

## **ANNEXURE B**

# **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STATIONS FORMULAE TO CALCULATE THE ALLOCATION OF PARTY ELECTION BROADCASTS**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has exclusive responsibility for allocating to contesting political parties party election broadcasts on public broadcast radio stations and on any other stations choosing to broadcast party election broadcasts.

The Act directs the Authority to ensure contesting parties are treated equitably. Equitable treatment is defined in South African law and international precedent as fair.

In keeping with the general principle of equitability and in recognition of the fact that the interests of the South African public are paramount, the Authority has adopted the international convention that the public is entitled to hear more from and about political parties more likely to influence policy decisions affecting the electorate, nationally and provincially.

In terms of this principle and international practice, parties likely to contribute to policy decisions affecting South Africans directly either as, or as part of, national and provincial governments, or as official oppositions in these forums will thus be allocated more Party Election Broadcasts than those unlikely to play these roles.

To achieve this the Authority has adapted the formula used to allocate Party Election Broadcasts in the 1994 elections to take account of the fact that most political parties have an historical track record of parliamentary representation.

Three factors have been taken into account when developing the formula by which parties will be allocated Party Election Broadcast slots:

- The need for all parties to be heard by voters who could vote for them. This factor serves as a numerical filter, to ensure that the electorate is afforded an opportunity to hear all parties potentially exercising influence in policy decisions affecting their lives.

This factor serves to limit the time differential between parties occupying and contesting a large number of seats and those contesting fewer seats.

- Historical record – current seats in national parliament and provincial legislatures
- The number of seats parties are contesting nationally and provincially

In developing the formula for allocating Party Election Broadcasts, the Authority has taken account of the fact that South African radio stations cover different provincial legislative areas.

All national stations, covering all nine provincial legislative areas, will thus be required to carry Party Election Broadcasts from parties contesting national assembly seats, and from parties contesting seats in any or all of the provincial legislatures.

Party Election Broadcasts are allocated on a points system, with points accruing to each party on the basis of a minimum and equal allocation to all parties contesting the election, its historical record, and the number of seats it is contesting.

The maximum number of points will be secured by a party contesting all national assembly seats, both national and provincial lists, and all seats in all nine provinces and with a strong 1994 performance.

National Party Election Broadcast points are allocated in direct proportion to the number of national list National Assembly seats contested and the number of provincial list National Assembly seats contested.

Provincial Party Election Broadcast point are allocated on a sliding scale, depending on the number of

provinces in which a part is contesting seats, and the number of seats contested in each province.

Fairness requires that the differential between new, untested parties and established parties is relatively low. The basic, equal allocation to all parties is thus relatively large, accounting for approximately a quarter of the optimum number of points available to a party.

Party Election Broadcast allocation will be calculated only once registration of political parties and candidates has been closed.

The Authority can in its discretion consider using of recent public opinion polls and other such factors as it may deem necessary in order to determine Party Election Broadcast allocation. In keeping with its commitment to transparency, the Authority shall make known to participating parties and the general public what additional factors it has taken into account.

## National Stations' Formula

### Basic Allocation

All parties contesting seats in the National Assembly. **20 points**

### Number of Seats Currently Held

Based on current seats in the National Assembly pro rata, or on opinion polls or on any other factor that the Authority may deem necessary. **35 points**

### National Allocation List

Based on the number of candidates fielded by a party on the national assembly list, with 200 securing 15 points and those fielding fewer candidates securing points on a pro rata basis.

**15 points**

### National Assembly Regional List Allocation

Based on the number of candidates fielded by a party on the national assembly's regional list, with 200 securing 15 points and those fielding fewer candidates securing points on a pro rata basis. **15 points**

### Provincial List Allocation

Based on the number of provincial legislature candidates fielded by each party throughout the country, with a party fielding the maximum securing 15 points and parties fielding fewer candidates securing points on a pro rata basis. **15 points**

## Regional Stations' Formula

### Basic Allocation

All the parties contesting seats in the National Assembly. **20 points**

### Number of seats currently held

Based on current seats in the National Assembly and in the relevant provincial legislatures pro rata, and on any opinion polls or on any other factor that the Authority may deem necessary **35 points**

### **National Assembly Allocation List**

Based on the number of candidates fielded by a party on the national assembly list, with 200 candidates securing 15 points and those fielding fewer candidates securing points on a pro rata basis. **15 points**

### **National Assembly's Regional List Allocation**

Based on the number of candidates fielded by a party on the national assembly's regional list, with 200 candidates securing 15 points and those fielding fewer candidates securing points on a pro rata basis. **15 points**

### **Provincial List**

Based on the number of provincial legislature candidates fielded by each party throughout the country, with parties fielding the maximum securing 15 points and parties fielding fewer candidates securing points on a pro rata basis. **15 points**