



GENERAL NOTICE NO. 9/2025: FINAL DECISION ON THE BROADCASTING LICENCE FEE SCHEDULE

Final decision in terms of Section 38 of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013: Final decision to issue broadcasting licence fee schedule.



ESWATINI
DATA PROTECTION
AUTHORITY



SZ CIRT
ESWATINI COMPUTER
INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM



Eswatini Communications Commission
UNIVERSAL
ACCESS SERVICE FUND



GENERAL NOTICE NO. 9/2025

FINAL DECISION ON THE BROADCASTING LICENCE FEE SCHEDULE

The Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) is a statutory body mandated to regulate the electronic communications sector, including broadcasting within the Kingdom of Eswatini. In accordance with Section 11(1)(e) of the Electronic Communications Act, 2013, and Section 28 of the Broadcasting Act, 2023, ESCCOM is publishing a final decision to issue the Broadcasting Licence Fee Schedule.

This final decision outlines the administrative fees for various broadcasting licence categories, encompassing Television Broadcasting (Commercial, Public, Community, Subscription, Satellite, and Temporary Services), Radio Broadcasting (Commercial, Public, Community, Campus/Educational, Temporary, and Diffusion services). Each category will be subject to specific application, initial, renewal, and annual fees.

The fee schedule includes:

Application, initial, renewal, and annual licence fees for each service category.

An annual licence fee calculated at 4.5% of a licensee's annual turnover or a prescribed minimum base fee, whichever is higher.

A mandatory annual 1.5% contribution to the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF), in alignment with national legislation.

Conditions regarding the refundability, currency (Emalangeni), and periodic review of the fees.

Public Consultation Process:

As part of the public consultation process stipulated by Section 32 of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013, ESCCOM presented a draft decision on the fees to all stakeholders and members of the public in August 2024 and again in July 2025. Comments on the proposed Broadcasting Licence Fee Schedule were received from stakeholders and members of the public during both consultations and were incorporated when developing the final decision.

For more information or clarification, visit www.esccom.org.sz.

Chief Executive
Eswatini Communications Commission

1. INTRODUCTION

The Eswatini Communications Commission (the Commission or ESCCOM) is a statutory body established in terms of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013, to regulate the electronic communications sector, including electronic communications networks and services, broadcasting services, postal services, the use and allocation of radio frequency spectrum, data projection and e-commerce in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

2. POWER OF THE COMMISSION TO ISSUE DECISION

The Commission derives its authority to prescribe broadcasting licence fees from Section 11(1)(e) of the Electronic Communications Act, 2013, which requires the Commission to publish the administrative fee for each application for an individual licence and Section 28 of the Broadcasting Act, 2023, which provides that:

“(1) An application for a licence under this Act must be accompanied by the prescribed application fee;

(2) The fees shall be prescribed in accordance with such tariffs as may be fixed by the Commission from time to time and may include fees chargeable on renewal or variation of a license;

(3) A licensee shall be required to pay, annually, a percentage of its annual turnover in license fees, the percentage of which shall be set out in the fees schedule to be published by the Commission from time to time;

(4) The Commission may make it a condition of a grant of a license that providers of broadcasting and related services shall contribute to a universal access fund as established by the Electronic Communications Act, 2013, such amounts as may be determined by the Commission from time to time.”

3. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This Decision shall apply to all persons licensed to provide or wish to provide broadcasting and related services in Eswatini, under the categories as stipulated in the Broadcasting Act. Each licence category is subject to specific application, initial, renewal, and annual fees, as outlined in the attached schedules.

The categories are the following:

3.1 Television Broadcasting Licences:

- Commercial, Public, Community, Subscription, Satellite and Temporary services;

3.2 Radio Broadcasting Licences:

- Commercial, Public, Community, Campus/Educational, Temporary, and Diffusion services;

3.3 Online Broadcasting Licences:

- Online Content Services and Online Content Aggregation Services.

4. DECISION

The Commission hereby issues a Broadcasting Licence Fee Schedule, as provided for in Section 28(2) of the Broadcasting Act, which contains:

- 4.1 Application, initial, renewal, and annual licence fees for each category of service;
- 4.2 An annual licence fee calculated as 4.5% of a licensee's annual turnover or a prescribed minimum base fee, whichever is higher;
- 4.3 A mandatory annual 1.5% contribution to the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF), in line with national legislation;
- 4.4 Conditions for the refundability, currency (Emalangen), and periodic review of the fees.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As part of the public consultation process outlined in Section 32 of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013, the Commission conducted two consultations, one in August 2024 and another in July 2025. From both consultations, ESCCOM received comments from stakeholders and members of the public, which were incorporated when developing the final Broadcasting Licence Fee Schedule.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

Should there be any need for further information or clarity, kindly contact:

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Issued by:
Mvilawemphi Dlamini
Chief Executive
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ANNEXURE A – TELEVISION BROADCASTING LICENCE FEES

Licence Category	Licence Period (Years)	Application Fee (E)	Initial Licence Fee (E)	Licence Renewal Fee (E)	Annual Licence Fee (E)
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Commercial, Nationwide)	10	25,000	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 150 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Public, Nationwide)	10	25,000	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 120 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Community, National)	10	5,000	10,000	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 60 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Community, Regional)	10	5,000	10,000	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 15 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Subscription Broadcasting Service (Cable/Terrestrial)	10	25,000	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or

					200 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Subscription Management Service	10	5,000	12,500	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 75 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Digital Terrestrial Television Network Service	10	50,000	100,000	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 250 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Landing Rights for Broadcast Content Authorization	10	7,500	0	To be determined by the Commission	125,000 for 10 years
Satellite Television Broadcasting (Pay TV Direct-to-Home Bouquet)	10	25,000	42,500	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 200 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Temporary Television Broadcast	TBD	1,000	To be determined by the Commission	N/A	N/A

ANNEXURE B – RADIO BROADCASTING LICENCE FEES

Licence Category	Licence Period (Years)	Application Fee (E)	Initial Licence Fee (E)	Licence Renewal Fee (E)	Annual Licence Fee (E)
Radio FM Broadcasting (Commercial, Countrywide)	10	5,000	To be determined	To be determined	4.5% of annual turnover or 125 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Radio FM Broadcasting (Commercial, 45km Radius)	10	2,500	To be determined	To be determined	4.5% of annual turnover or 75 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Radio FM Broadcasting (Public, Countrywide – One Channel)	10	2,500	10,000	To be determined	4.5% of annual turnover or 100 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Radio FM Broadcasting (Community, Countrywide)	10	1,500	5,000	To be determined	4.5% of annual turnover or 75 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Radio FM Broadcasting (Experimental/Educational/Academic/Campus)	10	1,500	2,500	To be determined	5,000
Radio FM Broadcasting (Community, 25km Radius)	10	1,500	2,500	To be determined	4.5% of annual turnover or 50 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS

					1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Temporary Radio Broadcasting	14 days max	250	1,000	N/A	N/A
Diffusion Services	5	1,000	5,000	1,000	7,500

ANNEXURE C – ONLINE BROADCASTING LICENCE FEES

Licence Category	Licence Period (Years)	Application Fee (E)	Initial Licence Fee (E)	Licence Renewal Fee (E)	Annual Licence Fee (E)
Online Content Services	3	2,500	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 75 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Online Content Aggregation Services	3	3,500	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	4.5% of annual turnover or 100 000.00, whichever is higher, PLUS 1.5% of annual turnover towards the universal access fund
Other Online Services (to be specified)	3	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission

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