



GHANA BROADCASTING CORPORATION

BROADCASTING HOUSE, P. O. BOX 1633, ACCRA – GHANA

Our Ref. N^o.: DG/LTRS.39/20/121

7 July, 2020

Your Ref. N^o.

The Chairman
National Media Commission
Accra

Dear Sir,

GBC ASKED TO LOSE THREE (3) OF ITS SIX (6) CHANNELS OF THE NATIONAL DTT PLATFORM

I have the instruction of the Board of Directors of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) to communicate the following to you:

The Ministry of Communication has notified the GBC that it will reduce GBC's channels on the National DTT platform from six (6) to three (3) channels. The Hon. Minister of Communication, Mrs. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful (MP), initially informed GBC via a virtual meeting and followed up with the letter, a copy of which has been attached. The Minister of Communication has given GBC a 60-day period to comply with her instruction.

GBC currently operates GTV, GBC News, GTV Sports+, GBC Obonu, GTV Life and Ghana Learning TV. Complying with the request of the Minister will mean GBC has to lose 3 of these channels. It will virtually mean that GBC will have to reduce its operations by half. This request will also impose serious budgetary and human resource challenges on the operations of GBC and indeed, can collapse the Public Service Broadcaster.

It is with these implications in mind that the Board of Directors has instructed me to communicate this to the National Media Commission and request your urgent intervention on behalf of GBC.

To clarify, these six (6) channels are dedicated 24-hour channels each with specified focus reflecting the mandate of GBC as a State Broadcaster, a Public Service Broadcaster and a Commercial Broadcaster:

1. **GTV:** Used to deliver public service broadcasting, including broadcasts in six (6) Ghanaian languages (Akan, Dagbanli, Ga, Nzema, Ewe, and Hausa) and the hosting of State live events to all part of the country. Live events from the Presidency and Parliament are broadcast on this channel.

DIRECTOR GEN
GHANA BROADCASTING
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2. **GBC News:** Delivers news and current affairs that reflects all aspects of Ghanaian life. It provides inclusive news and documentary coverage of everyday happenings in the country with regional correspondents in all 16 regions of the country. Live events from the Presidency and Parliament are broadcast on this Channel.
3. **GTV Sports+:** Offers 24-hour sports channel covering school games to national and international sporting events. It is the State Broadcaster's only sports channel and becomes the platform used to negotiate sports rights for national and international sports events that requires Ghana's official participation.
4. **GBC Obonu TV** (a Ga-Dangbe Community TV service in Greater Accra only). This is an exclusive regional channel to promote Ga-Dangbe language and culture.
5. **GTV Life:** Used for broadcasting religious and other cultural programming of national relevance. Christian and Muslim programming as well as Ghanaian cultural and expressive arts are the focus of content on this channel.
6. **Ghana Learning TV:** A dedicated channel for broadcasting Ministry of Education/Ghana Education Service curriculum to Ghanaian school children. Initially started in response to the President's decision to close down schools due to COVID-19, the channel has become the leading national platform for home learning in all the 16 regions of the country.

As can be seen from the focus of each channel, GBC is unable to respond to the request of the Hon. Minister of Communication. It is the expectation of the Board that the NMC will intervene to help save the State Broadcaster from the consequences of having to operate with only 3 channels.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Amin Alhassan
Director-General

cc: The Executive Secretary – NMC, Minister of Information, GBC Board Chairman, DD-G, DDs