

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

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and date



OFFICE OF THE
PERMANENT SECRETARY
JOGOO HOUSE "A"
P.O. Box 30025

NAIROBI
28th April, 1999

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Ms. Marjorie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 - 12th Streets, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
APR 29 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Salas

RE: In the Matter of Application of AfriSpace Inc., for Authority to Launch and Operate a Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File NO. CSS-90-017 (IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-19900723-00002) Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-199901125-000016 (Call Sing 52367)

The Kenya Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ("the Ministry") wishes to take this opportunity to express its strong support for the above referenced application.

The Ministry is entrusted with disseminating critical information to Kenya's diverse population. Radio broadcasting provides an effective tool for achieving this goal, due to the strong oral traditions of Kenya society. However, like many African countries, Kenya's geography is characterised by uneven terrain, making effective national radio coverage more difficult and expensive than it otherwise would be. The AfriStar satellite, situated in geostationary orbit, will provide an excellent platform from which to reach not only nationals within Kenya's borders, but also expatriates living elsewhere in the east African/Arabian region. This is one of the reasons that Kenya became one of the earliest countries to agree to utilise the AfriSpace system.

The two Kenyan broadcasters who have signed to use AfriSpace satellite are KBC and Metro East. In addition, a Nairobi-based niche programmer, recently announced the signing of an agreement to use the AfriStar satellite to target the Asian Community in East Africa.

The Ministry recognises the importance of offering a variety of information sources for Kenyan Citizens, and has actively licensed private broadcasters. Many more broadcast license applications remain pending, however, this remains a major problem in Kenya due to frequency scarcity. The Ministry recognises with appreciation that the AfriSpace service, utilising modern digital compression techniques, will be able to offer Kenyans more variety of programming than would be possible utilising current analogue broadcasting techniques.

Finally, the Ministry believes that the AfriSpace system will help foster greater understanding and unity between the diverse nations of Africa, and respectfully urges the Federal Communications Commission to approve AfriSpace's application.

Yours Sincerely,



E. B. M. BARUA CHELE
PERMANENT SECRETARY