LAWS OF SOUTH SUDAN

BROADCASTING CORPORATION ACT, 2013

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LAWS OF SOUTH SUDAN

BROADCASTING CORPORATION ACT, 2013

In accordance with the provisions of Article 55 (2)(3) (b), read together with the provisions of Article 85 (1), of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011, the National Legislature with the assent of the President hereby enacts the following:

Chapter I

Preliminary Provisions

1. Title and Commencement.

This Act may be cited as the “Broadcasting Corporation Act, 2013” and shall come into force on the date of its assent by the President.

2. Repeal and Saving.

Any existing legislation on the subject governed by this Act is hereby repealed, provided that any orders issued or regulations made under such legislation shall continue in force and extent until expressly repealed or are otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

3. Purpose.

This Act shall promote high quality broadcasting and guarantee the independence of the public broadcasting service, free flow of information and any related matters in the public interest through the establishment of a South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation.

4. Authority and Application.

This Act is drafted under the powers granted in Article 24 (2) and (3) of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011 which grants the Government powers to legislate on matters of freedom of the press and other media as shall be regulated by law in a democratic society and shall abide by professional ethics.

5. Interpretations.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them respectively:

“Advertisement” means any public announcement intended to promote the sale, purchase or renting of a product or service; to advance a cause or idea or to bring about some other effect desired by the
advertiser for which broadcasting time has been given to the advertiser for remuneration or similar consideration;

“Assembly” means the National Legislative Assembly;

“Board” means the Board of Directors established in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

“Broadcasting service” means a defined service broadcasted through television or sound material to the public, sections of the public or subscribers to such service;

“Code of broadcasting practice” means a set of standards relating to programme content and broadcast practices;

“Constitution” means the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011;

“Corporation” means the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation established in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of this Act;

“Court” means High Court unless determined by the Civil Procedure Act, or the criminal procedure code;

“Indigenous programming service” means a unit within the broadcasting service devoted to a certain language or ethnic group to provide news and other programmes to that group in its language, reflecting its culture and interests;

“Independent producer” means an individual or company independent of any particular broadcaster producing programmes for radio or television;

“Managing Director” means the Managing Director of South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for Information and Broadcasting;

“Ministry” means the Ministry responsible for Information and Broadcasting;

“President” means the President of the Republic of South Sudan;

“Programme schedule” means a plan indicating the general types of programmes proposed to be broadcasted along with the percentage of broadcasting time to be
devoted to such programmes, and to advertisement and the target audience;

“Public broadcasting fee” means a fee paid in consideration for the purposes of providing public broadcasting;

“Sponsorship” means the participation of a natural or legal person not engaged in broadcasting activities or the production of audio-visual works, in the direct or indirect financing of a programme with a view to promote the name, trademark or image of that person;

Chapter II

Establishment and Guiding Principles


(1) The Broadcasting Corporation service (hereinafter called “South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation”) is hereby established, and shall be known as “Broadcasting Corporation”, abbreviated as “SSBC”,

(2) The Broadcasting Corporation shall be a public institution accountable to the public through the Assembly pursuant to the provisions of section 27, 28, 29 and 30 of this Act.

(3) The Broadcasting Corporation shall serve the interests of South Sudan and shall in carrying out its duties, enjoy operational and administrative autonomy.

(4) The Broadcasting Corporation shall be a body corporate with a common seal and shall have the right to:
(a) acquire, hold and dispose of moveable and immovable property;
(b) transact in all things a body corporate may lawfully do;
(c) sue and be sued in its own name.

(5) The Corporation shall have such direct or incidental powers as are necessary to execute the functions and duties provided in this Act.


(1) The Broadcasting Corporation shall have an overall mandate to provide a wide range of programming for the whole territory of South Sudan that informs, enlightens, entertains and serves all the people of South Sudan, taking into account their ethnic, cultural and religious diversities.
(2) The Broadcasting Corporation shall provide innovative and high quality broadcasting reflecting the range of views and perspectives held in society and endeavour to address the diverse needs and interests of the general public in relation to informative broadcasting and complement private broadcaster programming.

(3) The Broadcasting Corporation shall strive, among others, to provide a service that:

(a) is independent from political or economic control by the government and reflects editorial integrity;
(b) includes comprehensive, impartial and balanced news and current affairs programming during prime time, covering South Sudan and international events of general public interest;
(c) contributes to a sense of South Sudanese identity, while reflecting and recognising the cultural diversity of South Sudan and its regional and international status;
(d) gives a voice to all ethnic, cultural and religious communities, including the establishment of Programming Services that strive to provide programming in the national languages of South Sudan;
(e) strikes a balance between programming of wide appeal and specialised programmes that serve the needs of different audiences;
(f) provides appropriate coverage of the proceedings of key decision-making bodies, including the Assembly and the State assemblies;
(g) includes programmes of interest to the different States of South Sudan;
(h) ensures the dissemination of important public announcements;
(i) provides a reasonable proportion of educational programmes and programmes oriented towards children, older people, youth, and people with disability;
(j) promotes gender balance and equality;
(k) promotes programme production in South Sudan; and ensure that programmes reflect a variety of views and perspectives,
(l) contributes to informed debate and critical thought.
(m) promotes health education programmes

(4) The Corporation shall progressively work towards obtaining 20% of its total broadcasting from independent producers based in South Sudan.

(5) The Corporation shall promote the development of South Sudanese expression by providing a wide range of programming that refers to South Sudanese opinions, ideas, values and artistic creativity by displaying local and home grown talent in radio and television programming;

(6) The Corporation shall align its activities with the democratic values enshrined in the Constitution and to enhance and protect fundamental freedoms and human rights.
CHAPTER III
STRUCTURES, COMPOSITION AND POWERS OF
THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION

8. Board of Directors.

(1) There shall be a Board of Directors of the Corporation.

(2) The Board of Directors shall be the highest policy making organ of the Corporation and shall exercise oversight authority over the Corporation.

(3) The decisions of the Board shall be made in a transparent and independent manner and free from political, industrial or other influences.

(4) The Board shall be composed of nine members at least 25% of whom shall be women.

(5) The members of the Board shall be persons of integrity, impartiality and high moral standing with proven competences.

(6) The members of the Board shall have relevant expertise by virtue of their educational qualification or experience in the fields of broadcasting, or law, technology, journalism, entertainment, business, education, social and labour issues.


(1) The Board shall have the following powers:

(a) determination of internal policy of the Corporation;
(b) ensuring compliance with all policies and the Guiding Principles set out in Section 7 of this Act;
(c) ensuring that the Corporation achieves the highest standards of efficiency, integrity and value for money;
(d) appointment of senior staff of the Corporation;
(e) establishment of the overall strategy of the Corporation; and
(f) recommendation for appointment or removal of the Managing Director.

(2) The Board shall not engage in the day-to-day management of the Corporation or interfere with the editorial independence of the staff, notwithstanding that it has the power to ensure that the overall editorial policy adheres to the Guiding Principles set out in section 7 of this Act.

(3) The Board shall, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, approve the regulations of the Corporation in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
(4) The Board shall prepare an Annual Report of the Corporation and present it to the Council of Ministers and to the National Legislative Assembly.

(5) The Board shall prepare the annual budget of the Corporation in accordance with the financial year.

10. Appointment of the Board.

(1) The Minister shall, in consultation with media associations and the civil society submit for appointment to the Board a list of candidates twice the available positions to the president for nomination as chairperson, vice chairperson and members to the Assembly for vetting and approval.

(2) The procedure for the appointment under subsection (1) of this section shall be transparent, allowing opportunity for the public, media associations and civil society to make representations to the appropriate Committee of the National Legislative Assembly concerning the candidates for appointment, and shall commence within four weeks from the date of enactment of this Act into law.

(3) The Members nominated for appointment under subsection (1) and subsection (2), shall be approved by simple majority vote of the members of the National Legislative Assembly.

(4) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of the Board, shall be appointed by the President upon the approval of the National Legislative Assembly by a simple majority vote.

(5) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of the Board shall be appointed to serve on the Board on part time basis.

11. Eligibility for Appointment to the Board.

A person shall be eligible for appointment to the Board if the person shall:

(a) be South Sudanese;
(b) not be hold an official office in, or is an employee of a political party;
(c) not be holding an elected position at any level of government
(d) not be holding a position in, receives payment from or has direct or indirect significant financial interest in broadcasting or telecommunications;
(e) not be un-discharged bankrupt or insolvent;
(f) not have been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude in the last five years preceding the appointment.

12. Conflict of Interest.

(1) Where the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or member of the Board acquires an interest as provided in paragraph (d) of Section 11, of this Act, he or she shall within two month after acquiring such interest either dispose it, or resign his or her office.
(2) Where the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or member of the Board acquires the interest in sub-section (1) of this section, he or she shall not take part in the decision making process of any matter before the Board until he or she has disposed that interest.

13. Independence of the Board.

(1) The Board shall in performing its functions and duties be independent and impartial and shall, at all times, seek to promote the Guiding Principles set forth in Section 7 of this Act.

(2) The Board shall in performing its functions and duties neither seek nor accept instructions, in the performance of its functions and duties from any authority, except as provided by law.

(3) The Board shall at all times act in the overall public interest and no Member shall use his or her position to advance his or her personal interests or interest of another person, party or entity.

14. Tenure and Loss of Membership.

(1) The tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of the Board shall be four years and may be renewed for one additional term.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, four of the first members of the Board shall be appointed for a term of only two years and may be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term of two years.

(3) The President may remove the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or a Member from the Board, after a hearing where the Board member concerned:

(a) becomes by virtue of subsections (4) and (5) of Section 11, ineligible for appointment to the Board;

(b) commits an act in violation of his or her duties under this Act, including but not limited to failing to promote the broadcasting principles set out in section 7 of this Act, engaging in corrupt practices, gross misconduct or negligence in the performance of duty;

(c) is no longer able to perform his or her functions and duties effectively, due to incapacity; or

(d) fails, without valid excuse, to attend meetings of the Board for a period of more than six (6) months;

(4) Where a Board Member is removed pursuant to sub-section (3) of this section, the concerned member shall be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations at a hearing before the appropriate Committee of the National Legislative Assembly.
(5) A Member who is removed from office pursuant to subsection (2) shall be provided with written reasons for his or her removal, and shall have the right to appeal against his or her removal before any competent court of law.

(6) The Chairperson may resign from office by submitting a written resignation to the President through the Minister.

(7) The Vice Chairperson or any member of the Board may resign from office by submitting his or her resignation in writing to the President through both the Chairperson and the Minister.

(8) Where the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or a Member is removed from office or he or she resigns or dies, he or she shall be duly replaced under the same conditions and in the same manner, as he or she was appointed.

15. Remuneration of Members.

(1) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of the Board shall be paid sitting allowances.

(2) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members of the Board shall be reimbursed for actual and reasonable cost incurred, including travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses in the performance of their official functions and duties as shall be prescribed by regulations.

(3) The sitting allowances and other expenses shall be determined by the Minister in consultation with the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning and approved by the Assembly.


(1) The Board shall adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it considers necessary and appropriate to enable it perform its functions and duties effectively.

(2) The Board shall hold an ordinary meeting once every three months.

(3) The Chairperson of the Board may convene an extra ordinary meeting of the board after consultation with the Managing Director or on the request of at least three members of the Board.

(4) The quorum for meetings of the Board shall be five members.

(5) The Board may for the purpose of effective discharge of its functions and duties form such committees, as it may deem necessary.

(6) A committee of the Board shall consist of two or more members and such other persons as may be required for the effective functioning of the committee.
(7)  The Chairperson of a committee of the board shall be a member of the board.

(8)  Persons who are disqualified from being Members of the Board under this Act shall also be disqualified from being appointed as members of its committees.

(9)  The Managing Director shall be the Secretary of the Board and shall attend Board meetings as an ex-officio member.

(10) Except as otherwise provided, the Board and its Committees shall take decisions by majority vote of the Members present, but in case of a tie, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

(11) The Board or any committee of the Board may invite an expert to attend a meeting of the Board or committee for the purpose of advising it on any matter under consideration, provided that the expert so attending shall have no right to vote at the meeting.

(12) Unless otherwise decided by the Chairperson all meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(13) Minutes of meetings of the Board or any of its committees shall be kept in proper form and be confirmed by the Board or the relevant committee at the next meeting and signed by the Chairperson of that meeting.

17.  Appointment and Removal from Office of Managing Director.

(1)  There shall be appointed a Managing Director of the Broadcasting Corporation.

(2)  The Board shall, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, appoint the Managing Director and shall recommend to the Minister for referral to the Council of Ministers to confirm the appointment of the Managing Director of the Broadcasting Corporation.

(3)  The Managing Director shall hold office for a period of five years and may be re-appointed for one additional term.

(4)  The Managing Director, shall subject to the provisions of section 13 of this Act, be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Broadcasting Corporation.

(5)  Where the office of the Managing Director falls vacant, he or she shall be duly replaced under the same conditions, and in the same manner, as he or she was appointed.

(6)  The board shall, pending the replacement of the Managing Director under subsection (5), designate or appoint an acting Managing Director.
(7) The Board may by a resolution of two-thirds of all its Members, remove the Managing Director from office, and shall recommend to the Minister for submission to the Council of Ministers to confirm the removal of the Managing Director from office. The Managing Director shall have the right to appeal to the courts any removal from office under the provisions of this section.

(8) The Board shall not exercise its powers under subsection (7) of this section, unless the Managing Director has violated the provisions of subsection (4) of section 18 of this Act or he or she has committed a serious violation of his or her functions and duties under this Act, including but not limited to, failing to respect the Guiding Principles as set out in section 7 of this Act or failing to advance the interests of the Broadcasting Corporation.

(9) Where at the end of the tenure of the Managing Director no appointment for the replacement is made, the tenure of office of the sitting Managing Director shall be extended by three months, within which period a new Managing Director shall be appointed.


(1) The Board shall appoint or remove other senior staff of the Corporation on the recommendation of the Managing Director for effective performance of the Corporation.

(2) The Managing Director shall, in accordance with the approved budget, the Civil Service law and regulations, appoint other staff as maybe required for effective performance of the Corporation.

(3) The Managing Director and staff shall in the performance of their functions and duties neither seek nor accept instructions from any authority other than the Board, and according to the law.

(4) Neither the Managing Director nor any member of staff of the Corporation shall use his or her position for personal benefit or for the benefit of another person, party or entity other than the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation.

CHAPTER IV

SERVICES OF THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION

19. Public Service Channels.

(1) The Corporation shall broadcast at least one free-to-air terrestrial public broadcasting television channel and one free-to-air terrestrial public broadcasting radio channel both to cover the territory of South Sudan.

(2) The Corporation shall be guaranteed frequencies appropriate to its broadcasting obligations as provided in subsection (1) of this section, and use
any advance digital or new technology as appropriate to provide high quality services to listeners and viewers.

20. Additional Channels.

The Corporation may broadcast channels additional to those specified in section 19 of this Act, via terrestrial broadcasting, satellite, cable or any other technical means, whether or not these channels are public broadcast service in nature, provided that where such broadcasting is otherwise licensed, the Corporation shall also be required to obtain a license in the prescribed manner.

21. Other Services.

The Corporation may engage in activities such as production of videos, or providing teletext services or otherwise disseminating content, including over internet, or offer services related to its general mandate as long as they are consistent with the guiding principles set out in section 7 of this Act.

22. Competitive Rules.

(1) The Corporation shall not use public funds to subsidise any commercial services it provides, although it may, with the approval of the Assembly and the Minister responsible for Finance and Economic Planning, subsidize its public broadcasting operations with revenue from its commercial services.

(2) The Corporation may engage in commercial activities, provided that such activities do not conflict with the Guiding Principles set out in Section 7 of this Act.

CHAPTER V

FUNDING AND REVENUE OF THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION

23. Funding and Revenue.

(1) The Government shall for five years from the commencement of this Act, provide funding to the Corporation; after this period, the sources of revenue for the Corporation shall be as prescribed in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) The Corporation shall present its annual budget to the Board for consideration and submission through the Minister to the Council of Ministers and thereafter to the Assembly for approval.

(3) The sources of revenue of the Corporation shall be from Public Broadcasting fees, direct public subsidies, advertisements, sponsorship, other commercial activities and donations.

(4) The revenue of the Corporation shall be deposited in the consolidated accounts of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.
(5) The Corporation shall open and hold an account with the Central Bank of South Sudan, and other national Commercial Banks in full compliance with requirements of the Public Finance, Management and Accountability Act, 2011.

(6) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited annually by the Auditor General, or by an external auditor appointed by the Auditor General in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance, Management and Accountability Act.

(7) The Auditor General shall prepare a report of audit on the revenue and expenditure of the Corporation and submit it to the Managing Director for further submission to the Board.

(8) The audited accounts, together with the annual report of the Corporation, shall be submitted by the Minister to both the Council of Ministers and the Assembly for approval.

(9) The Broadcasting Corporation shall not pay tax on any property held or received or on any income earned, and it shall be exempt from payment of such tax.

24. The Public Broadcasting Fee.

The rate and manner of collection of Public Broadcasting fees shall, in consultation with the Board, be prescribed by the Minister responsible for Finance and Economic Planning upon recommendation of the Council of Ministers and approval by the Assembly.

25. Advertisements.

(1) The Broadcasting Corporation may carry-out advertisements; provided that it shall not:

(a) broadcast advertisements which exceed 7.5% of the total broadcast time during any given day or 10% of any given hour or programme; or

(b) rely on the Public Broadcasting Fee or any other public financing to directly subsidise or unfairly promote its advertising.

(2) All advertisements for broadcast by the Corporation shall be clearly identified.

(3) Advertisements shall be fair, honest, and not misleading or prejudicial to the interest of consumers.

(4) Advertisers shall not seek or be allowed to influence programming.

(5) The Broadcasting Corporation shall abide by all provisions of the Advertisement Code established by the Media Regulatory Authority as part of the terms and conditions of its broadcasting licence.
26. **Sponsorship.**

(1) Sponsored programmes shall be clearly identified by credits at the beginning and end of the programme.

(2) Sponsorship shall not in any way affect the content or scheduling of a programme.

(3) News and current affairs programmes shall not be sponsored.

**CHAPTER VI**

**ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

27. **Annual Reports.**

(1) The Board shall publish its Annual Reports along with audited accounts of the Corporation.

(2) Each Annual Report shall include the following information:

(a) summary of the audited accounts, along with an overview of income and expenditure for the previous year;
(b) information on any company or enterprise that is wholly or partly owned, whether directly or indirectly, by the Corporation;
(c) the approved budget for the following year;
(d) information relating to finance and administration;
(e) the objectives of the Corporation for the previous year and the upcoming year and the extent to which the objectives of the previous year has been met;
(f) the editorial policy of the Corporation;
(g) a description of the activities undertaken by the Corporation during the previous year;
(h) the Programme Schedule and any planned changes to it;
(i) a list of programmes broadcast by the Corporation that were prepared by independent producers, including the names of the producers or production companies responsible for each independent production;
(j) recommendations concerning Public broadcasting;
(k) information on public review activities undertaken pursuant to section 28 of this Act; and
(l) information on complaints by viewers and listeners.

28. **Annual Review of Performance of Managing Director.**

The Board shall conduct an annual review of performance of the Managing Director with a view to assessing his or her performance and providing any feedback for improvement.
The Board shall conduct an annual review of performance of the Managing Director with a view to assessing his or her performance and providing any feedback for improvement.

29. Public Review.

(1) In order to ensure transparency and to improve its service in the public interest, the Broadcasting Corporation shall ensure that it remains under constant review by the public.

(2) The Broadcasting Corporation shall hold public meetings and conduct seminars to look at ways it can better serve the public interest in all the States of South Sudan.”

30. Complaint Procedure.

(1) The Corporation shall in consultation with interested stakeholders develop a Code of Broadcasting Practice to govern its broadcasting practices and programme content.

(2) The Code referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall, among others, address the following issues:

(a) accuracy, balance and fairness;
(b) privacy, harassment and subterfuge;
(c) protection of children and scheduling;
(d) portrayal of sexual conduct and violence and the use of abusive language;
(e) treatment of victims and those in grief;
(f) portrayal of criminal or anti-social behaviour;
(g) advertising;
(h) financial issues such as payment for information and conflict of interests;
(i) discrimination; and,
(j) leaked material and the protection of sources.

(3) Any person may lodge a complaint with the Broadcasting Corporation for breach of the Code referred to in subsection (1) of this section and such complaint shall fairly be dealt with by the Corporation.

(4) To give effect to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, the Broadcasting Corporation shall establish an internal procedure for processing complaints.

(5) The procedure provided for in subsection (4) of this section, shall provide for a range of remedies appropriate to any breach including rectification of any false statements, the right of reply and apologies.
(6) Lodging an internal complaint shall not preclude an individual from pursuing any other available remedies.

CHAPTER VII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

31. Archives.

(1) The Corporation shall keep a master recording of all broadcast programmes for at least twenty-eight days after they have been broadcast.

(2) Where specific broadcast material is the subject of a dispute or complaint, the Corporation shall keep the master recording of that broadcast material until that matter has been fully resolved.

(3) The Corporation shall establish a broadcasting archive, maintaining a store of material that is likely to be of historical interest to the people of South Sudan.

(4) The Corporation shall make the archival material maintained under subsection (3) of this section, available over the internet.

32. Enforcement by Media Authority.

(1) The Media Authority shall monitor whether or not the Corporation has complied with its obligations under this Act.

(2) Where the Media Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that the Corporation is in breach of any obligation specified in the Act, it shall refer the matter to the Board, along with any views it may have as to the manner in which the breach should be addressed.

(3) Where the board does not address the matter referred to it under subsection (2) of this section within three months, the Media Authority may refer the matter to court.

33. Regulations.

(1) The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall, in consultation with the Media Regulatory Authority, make Regulations for the effective and efficient implementation of provisions of this Act.

(2) The Regulations made under subsection (1) shall come into effect upon publication on the Gazette.
FIRST SCHEDULE

OATH OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION

"I ------------------------------- do hereby swear by the Almighty God/solemnly affirm that I shall be faithful and bear true faith and allegiance to the Republic of South Sudan and shall diligently and honestly discharge my functions and duties as a Member of the Board of the Broadcasting Corporation, and shall strive to foster the development and welfare of its people; shall obey, preserve and defend the Constitution and abide by the law; and that I shall protect and promote the right to freedom of expression of thought as defined by the Constitution, and the law; so help me God".

ASSENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

In accordance with the provision of Article 85(1) of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011, I Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, hereby Assent to the Broadcasting Corporation Act, 2013 and sign it into law.

Signed under my hand in Juba, this -------- day of the Month of ----------- in the Year 2013.

Salva Kiir Mayardit,
President,
Republic of South Sudan,
Juba.