

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**For immediate release**

**Date – 14 July 2021**

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### **VANDALISM OF COUNTRY'S BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE**

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) is deeply saddened by reports of violence and damage to the country's broadcasting and telecommunications infrastructure, including destruction and vandalism of community radio stations and network towers.

Broadcasting plays a crucial role in bringing news and information to citizens and communities, particularly in times of crisis and emergencies. Access to the media is pivotal to assisting citizens safeguard their safety, health and livelihoods. Community radio stations are a vital communication channel in South Africa's three tier broadcasting system.

The community media projects affected by the current violence impacting the country are non-profit organisations, owned and managed by the communities themselves. Community radio stations serve their local communities, regardless of race, gender, disability or economic class, and they often operate on shoestring budgets.

"They are heavily dependent on donor funding for survival and the impact of such destruction will be very challenging, if not impossible to overcome," commented Nadia Bulbulia, Executive Director of the NAB. She added that NAB members are assisting community radio stations where possible. "We extend our gratitude to all those who are working tirelessly to restore peace and stability back into our communities."

#### **ISSUED BY THE NAB**

For media enquiries, please contact Cheryl Langbridge on 082 493 6184 or [clcomms@langbridge.co.za](mailto:clcomms@langbridge.co.za)

#### **About NAB**

*The National Association of Broadcasters ("NAB") is a voluntary association that was formed in 1993 to foster and promote the development of a sustainable and robust broadcasting system in South Africa. It supports the principles of democracy, freedom of expression and the diversity of voices.*

*As the leading representative of South Africa's regulated broadcasting industry, the NAB members comprise all three tiers of broadcasters (public, private and community) as well as signal providers and industry associates. It has since the dawn of SA's democracy, engaged in policy and regulatory processes that affect the broadcasting sector.*

*The NAB is funded entirely by its members and responds to a broad range of needs and developments to strengthen and create a favourable climate for a vibrant industry. It*

*established the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of SA (BCCSA) that is recognized by the sector regulator, ICASA.*