting executives from a wide range of European and Commonwealth countries.

This gave the Authority's representatives a rare opportunity to meet fellow professionals and to discuss problems of common interest.

The conferences provided a forum for the exchange of information and it was through personal contacts established in this manner that training possibilities were reviewed and assistance obtained which enabled a member of the Authority's staff to proceed to the UK for an attachment period.

Further talks were held in London after the Bahamas Conference during meetings with BBC officials. The discussions concerned news and current affairs programmes when aspects of editorial independence, control mechanism and other supervisory methods were reviewed. The Authority also obtained much useful information about political broadcasting and programme production methods.

The Authority's Chairman and the Chief Executive attended the conference of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association whilst Board Member Mr Laurence Mizzi and the Chief Executive represented the Authority at the EBU General Assembly.

### ***Visiting Lecturers Scheme***

Section 6(e) of the Broadcasting Ordinance encourages the Authority to organise, provide and subsidise educational and cultural activities. In past years, the Authority had taken the lead in inviting to Malta for a lecture tour such personalities as the Rev. Agnellus Andrew, the BBC's Religious Broadcasting Organiser, and Professor Richard Hoggart, a prominent member of a UK broadcasting review committee.

This practice was renewed in 1988 when the Authority together with the University of Malta made arrangements for a visit to Malta by an American lecturer on the communications media. During a ten-day period in January, Professor Herbert Zettl of the Institute of International Media Communication at San Francisco University gave a series of lectures to personnel engaged in the communications media. Professor Zettl was the main speaker at a public lecture on "The Media and Public Opinion" and the guest speaker at the Seminar which debated the controversial subject of news value and what constitutes it. Both activities were well attended and focused attention on matters of public interest and concern. Professor Zettl's visit was made possible through the assistance of the American Centre in Malta.

### ***Programme Policy***

The debate on news and current affairs continued undiminished throughout the year and, as a matter of policy, the Authority again resorted to the use of programme funds to prescribe two discussion programmes about the



news service on the broadcasting media. These discussion programmes explored the difficulties encountered in this sector and included a vox pop and a phone-in. Discussion programmes of this nature were started by the Authority in 1986 when Xandir Malta encountered participation difficulties. The Authority continued using this method last year when three aspects of the Constitution — the Presidency, the Parliamentary System and broadcasting — were discussed in a balanced and informative manner.

The Authority issued new guidelines on current affairs programming which should give programme producers food for thought as well as practical advice. The guidelines which are reproduced as an appendix to this report stress the responsibility of individual producers to consult and seek instructions when in doubt. Such is the system of broadcasting in Malta that the Authority is not in a position to be aware of all aspects of the programme output. The advantage in the system of consultation is that it provides advance knowledge and information about some of the more sensitive programmes.

Consultation between the Authority and Xandir Malta must be full, frank and frequent. Any breakdown in the communication process will be to the detriment of both organisations. Because of the importance attached to this collaboration, the Authority revived and attempted to strengthen the consultative committee system. Three standing committees cover the areas of news and current affairs, television programming and radio programming. Membership of these committees is drawn from the senior staff in the respective sector of each organisation. The News and Current Affairs Committee meets once weekly whilst the other two programme committees meet on a monthly basis. These committees review past performance and exchange views on advance programme plans. Unfortunately, these committees did not function as effectively as it was originally envisaged and further efforts are being made to review the available method of consultation.

In April, the Authority and Xandir Malta, working closely together, planned and introduced a series of access programmes under the general title of *"Kulhadd Jghid Tieghu"*. The growth in the public's interest in broadcasting has instilled the idea, particularly within groups and associations, that they too should make their own programmes or should broadcast their views without relying on the professional broadcaster to do it for them, i.e. through interviews in programmes for which the need is felt and the initiative taken by the Station.

Access programmes provide these groups with airtime and the necessary station facilities without the broadcasters assuming responsibility — except as provided for in applicable legislation — for the content of the programme. The main scope of these programmes was to provide means through which organisations of a philanthropic, cultural or scientific nature could explain their scope and functions directly to the public

without editorial interference. The Scheme was launched on Radio Malta I with a weekly 30-minute programme. Later during the year the series was given a weekly repeat. A list of organisations, which vary from Alcoholics Anonymous to *Żgħażaġh għall-Ambjent*, is included in the appendices section of this report.

Foreign news commentaries on television were instituted in 1987 and continued last year. The Authority closely followed the development of this method of providing comment on subjects of interest and, together with Xandir Malta, made sure that both the choice of subjects and the commentators were balanced over a period of time. Plans to expand this service to the local scene were considered and flexible rules were formulated by the Authority to ensure fairness. However the expected expansion has not yet taken place.

The Broadcasting Services normally involve themselves in government campaigns of a public service nature such as the anti-smoking campaign, the road safety campaign and the AIDS campaign. During the year the Authority was asked for its advice in connection with three versions of an AIDS education drive initiated by the government's Health Education Unit. The Authority, conscious of the need for good taste, approved the campaign with slight variations.

Contrary to statutory requirements in other countries, broadcasting legislation in Malta does not refer to audience research. However the need to find out the state of public opinion about programmes in general and the news service in particular was felt during the year. The most methodical way of doing this is by conducting surveys of representative samples of the public at large. Such general opinion polls and surveys are necessary to guide programme planners and provide a basis for policy decisions. Xandir Malta commissioned an audience survey and the findings revealed that news on television's main news bulletin is regularly followed by 100,000 people daily. Unfortunately, the Authority could not proceed with its plans to hold its own survey due to a variety of factors. It is hoped, however, that the subject of audience measurement properly planned and scientifically carried out will be revived, provided the Authority has the necessary funds at its disposal.

### ***Programme Monitoring***

The Authority has been engaged in programme monitoring since shortly after it was established in 1961. Two main qualifications are required: a knowledge of the Broadcasting Ordinance for which the Authority is responsible, and sensitivity of taste as well as soundness of judgement. The first qualification is an acquired professional one but it is useless without the second which might be described as an attribute of the intelligent viewer or listener. The purpose of monitoring is two-fold. First to detect

and report briefly but accurately any apparent breach of the Ordinance or other relevant legislation; second to comment, where comment is called for, upon any material from the standpoint of an average member of the audience. In this latter category, favourable comment is as necessary and acceptable as adverse criticism.

Programme monitoring is conducted on a regular basis by the Authority's staff who act as the 'eyes and ears' of the Authority. This essential duty is a reporting function rather than an executive activity, and between the monitoring report and any action or reaction by the Authority there is a careful process of checking and evaluation of the original report and of the programme or news item concerned. This notwithstanding, the role of the Authority's monitoring staff is one of very special responsibility, as on their initial judgement depends the exercise of remedial action if and when justified.

It is realised that this system may not be perfect and the Authority's relations with Xandir Malta may, at times, suffer because of action resulting from these reports. However, with enhanced day-to-day communication at different staff levels it is expected that reciprocal appreciation of mutual obligations will ensue. This will help to create more awareness both of the defects and good qualities of the programmes and should lead to an improvement of standards.

### ***Broadcasting Services not under Contract with the Authority***

"Radio Mediterranean" and "Voice of the Mediterranean" are two broadcasting services which transmit from Malta and operate under licence from or arrangements with the Government. In fact the former is a joint venture between the Maltese and Algerian governments and the latter operates under joint management provided by the Maltese and the Libyan governments.

The Authority is obliged by law to exercise a limited form of surveillance on the programme output of these two Stations. Acting in accordance with its obligations, the Authority requests and readily acquires, from both stations, copies of news scripts and other material transmitted on these mainly external broadcasting services.

It will be recalled that Section 7A of the Broadcasting Ordinance extends the application of Section 7 (2) (a), (c) and (g) to any sound and television broadcasting service provided in Malta. This is in conformity with provisions of Section 119 (1) of the Constitution. The sub-sections of the Ordinance refer to religious sentiment, good taste and decency in programmes, the prevention of anything which might incite to crime or disorder or be offensive to public feeling or give offence to a living person;

the preservation of accuracy and impartiality in news and the maintenance of impartiality in matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy.

The “Voice of the Mediterranean” commenced transmission operations on 1st September 1988. “Radio Mediterranean” has been transmitting its services on a regular basis since January 1983.

### ***Parliament and Broadcasting***

Parliamentary proceedings are a prime source of information and for many years the broadcasting services had been reporting events in Parliament and, at times, carrying direct or in deferred form, particular debates from the House of Representatives. Important speeches are regularly reported in the news bulletins and Question time in the House is another important source of news material.

During the year there were several occasions on which Parliamentary debates or other activities were transmitted in their entirety on radio and television. These included the debate on the site for the proposed Power Station; the visit to the House of Representatives by the United Nations Secretary General; the debate on the visit of British warships to Malta; the Budget Speech and the speeches in reply by the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister’s winding up, as well as all Committee stages when the proposed budget measures were examined Ministry by Ministry.

The Authority had earlier made representations both to the Speaker and to the Leader of the House requesting regular and adequate consultation whenever it was intended that broadcasting should play its part in bringing Parliamentary proceedings to the attention of the public. As a result of this initiative frank discussions were held and it was established that, in view of its constitutional responsibilities, the Authority would be consulted and its views taken into account whenever the occasion arose. The Authority appreciates this recognition of its responsibilities and acknowledges that after the due process of consultation Parliamentary transmissions are a matter for Parliament to decide.

Reporting from Parliament is a delicate task which is carried out regularly by Xandir Malta’s team of Parliamentary reporters. Their task is not made easier during lively sessions or when interruptions impose an unavoidable accompaniment to Members’ speeches. In such circumstances, the Authority allows the use, the next day, of the unedited and unrevised text of speeches affected in this manner in order to enable the transmission of a more faithful report. There were a few limited occasions during the year when corrections were authorised to previously inadequate reports of Members’ speeches.

Copies of Xandir Malta’s broadcast reports of Parliamentary Sittings are

made available on a daily basis to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

### ***Ministerial Broadcasts***

The procedure which regulates Ministerial Broadcasts is included in the appendix section of this report.

Ten Ministerial broadcasts were delivered during the period April 1988 to March 1989 and the total duration of these broadcasts was approximately 225 minutes. The agreed limit set down in the procedure is 240 minutes per annum. The list of Ministerial Broadcasts, for which no claims for a reply were made to the Authority, is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Duration</i>
<b>1988</b>			
1. April 25	Minister for Social Policy	Housing Survey	33' 16"
2. October 3	Minister of Education	School Councils	14' 09"
3. October 4	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Malta's Climate proposal to the UN	9' 3"
4. October 20	Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly	Pre-Vocational School	12' 25"
5. October 25	Parliamentary Secretary for Housing	Home Ownership	24' 30"
6. October 28	Deputy Prime Minister	Commission Against Corruption	38' 42"
7. November 25	Minister for Development of the Infrastructure	Building regulatory Plan	18' 09"
8. December 28	Minister for Social Policy	Future of Dejma Corps	44' 36"
<b>1989</b>			
9. January 26	Minister for Social Policy	Incentive Schemes	18' 15"
10. March 3	Deputy Prime Minister	Public Cooperation with the Police	10' 58"

## ***Party Political Broadcasts***

A new series of party political broadcasts was introduced on November 4th. This consisted of 16 programmes with a total airtime of 730 minutes. The scheme had several innovations, including four one-hour programmes — “*L-Istampa Tistaqsi*” — which were meant to provide the public with a diversity of political opinion and the Press with a means for active participation in broadcast politics. During these programmes, two political personalities (one from each party taking part in the scheme) and three journalists discussed significant political issues.

The Authority also offered airtime for a ten-minute programme to each party to be utilised in whatever manner best suited their political interest. The Labour Party put up strong objections to this section of the scheme which was favourably commented upon by the Nationalist Party.

The scheme also included “Face to Face” interviews which were conducted by an independent observer of the local political scene. These programmes could, if the parties so wished, include a brief documentary about the interviewee’s political and family background.

The scheme, which apportioned airtime in proportion to the parties’ parliamentary strength, was as follows:

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Nationalist Party</i>	<i>Malta Labour Party</i>
Political Debates	3 programmes of 60 minutes each	3 programmes of 60 minutes each
<i>L-Istampa Tistaqsi</i> (Press Interviews)	2 programmes of 60 minutes each	2 programmes of 60 minutes each
Face to Face Interviews	2 programmes of 30 minutes each	2 programmes of 25 minutes each
Party Productions	1 programme of 10 minutes	1 programme of 10 minutes

The Authority introduced the scheme after consulting the parties. Both expressed dissatisfaction with the scheme for diametrically opposite reasons. While the Nationalist Party wanted more informative and less confrontational programmes the Malta Labour Party requested more of the latter type and less of the former.

Party political broadcasts are meant to help voters make up their mind how to vote at elections. The electorate is getting more politically sophisticated,

and unless this is recognised, these broadcasts may not serve the interests of the parties.

The procedure which regulates this series of broadcasts is reproduced at Appendix II.

## **A P P E N D I C E S**





## **Procedure Governing Ministerial Broadcasts**

1. In view of their responsibilities for the care of the nation the Government should be able to broadcast, from time to time, Ministerial Broadcasts, which, for example, are purely factual, or explanatory of approved legislative or administrative policies or in the nature of appeals to the nation to co-operate in national policies which require the active participation of the public.
2. Such broadcasts must comply with the provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961.
3. It will be incumbent on Ministers making such broadcasts to be as impartial as possible, and in the ordinary way there will be no question of a reply.
4. If however a reply is established to the satisfaction of the Authority, the total broadcasting time devoted to such reply or replies will not exceed the duration of the original Ministerial Broadcast. Requests for a reply should be submitted in writing to the Authority within forty-eight hours of a Ministerial Broadcast being made. This time limit will be extended automatically in the case of an intervening Saturday, Sunday or a Public Holiday.
5. Except by agreement with the Broadcasting Authority the amount of airtime which may be utilized in any one year (April 1st of one year to March 31st of the next) will not exceed 240 minutes. Ministerial Broadcasts may be on Sound only or on both Sound and Television.
6. On Television, Ministerial Broadcasts may be illustrated with graphics, photographs and/or films. It should be noted that when this facility is made use of, and, if a right of reply is established, the same facility will be extended to the reply.
7. All requests for Ministerial Broadcasts are to be made direct to the Authority and reasonable notice given.
8. A script of a Ministerial Broadcast should be sent to the Authority.
9. Except by agreement with the Broadcasting Authority, Ministerial Broadcasts will not take place during periods when General Election or Referendum Broadcasts are being held.
10. Ministerial Broadcasts do not and are not intended to exhaust the possibilities of Ministers appearing on Sound or Television. Broad-

casts by the Prime Minister which take the form of an “address to the nation”, and are indicated as such, do not come within the category of Ministerial Broadcasts. Ministers also broadcast, by invitation, in news interviews, balanced discussions, Radio and Television Press Conferences, outside broadcasts, etc. Ministerial Broadcasts come into a separate category because they constitute special time placed at the disposal of Ministers which is availed of at the choice and on the initiative of the Ministers and not either of the Contractors or of the Broadcasting Authority.

11. When any dispute arises over Ministerial Broadcasts the final responsibility remains with the Authority.

## **Procedure Governing Party Political Broadcasts**

### **General Rules**

1. This scheme of Party Political Broadcasts consists of Press Interviews, Debates, 'Face to Face' discussions and Party Productions.
2. All programmes included in this scheme are transmitted under the auspices of the Broadcasting Authority.
3. No Party Political Broadcast is held on a declared public holiday. Should a broadcast happen to fall on such a day, that broadcast is postponed to the same day in the following week.
4. This scheme covers the period November 1988 to July 1989.
5. Political Broadcasts will be held as shown in the attached calendar.
6. If a broadcast is not used by a Party on its scheduled transmission date, that broadcast will be forfeited and an appropriate announcement made.
7. Political Party representatives, and all those taking part in this series, must abide by the provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance, any rules issued by the Authority from time to time and any order or directive given by the presiding Chairman. The Authority's decision on any points which may arise in connection with these broadcasts will be final.
8. Neither the Broadcasting Authority nor its Contractor, The TeleMalta Corporation (Xandir Malta Division), will accept any responsibility for any interference with or breakdown of the television service or the Cable radio or radio services and cannot bind themselves to repeat any broadcasts that suffer as a result of such interference or breakdown.
9. The Authority reserves the right to suspend indefinitely or for such time as it will consider necessary, any person from participating in any of the programmes in this scheme in the event that such person shall have, in the Authority's view, committed a serious breach of the rules, particularly rule 7.
10. Programmes in this series will be broadcast on Cable Radio (up to January 1989), Radio Malta 1 and on Television.
11. Provided adequate notice is given, the Authority will issue a Press hand-out and advance publicity on the broadcasting media will also

be arranged.

12. This series of Party Political Broadcasts will automatically come to an end on the date Parliament is dissolved.
13. In all programmes under this scheme where the Authority requires advance information about speakers and the choice of subject, the following arrangements will apply: The Party whose turn it is to choose the subject and speaker/s will supply the required information to the Authority by not later than noon on Monday preceding the day of broadcast. Failure to comply with this rule will disrupt arrangements and may entail the forfeiture of the broadcast, in which case an appropriate announcement will be made. The Authority will inform the other Party of the subject and speaker/s selected by not later than the following day (office hours). Should the Authority not approve the subject proposed by the selecting Party, notification to the other Party will be made as soon as possible.
14. The programmes in this series are transmitted from Xandir Malta Studios after pre-recording which takes place in the presence of the Authority's Legal Adviser. Participants are to be at the Studios not later than half an hour before recording time. Unless otherwise directed by the Authority, recording will take place at 10.00 a.m. sharp on the day of broadcast. Only the participants and the Party Broadcasting Officer or his representative may attend the checking of the play-back. A programme will be re-recorded only if the Authority so decides.
15. Political Parties participating in the scheme may request a tape recording of any political programme under the scheme after the programme has been broadcast. In such cases, the tape is to be provided by the requesting Party. A period of seven days from the date of the broadcast is allowed for such requests.
16. The following arrangements are made for party political broadcasts during the period November 1988 to July 1989.

### **Press Interviews — "L-Istampa Tistaqsi"**

17. This section of the scheme consists of 4 programmes of 60 minutes each. Two programmes are allocated to the Nationalist Party and two to the Malta Labour Party.
18. Press Interviews are meant to be informative discussions in which a representative of each of the two political parties represented in Parliament answers questions put to him in the general public interest by 3 newspaper editors or their senior representatives.
19. Questions are to be of a policy nature and suitable for reply by each of the two party representatives. This is essential to ensure a high level of discussion.

20. Questions should be brief and to the point, but journalists will be allowed supplementary and counter questions to elicit a reply. This must be done in orderly fashion without prejudicing the right of the interviewee to reply as he thinks fit.
21. The presiding Chairman nominated by the Broadcasting Authority has been delegated full discretionary powers to regulate the programme fairly and firmly.
22. After the Chairman's introductory remarks, the spokesman whose party has chosen the subject for the programme will make a brief statement, after which the Chairman will invite questions.
23. The party spokesman who makes the programme's opening statement will answer the first journalist's questions. The other party spokesman will come in next. This order will be maintained until all questions are dealt with.
24. The spokesman for the party choosing the programme subject has the option to make a concluding statement.
25. The following time schedule will regulate programmes in this section:

	<i>60 minutes</i>
Chairman's Introduction	1 min.
Party spokesman's opening statement	3 mins.
Question time	52 mins.
Party spokesman's summing up	3 mins.
Chairman's closing	1 min.

26. Press representation will be regulated in the following manner: The party choosing the subject will nominate one Press representative while the other party will nominate two Press representatives from the list of newspapers and periodicals (attached). Parties may not nominate the same newspaper or periodical more than once in this series. Failure by either party to observe this rule will oblige the Authority to extend a press invitation itself.
27. The Authority reserves the right to review Press representation from time to time.
28. The order in which journalists will participate will be determined by ballot.

## Debates

29. The present series of Debates is made up of 6 programmes of 60 minutes, each with four participants.
30. The Party whose turn it is to select the subject will open and wind up

the debate.

31. All debates in this series will be under the charge of a Chairman, nominated by the Authority. A substitute Chairman may also be appointed.
32. The Chairman should ensure that clarity prevails at all times and that an equal opportunity is presented to both sides. The Chairman retains full discretionary powers to act as necessary to ensure that the interests of viewers and listeners are safeguarded.
33. Debates will be conducted on the following lines:

	<i>60 minutes</i>
Chairman's introduction (1st round)	1 min.
First Speaker (Party A)	8 mins.
Second Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
Third Speaker (Party A)	7 mins.
Fourth Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
(2nd round)	
First Speaker (Party A)	7 mins.
Second Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
Third Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
Fourth Speaker (Party A)	8 mins.
Chairman's closing	1 min.

34. All those taking part in debates must strictly follow the instructions of the Chairman whose decision in the proper conduct of the debate will be final.

### **Documentary Interviews — “Wiċċ Imb’Wiċċ”**

35. This series of broadcasts includes 4 interview and documentary type programmes to be known as “Wiċċ Imb’ Wiċċ”.
36. Programmes in this section will be allocated as follows:
  - Nationalist Party*  
2 programmes of 30 minutes each
  - Malta Labour Party*  
2 programmes of 25 minutes each
37. Each programme will consist of one party spokesman who will be interviewed by a person selected by the Broadcasting Authority.
38. Following a brief introduction by the interviewer each programme will consist of as many questions and answers as time will permit.
39. During these interview programmes visual material will be allowed.
40. Visual material intended for use in these programmes has to be provided by the party itself and submitted for legal vetting at least 24

hours before the programme is recorded. All visual material should comply with the Station's technical requirements.

41. Programmes which in the opinion of the Authority are unsuitable for radio transmission will be broadcast on television only.

## **Party Productions**

42. The programmes in this section may, at the parties' discretion, vary from the straight talk to an elaborate television production.
43. Party Productions in this scheme consist of one 10 minute programme allocated to each party.
44. The Authority must be informed at least a week before the programme is due to be transmitted about the nature of the broadcast, i.e. whether it is a straight talk, an interview, a debate or a production on tape or film.
45. The Authority and Xandir Malta will render no assistance in filming, taking of stills, in putting graphic material together or in any other way. The production must be of entirely Maltese origin and all programme material must be provided by the parties themselves. Such material shall be submitted to the Authority for vetting at least 24 hours before a programme is due for recording in the normal manner.
46. Programmes which in the opinion of the Authority are unsuitable for radio transmission will be broadcast on television only.



**Calendar of Party Political Broadcasts**  
**November 1988 to July 1989**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>			<i>Programme</i>	<i>Party</i>
1	1988	November	4	Debate	Malta Labour Party
2		November	18	Debate	Nationalist Party
3	1989	January	6	<i>Wicc Imb' Wicc</i>	Nationalist Party
4		January	20	<i>Wicc Imb' Wicc</i>	Malta Labour Party
5		February	3	<i>L-Istampa Tistaqsi</i>	Nationalist Party
6		February	17	<i>L-Istampa Tistaqsi</i>	Malta Labour Party
7		March	3	Debate	Nationalist Party
8		March	17	Debate	Malta Labour Party
9		April	14	<i>Wicc Imb' Wicc</i>	Malta Labour Party
10		April	28	<i>Wicc Imb' Wicc</i>	Nationalist Party
11		May	12	<i>L-Istampa Tistaqsi</i>	Malta Labour Party
12		May	26	<i>L-Istampa Tistaqsi</i>	Nationalist Party
13		June	9	Debate	Malta Labour Party
14		June	23	Debate	Nationalist Party
15		July	7	Party Production	Malta Labour Party
16		July	21	Party Production	Nationalist Party

*Transmission: Fridays at 9.15 p.m. on TVM & Radio Malta I*

List of Dailies, Weeklies and Periodicals (the latter restricted to those issued by the Nationalist Party and the Malta Labour Party) from which Press representation for Press Interviews could be chosen.

DAILIES

*In-Nazzjon Tagħna*

*L-Orizzont*

The Times

WEEKLIES

The Democrat

*Il-Ġens*

*Il-Helsien*

*Il-Mument*

Sunday Chronicle

Sunday Times

*It-Torċa*

PERIODICALS

*Il-Poplu*

*Il-Ħsieb*

## **Guidelines on Current Affairs Programming on all Broadcasting Media**

The Constitution and the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961 contain certain requirements in relation to the character and content of programming on radio and television. The following is intended to provide guidance to the staff concerned in programme production.

### **1. Freedom of Expression**

- 1.1 Article 41 of the Constitution guarantees liberty, subject to such limitations prescribed by law and which are necessary, in a democratic society, for the exercise of the right of the general public to express freely opinions and convictions. The same article does not exclude any control that may be reasonably required to regulate, amongst other things, wireless broadcasting, television or other means of communication.
- 1.2 Article 10 of the First Schedule to the European Convention Act, 1987 (Act No. XIV of 1987 incorporating Article 10 of the 1948 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms) states that 'everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers'. Since the exercise of these freedoms carries with it duties and responsibilities the same article states that it may be subject to conditions or restrictions as may be necessary in the interests of preserving law and order.
- 1.3 As a natural consequence of these expressions, the broadcasting media carry a serious duty in the provision of information and, as public service organisations, the Broadcasting Authority and Xandir Malta accept this responsibility. In doing so, they operate on behalf of the community as a whole.

### **2. Impartiality and Balance**

- 2.1 Article 119 of the Constitution lays down that 'it shall be the function of the Broadcasting Authority to ensure that, so far as possible, in such sound and television broadcasting services as may be provided in Malta, due impartiality is preserved in

respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy and that broadcasting facilities and time are fairly apportioned between persons belonging to different political parties'.

- 2.2 This Constitutional provision on broadcasting supplements and strengthens Section 7(2) (g) of the Broadcasting Ordinance which reads as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the Authority to satisfy itself that, so far as possible, the programmes broadcast by the Authority comply with the following requirements, that is to say —

(g) that due impartiality is preserved as respects matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy and that, subject as hereinafter provided in this subsection, no matter designed to serve the interests of any political party is included in the programmes:

Provided that nothing in paragraph (g) of this subsection shall prevent the inclusion in the programmes of:

- (i) political talks made in accordance with a scheme approved by the Authority which fairly apportions facilities and time between persons holding different points of view;
- (ii) properly balanced discussions or debates where the persons taking part express opinions and put forward arguments of a political character; and
- (iii) factual and objective news coverage of events of political interest".

- 2.3 The Broadcasting Services must generally reflect and respect the values of the society in which they operate, acknowledging its standards of taste, decency and justice. They cannot, therefore, be just a channel for any and all opinions, nor can they be neutral in their basic attitudes. They must, however, be impartial. They must seek to widen the knowledge of the audience in programming which includes such critical examination of public issues as is considered necessary to fulfil the requirements of impartial and objective enquiry.
- 2.4 Objectivity is seen as the setting forth of an actual situation, uncoloured by the feelings and inclinations or subjective views of the broadcaster.
- 2.5 Impartiality is seen as being fair and just in reporting and presenting the facts without favouring any particular interest or

interests involved.

- 2.6 It is recognised that the selection of material for broadcasting is inescapably bound up with the standards of the programme producer. The process of selection should be carried out with the intention of fully informing the general public and not with the intention of giving expression to the views of the individual programme maker. All those involved in programme production should, therefore, ensure that their own concern does not result in a one-sided or incomplete presentation of an issue.

### **3. News Bulletins**

- 3.1 A basic information service is provided in news bulletins in which the public is given facts selected and presented in accordance with responsible news criteria.

Section 7 (2) (c) of the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961 requires the Authority to satisfy itself

“that any news given in the programmes (in whatever form) is presented with due accuracy and impartiality”.

- 3.2 Separate guidelines are issued by the Authority from time to time which attempt to cover this highly sensitive area of broadcasting.

### **4. Current Affairs**

- 4.1 The right of the public to information extends beyond that provided in news bulletins. To be properly understood, news developments and matters of concern to the public must be placed in a context. This is achieved by current affairs programming which examines in depth the background of events, providing information, expert analysis, informed comment and open discussion. Such programming helps the public to understand and assess the significance of events.
- 4.2 The general approach to current affairs programming should, therefore, be positive and no arbitrary limitation should be placed on its scope. Changes in political, economic and cultural affairs and matters of public controversy should be fully reflected.
- 4.3 There is a primary obligation to be fair to all interests involved in the issues which are dealt with in broadcast programmes.
- 4.4 In seeking to establish balance in current affairs programming it is accepted that all significant viewpoints should be represented

in an equitable manner. Care should be taken to avoid unfairness to those who, for any reason, are unable to present their own case.

- 4.5 It is recognised that in the treatment of issues which are, or are likely to be, of continuing public interest, it may not always be possible to achieve balance in a single programme. In such cases, the statutory requirements of objectivity, impartiality and balance may be discharged over two or more related programmes provided that the broadcasts are transmitted within a reasonable period.
- 4.6 In approaching any programme, the producers should judge what information is relevant within the context of the programme. Sometimes they may decide to concentrate on one aspect of a subject. In such cases, it should be the practice to make clear to the public the precise limits of the treatment selected.
- 4.7 Any matter designed to serve the interests of any political party is legally excluded from the programmes except in specified cases. These include 'properly balanced discussions or debates'. In this context, the requirements of balance assume a more defined proportion. The inclusion in a programme of political representation from one party would immediately necessitate equal representation from the other party.
- 4.8 Care should be taken in the choice of Chairman for such programmes. They should be made aware of their obligation to be fair to all interests and, in the case of non-contributing Chairmen, to refrain from making any comment which might upset the balance.
- 4.9 The Authority accepts that any organisation or any person has the right to decline an invitation to participate in a programme but refusal to take part in a programme should not necessarily imply the cancellation of that programme. The attitude is that cancellation would be equivalent to granting a right of veto over the particular subject. This would be inconsistent with the broadcasting services' duty to deal with important issues. The Authority will use its own discretion in fulfilling its obligations in such a situation.
- 4.10 The Authority and Xandir Malta together with their staff are precluded from including in the programmes any expression of their opinion as respects matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy.

## **5. Staff Responsibility**

- 5.1 These guidelines are intended to help programme staff in complying with existing legal and contractual requirements. In case of doubt about their particular responsibilities in the matter, programme producers must seek instructions at the appropriate level of responsibility and comply with such instructions. It will be appreciated that the greatest care must be taken in these matters since disregard of legislation or carelessness in observing it could not be excused.

## **Examination for Programme Editor (Grade II)**

1. The Registrar, Board of Local Examinations, invites applications for the filling of vacancies in the post of Programme Editor Grade II with the Broadcasting Authority. Employment is subject to a competitive public examination and interview, details of which are published below. The examination will be held in January 1989.
2. The post of Programme Editor (Grade II) carries a salary of Lm2268 rising by annual increments of Lm54 to Lm2535 and thereafter by annual increments of Lm68 to Lm2735.
3. Duties attached to the post of Programme Editor include monitoring and analysis of radio and television programmes; duties of a general nature connected with the Authority's control and supervisory obligations in broadcasting, and programme production.
4. Applications to sit for the examination accompanied by a fee of Lm3 will be received by the Registrar of Examinations, 31 South Street, Valletta by not later than Friday 6th January, 1989. Application forms may be obtained from the Registrar's Office and from the Broadcasting Authority's Offices, National Road, Błata 1-Bajda from Monday 2nd January 1989.
5. Late applications will not be considered.
6. Candidates must:
  - a) be citizens of Malta;
  - b) produce a Police Certificate of Conduct, their birth certificate together with birth certificates of parents and of paternal grandfather showing place of birth;
  - c) be of good moral character;
  - d) be free from any physical or mental defect or disease likely to interfere with the proper discharge of their duties;
  - e) be not less than 18 years of age nor over 40 years of age on the first day of the month during which the examination is to be held;
  - f) be in possession of a minimum of seven passes to include Maltese, English Language and another foreign language (either Arabic, French, German or Italian) as follows:



- i) Matriculation pass at Ordinary Level in Maltese.
  - ii) Another four G.C.E. or Matriculation passes at Ordinary Level.
  - iii) Two G.C.E. or Matriculation passes at Advanced Level.
7. The examination shall be conducted by a panel of examiners under the direction of the Registrar of Examinations who shall have the power to deal summarily with any candidate who, while the examination is in progress, is found to be guilty of misconduct or of any breach of the instructions issued for the guidance of candidates.
8. The examination shall consist of:
- Part I
  - Part II
  - Interview

in accordance with the syllabus as specified at paragraph 16 of this Notice.

9. Candidates who, for any reason whatsoever, fail to attend on the determined date for any of the subjects listed under Part I and Part II or for the interviewing test shall be deemed to have failed in the examination.
10. Candidates, who are in possession of G.C.E or Matriculation 'A' Level passes in any of the subjects listed under Part I may opt to be exempted from taking that particular subject and they will be allotted marks in accordance with the grade attained, on the following basis:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Mark %</i>
'A'	90
'B'	75
'C'	60
'D'	50

11. Part II of the examination shall be open only to those candidates who qualify from Part I, and only candidates who qualify from Part II will be called eventually for the interviewing test.
12. The final order of merit shall be determined by the total marks gained in the whole examination.
13. The result of the examination shall be valid for a period of two years from the date of publication of the final result.
14. All appointments will be subject to a probationary period of one year.
15. Future appointees may be required to undergo training overseas.
16. The syllabus and rules of the examination are as follows:

## Part I

i.	<b>MALTESE (3 hour paper)</b> .....	Max	Min.
	Composition, Precis and Translation from English to Maltese of official documents, statements, speeches, reports, press releases, etc. ....	100	50
ii.	<b>ENGLISH (3 hour paper)</b>		
	Essay, Precis and Translation from Maltese of official documents, statements, speeches, reports, press releases, etc. ....	100	50
iii.	<b>Any one of the following languages (2 hour paper)</b>		
	a) Arabic — Composition, Translation from Maltese .....	100	50
	b) French — Composition, Translation from English .....	100	50
	c) German — Composition, Translation from English .....	100	50
	d) Italian — Composition, Translation from English .....	100	50
iv.	<b>GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (3 hour paper)</b>		
	With particular reference to current affairs in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. The paper will consist of questions designed to test the candidates' knowledge of current economic, industrial, technical, social, cultural and other matters .....	100	50

## Part II

i.	<b>JOURNALISM (3 hour paper)</b>		
	The Press Law, interviewing, news analysis, mass communications, photography .....	200	100
ii.	<b>MASS MEDIA (3 hour paper)</b>		
	Mass Communications: Process and Functions		
	Audience Exposure Patterns		
	Information and Persuasive Content		
	Media-related social issues		
	The Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961 .....	200	100

Recommended Reading: Denis McQuail:  
*Mass Communication Theory*

iii. **MONITORING AND ANALYSIS**

This will be a three-hour practical test relating to monitoring and analysis of locally produced and imported television and radio programmes .....	200	100
---	-----	-----

*Part III*

<b>An interview</b> to assess candidates' ability, personality, experience, and skill for carrying out the duties of a Programme Editor with the Broadcasting Authority .....	100	50
---	-----	----

## List of Organisations participating in Access Programmes “Kulhadd Jghid Tieghu”

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Transmission Date</i>
1. Photographic Society	9 April 1988
2. Caritas	16 April
3. Playing Fields Association	23 April
4. Folklore Society	30 April
5. Rotary International	7 May
6. Society for the Conservation of Nature	14 May
7. Pensioners' Association	21 May
8. Council of Women	28 May
9. Geographical Society	4 June
10. <i>Moviment Kuragg u Tama</i>	11 June
11. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	18 June
12. Esperanto Society	25 June
13. Alcoholics Anonymous	2 July
14. Association for Hunting and Conservation	9 July
15. Society for the Blind	16 July
16. Association of Round Tables	27 July
17. Midwives Association	30 July
18. Ornithological Society	6 August
19. Historical Society	13 August
20. British Legion (Malta Branch)	20 August
21. Keep Fit Movement	27 August
22. Amateur Cine Circle	3 September
23. Hospice Movement	3 September
24. <i>Akkademja tal-Malti</i>	17 September
25. <i>Din l-Art Helwa</i>	24 September
26. Flower Lovers Guild	1 October
27. Library Association	8 October
28. Scouts Movement	15 October

29. <i>Ghaqda Hbieb tal-Presepu</i>	22 October
30. Consumers Association	29 October
31. Society for the Research and Investigation of Phenomena	5 November
32. Blood Donors Association	12 November
33. The British Culture Association	14 November
34. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	26 November
35. <i>Żghazagh Għall-Ambjent</i>	3 December
36. Malta Amateur Radio League	10 December
37. <i>Membri Atturi Istitut Kattoliku (MASK)</i>	17 December
38. Social Action Movement	24 December
39. Young People's Orchestra	31 December

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
*For the year ended 31 December 1988***



**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*For the year ended 31 December 1988*

<i>CONTENTS</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
<i>Auditors' Report</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Income and Expenditure Account</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Balance Sheet</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Statement of Source and Application of Funds</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Notes to the Financial Statements</i>	<i>52</i>



## GAUCI, MICALLEF & CO.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS.


"TANYA"  
BXARA BY PASS  
BXARA, MALTA  
TEL 444139, 442715  
TELEX 446

### AUDITORS' REPORT

#### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

We have audited the financial statements set out on pages 49 to 54 in accordance with Approved Auditing Standards. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit, proper books of accounts have been kept and these are in agreement with the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the authority's affairs at 31 December 1988 and of its deficit and source and application of funds for the year then ended, and comply with the Broadcasting Ordinance 1961.

  
GAUCI, MICALLEF & CO.  
Certified Public Accountants and Auditors  
19. 07. 89.

Partners: J. Gauci, R. Micallef

Correspondent of  International

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
*For the year ended 31 December 1988*

	Notes	1988 Lm	1987 Lm
Income	(2)	68,403	76,913
Expenditure		(85,254)	(84,882)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit for the Year		(16,851)	(7,969)
Accumulated Deficit Brought Forward		(325,751)	(317,782)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Deficit Carried Forward		Lm (342,602)	Lm (325,751)
		<hr/>	<hr/>

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

**As at 31 December 1988**

	Notes	1988 Lm	1987 Lm
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible	(3)	7,600	7,561
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors and Prepayments		1,807	576
Bank and cash in hand		2,538	2,433
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,345	3,009
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>			
Creditors and accruals		4,591	4,013
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		(246)	(1,004)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		7,354	6,557
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES</b>	(4)	(306,836)	(290,399)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET LIABILITIES</b>		Lm (299,482)	Lm (283,842)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CAPITAL AND DEFICIENCY</b>			
CAPITAL FUND	(5)	43,120	41,909
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEFICIT</b>		(342,602)	(325,751)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		Lm (299,482)	Lm (283,842)
		<hr/>	<hr/>



**CHAIRMAN**



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF SOURCE AND APPLICATION**  
**OF FUNDS**

***For the year ended 31 December 1988***

	1988 Lm	1987 Lm
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>		
Deficit for the year	(16,851)	(7,969)
Adjustment for items not involving the movement of funds:		
Depreciation	1,718	1,541
Transfer to capital reserve	1,211	4,031
Provision for shortfall in programmes	16,437	8,957
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(114)	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>FUNDS GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS</b>	2,401	6,560
<b>FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>		
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets	280	170
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>	2,681	6,730
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,923)	(4,246)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	Lm758	Lm2,484
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>THE NET SOURCE OF FUNDS IS REPRESENTED BY THE FOLLOWING INCREASE IN WORKING CAPITAL</b>		
Debtors and prepayments	1,231	34
Creditors and accruals	(578)	745
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	653	779
<b>Movement in net liquid funds:</b>		
Bank and cash in hand	105	1,705
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Lm 758	Lm2,484
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 December 1988**

**1. ACCOUNTING CONVENTION**

The Financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**a) Tangible Fixed Assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided for on the straight line method at rates intended to write off the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful lives. The annual rates used, which are consistent with those applied in the previous year, are:

	%
Studio equipment	20
Technical equipment	25
Motor vehicles	20
Furniture, fittings and office equipment	10-20

**b) Programmes Expenditure**

Twenty percent of general administrative expenses is apportioned to programme expenditure.

**c) Income**

Income is made up as follow:

	1988	1987
	Lm	Lm
Government contributions*	65,789	75,969
Licence fees	751	751
Ground rent	13	13
Bank interest receivable	273	225
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	114	—
Provision no longer required	1,463	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Lm 68,403	Lm 76,958
	<hr/>	<hr/>

\* Government contributions are stated at the amount received less additions to fixed assets after deducting disposals.

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**3. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold Land Lm	Furniture Fittings & Office Equipment Lm	Technical Equipment Lm	Studio Equipment Lm	Motor Vehicle Lm	Total Lm
<u>Cost</u>						
At 1 January 1988	655	17,135	11,335	8,837	3,947	41,909
Additions	—	1,571	352	—	—	1,923
Disposals	—	(712)	—	—	—	(712)
	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 December 1988	655	17,994	11,687	8,837	3,947	43,120
	—	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Depreciation</u>						
At 1 January 1988	—	10,954	11,040	8,407	3,947	34,348
Charge for the year	—	1,385	189	144	—	1,718
Released on disposal	—	(546)	—	—	—	(546)
	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 December 1988	—	11,793	11,229	8,551	3,947	35,520
	—	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Net book value</u>						
At 31 December 1988	Lm655	Lm6,201	Lm 458	Lm 286	Lm —	Lm7,600
	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 December 1987	Lm655	Lm6,181	Lm 295	Lm 430	Lm —	Lm7,561
	—	—	—	—	—	—

The cost of fully depreciated assets as at 31 December 1988 amounted to Lm31,774 on which depreciation otherwise chargeable would have amounted to Lm6,222.

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*(continued)*

**4. PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES**

The Authority is contractually obliged to spend Lm35,000 annually for the prescription and improvement of programmes on radio and television. The income of the Authority was not always sufficient to enable it to meet this commitment. Consequently the Authority has accumulated the following shortfall:

	1988 Lm	1987 Lm
Balance at 1 January	290,399	281,442
Shortfall for the year	16,437	8,957
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December	Lm306,836	Lm 290,399
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**5. CAPITAL FUND**

	1988 Lm	1987 Lm
Balance at 1 January	41,909	37,878
Net additions to fixed assets	1,211	4,031
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December	Lm43,120	Lm41,909
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
(DETAILED)**

***For the year ended 31 December 1988***

		1988 Lm	1987 Lm
INCOME	(page 56)	69,614	80,989
Net additions to fixed assets		(1,211)	(4,031)
		<hr/> 68,403	<hr/> 76,958
EXPENDITURE			
Administrative expenses	(page 57)	50,254	49,927
Programme expenditure	(page 58)	18,563	26,043
		<hr/> 68,817	<hr/> 75,970
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(414)	988
Programmes short fall expenditure	(page 58)	(16,437)	(8,957)
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		<hr/> Lm (16,851)	<hr/> Lm (7,969)



**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**INCOME**  
*For the year ended 31 December 1988*

	1988 Lm	1987 Lm
Government Contributions	67,000	80,000
Licence fees	751	751
Groundrent	13	13
Bank interest	273	225
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	114	—
Provision no longer required	1,463	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
- to page 55	Lm69,614	Lm80,989
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**  
**For the year ended 31 December 1988**

	1988	1987
	Lm	Lm
Audit fee	200	400
Depreciation:		
- furniture and fittings	915	800
- office equipment	470	438
- motor vehicle	—	11
Duty visits abroad	3,845	1,460
Public relations	1,151	1,251
Legal and professional fees	1,041	1,029
Repairs and maintenance	277	585
International organisations		
membership fees	2,274	2,156
Subscriptions	403	244
Telecommunication expenses	1,646	2,651
Rent	1,550	1,550
Rentals of sound & TV sets	156	181
Stationery	1,293	923
Sundry expenses	538	486
Insurances	164	947
Transport	669	963
Wages and salaries	34,581	34,447
Staff gratuities	100	3,960
Members' honoraria	6,042	4,650
N.I. contributions	2,696	1,952
Water and electricity	789	771
Monitoring and supervision	175	—
Staff recruitment and training	679	—
Visiting lecturers	714	—
Adaptation of office	450	542
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	62,818	62,397
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenses apportioned to programmes:		
Sound Broadcasts		
5.7% - to page 58	(3,581)	(3,554)
T.V. Broadcasts		
14.3% - to page 58	(8,983)	(8,916)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
- to page 55	Lm 50,254	Lm 49,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**BROADCASTING AUTHORITY**  
**PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE**  
**For the year ended 31 December 1988**

	1988			1987		
	Sound	T.V.	Total	Sound	T.V.	Total
	Lm	Lm	Lm	Lm	Lm	Lm
<b>AIRTIME &amp; STUDIO CHARGES</b>						
Airtime charges	—	—	—	—	6	6
Hire of films	—	—	—	—	100	100
Broadcasts: script/ writers expenses	—	520	520	—	456	456
Documentaries	—	230	230	—	2,315	2,315
Political broadcasts	—	4,715	4,715	—	10,222	10,222
Incidental broadcasts	—	201	201	—	182	182
	—	5,666	5,666	—	13,281	13,281
<b>DEPRECIATION ON TECHNICAL &amp; STUDIO EQUIPMENT</b>	166	167	333	146	146	292
<b>APPORTIONMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (From page 57)</b>	3,581	8,983	12,564	3,554	8,916	12,470
- to page 55	3,747	14,816	18,563	3,700	22,343	26,043
<b>PROGRAMMES SHORTFALL PROVISION (- to page 55)</b>			16,437			8,957
			Lm 35,000			Lm 35,000

A Broadcasting Authority publication  
Malta, 1989