



GENERAL NOTICE7/2025.

Proposed decision in terms of section 38 of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013: proposed decision to issue broadcasting licence fee schedule



ESWATINI
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Eswatini Communications Commission
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GENERAL NOTICE NO.7/2025

PROPOSED DECISION TO ISSUE BROADCASTING LICENCE FEE SCHEDULE

The Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) is a statutory body mandated to regulate the electronic communications sector, including broadcasting services, 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 proposed decision to issue Broadcasting Licence Fee Schedule.

This proposed 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), and Online Broadcasting (Online Content Services and Online Content Aggregation Services). Each category will be subject to specific application, initial, renewal, and annual fees.

The proposed schedule includes:

- Application, initial, renewal, and annual licence fees for each service category.
- An annual licence fee calculated as 6% of a licensee's annual turnover or a prescribed minimum base fee, whichever is higher.
- A mandatory annual 2% 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 invites written comments on the proposed Broadcasting Licence Fee Schedule from all interested stakeholders and members of the public.

All submissions must be made in writing and sent via email to info@esccom.org.sz no later than 17:00 hours on Monday, August 11, 2025.

For additional 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 licenced 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 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. PROPOSED 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 6% of a licensee's annual turnover or a prescribed minimum base fee, whichever is higher;
- 4.3 A mandatory annual 2% contribution to the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF), in line with national legislation;
- 4.4 Conditions for the refundability, currency (Emalangeni), and periodic review of the fees.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND REQUEST FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

As part of the public consultation process contemplated by Section 32 of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013, the Commission hereby invites written comments on the proposed Broadcasting Licence Fee Schedule from all interested stakeholders and members of the public.

5.1 Deadline for Submissions: All submissions are to be made in writing and sent via email to info@esccom.org.sz no later than **17:00hours on 11 August 2025.**

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

The Eswatini Communications Commission

Email: info@esccom.org.sz

Tel: +268 2406 7000

P.O. Box 7811, Mbabane, H100, Eswatini

Issued by:

Mvilawemphi Dlamini

Chief Executive

Eswatini Communications Commission

ANNEXURE A – TELEVISION BROADCASTING LICENCE FEES

Licence Category	Licence Period (Years)	Application Fee (E)	Initial Licence Fee (E)	Licence Renewal Fee	Annual Licence Fee (E)
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Commercial, Nationwide)	10	50,000	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 300,000 + 2% UASF
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Public, Nationwide)	10	50,000	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 300,000 + 2% UASF
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Community, National)	10	10,000	20,000	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 120,000 + 2% UASF
Digital Terrestrial Free-to-Air Television (Community, Regional)	10	10,000	20,000	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 30,000 + 2% UASF
Subscription Broadcasting Service (Cable/Terrestrial)	10	50,000	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 400,000 + 2% UASF
Subscription Management Service	10	10,000	25,000	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 120,000 + 2% UASF
Digital Terrestrial Television Network Service	10	100,000	200,000	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 500,000 + 2% UASF
Landing Rights for Broadcast Content Authorization	10	15,000	0	To be determined by the Commission	250,000 for 10 years
Satellite Television Broadcasting (Pay TV Direct-to-Home Bouquet)	10	50,000	85,000	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 400,000 + 2% UASF
Temporary Television Broadcast	TBD	2,000	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	Annual Licence Fee (E)
Radio FM Broadcasting (Commercial, Countrywide)	10	10,000	To be determined	To be determined	6% or 250,000 + 2% UASF
Radio FM Broadcasting (Commercial, 45km Radius)	10	5,000	To be determined	To be determined	6% or 150,000 + 2% UASF
Radio FM Broadcasting (Public, Countrywide – One Channel)	10	5,000	10,000	To be determined	6% or 200,000 + 2% UASF
Radio FM Broadcasting (Community, Countrywide)	10	3,000	5,000	To be determined	6% or 150,000 + 2% UASF
Radio FM Broadcasting (Experimental/Educational/Academic/Campus)	10	3,000	2,500	To be determined	10,000
Radio FM Broadcasting (Community, 25km Radius)	10	3,000	2,500	To be determined	6% or 100,000 + 2% UASF
Temporary Radio Broadcasting	14 days max	500	1,000	N/A	N/A
Diffusion Services	5	2,000	5,000	1,000	15,000

ANNEXURE C – ONLINE BROADCASTING LICENCE FEES

Licence Category	Licence Period (Years)	Application Fee (E)	Initial Licence Fee (E)	Licence Renewal Fee	Annual Licence Fee (E)
Online Content Services	3	5,000	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 150,000 + 2% UASF
Online Content Aggregation Services	3	7,500	To be determined by the Commission	To be determined by the Commission	6% or 200,000 + 2% UASF
Other Online Services (to be specified)	3	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined

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“Connecting the unconnected”