

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
ANALOGUE TO TERRESTRIAL DIGITAL BROADCASTING
TRANSITION GUIDELINES

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1. BACKGROUND

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Conference, to which Rwanda is a member, signed a treaty agreement, which set the regional deadline of 17 June 2015 for the switch off from analogue to terrestrial digital broadcast. No analogue system will be protected from this date onwards. The Regional Conference agreed that the transition period from analogue to digital broadcasting, which began at 0001 UTC 17 June 2006, should end on 17 June 2015. This switch off requires migration or transition measures in which the governments, regulators and operators have roles to play. Fundamental within the obligations of the ITU is the fact that although analogue terrestrial broadcasting may continue beyond this date, it must not cause interference to digital broadcasting. Similarly, during transition period analogue will continue to enjoy protection from digital broadcasting systems until the end of the transition period whereby countries may not claim protection from digital broadcasting interference.

The agreement reached at RRC-06 paves the way for utilizing the full potential of information and communication technologies to achieve the internationally recognized development goals. The date of transition to digital terrestrial broadcasting in the year 2015 was intended to coincide with the targets set by the Millennium Development Goals.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THESE GUIDELINES

The objective of these guidelines is to ensure that the people of the Republic of Rwanda continue to receive broadcasting services **during transition period** and that the migration process from analogue to terrestrial digital broadcasting takes place smoothly without disruption of broadcasting services.

3. OPERATING CONDITIONS

- a. During the transition period, the analogue-broadcasting signal shall continue to be used and protected by the new digital broadcasting transmitters signal and other radio communication services as per the signed ITU treaty GE-06



- b. Any broadcaster owning analogue transmitters shall not be allowed to make modifications of the technical parameters without permission of the regulators. These parameters shall include Transmitters' power outputs; antennae gain, effective antennae height and transmitters site location. The broadcasters shall not replace any transmitters due to any reason without permission from the regulator.
- c. Digital transmitters broadcasting during transition shall not exceed the recommended spectral power density within 4 KHz bandwidth to ensure reasonable protection to the analogue broadcasted signal.
- d. In case of any improper performance of broadcasting analogue or digital transmitters, the licensee shall report the problem to the regulator immediately indicating the circumstances and kind of effort is taking to fix the problem.
- e. The broadcasters shall make effort to ensure that digital transmitters operate in accordance with the technical parameters stipulated in their license.
- f. The broadcasters owning analogue transmitters shall submit monthly technical report, which shall include;
 - i. Effective radiated power of the broadcasting transmitters
 - ii. Foot print of the signal coverage of each transmitter
 - iii. The duration of time on which transmitters were ON air and OFF air
- g. Any live broadcasting event which shall use terrestrial wireless link transmission shall be communicated to the regulator, within reasonable time stating frequency to be used, power of the outside broadcasting (OB) radio equipment and geographical site location of the equipment.

4. ANALOGUE FREQUENCY APPLICATION FOR FREE TO AIR TERRESTRIAL BROADCASTING

The regulator will continue to receive and process application for Radio broadcasting using FM frequencies, which are operating in the frequency range of 87.5MHz to 108MHz



- vi. The applicant shall use broadcasting studio that is fully digitalize to ensure good quality of signal;
- vii. The applicant shall use multiplexing ratio, which shall be determined by the regulator;
- viii. In case of providing added value services in the terrestrial digital broadcasting network, the applicant shall apply for permission in providing such services, with submission of detail business plan;
- xi. The applicant shall submit technical specifications and other related information of the Subscriber Management Systems;

6. DIGITAL FREQUENCY APPLICATIONS FOR TERRESTRIAL BROADCASTING PAY TELEVISION

The regulator shall receive and process the digital frequency application for pay television in the absence of the digital licensing framework under the following conditions;

- i. The applicant shall fill declaration form issued by the regulator aimed at ensuring the licensee migrates to digital licensing framework immediately after become effective. The regulator shall not be responsible for any financial loss in terms of equipments which shall be accrued because of the licensee to adopt digital licensing frame work;
- ii. The applicant shall provide to the regulator comprehensive program of human capacity development that shall prepare employees to work in the digital broadcasting environment;
- iii. The applicant shall provide technical specification of the digital transmitters including Studio to Transmitter Link (STL);
- vi. The applicant shall submit factory test performance of the digital transmitter;
- v. The applicant shall use broadcasting studio, which is fully digitalized to ensure good quality of signal;
- vi. The applicant shall use multiplexing ratio that shall be determined by the regulator;



- ii. The service deployment shall indicate which areas they intend to switch off first for digital transmission and which areas will be the last parts.
- iii. Any change to service deployment shall be submitted to RURA for approval.

11. EFFECTIVENESS

These guidelines shall become effective from the date of signature and publication in the official gazette.

12. OFFICIAL SEAL AND SIGNATURE

ISSUED BY

THE CHAIRPERSON

RWANDA UTILITIES REGULATORY AGENCY

DATED THIS DAY OF 2008

