

MEDIA STATEMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

The Constitutional Assembly (CA) is planning to maximise its usage of the electronic media in its endeavour to educate the South African public about the constitution-making process and the concept of constitutionalism.

Currently, the CA runs a half-an-hour television show - known as Constitutional Talk - broadcast on NNTV on Mondays at 21h10 and CCV on Tuesdays at 22h15. After receiving complaints from the public that many people could not watch the shows because the broadcast times were odd for school-going children and working people, the CA entered into negotiations with the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and an agreement was reached that the same shows would be re-broadcast on CCV on Saturdays at 12h00 noon.

Negotiations with the SABC to secure airtime on radio for the same purposes are under way, and if goes according to plan, the CA should be able to run Constitutional Educational Programmes (CEP) on radio from mid-August, said CA head of media Enoch Sithole.

The CA, Sithole said, is planning another television show that would be more "educational in emphasis than the current one that is more of a debate".

"The ultimate goal of these and other media projects in which the CA is involved, is to ensure that the South African public not only takes part in the writing of the new constitution, but knows what a constitution is all about and are able to use it in their daily lives.

"When this process ends, we want to ensure that the new constitution is used in the same way the Bible is used, that every home, school or place of work has a copy of the new constitution and that as many citizens as possible can understand and interpret it," said Sithole.

He congratulated the SABC, the Liberty Life Foundation and various other companies for sharing this wisdom and availed financial and other support.

**Released by the Media Department
Constitutional Assembly
Cape Town, 18 July 1995**