

የሚዲያና ኮምዩኒኬሽን ሴንተር



MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

ግልጽ የተወሰነ የግል ማኅበር

አዲስ አበባ - ኢትዮጵያ

PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY

ADDIS ABABA - ETHIOPIA

ፖስታ/ P.O.BOX 7023 ስልክ/TEL- 51-42-59, 51-07-43 E-Mail: mcc@telcom.net.et ፋክስ-FAX 510743

Ref.No: MCC/FCC/161/99

Date: 30 March 1999

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

Re: Amendment of AfriSpace, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Subregional Africa and Middle Eastern Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File No. CSS-90-017 [IBFS File No. SAT-LOA--19900723-00002]; Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-19990125-00016 (Call Sign 52367)

Dear Ms. Salas,

In my capacity as founder and editor of The Reporter, an independent newspaper producing both an Amharic and English edition, and as general manager of Media Communication Center (MCC) of which the paper is a subsidiary, I wish to express my strong support of AfriSpace's application to FCC.

The Reporter has the widest circulation of all non-governmental newspapers that have mushroomed in Ethiopia since the fall of the military government in 1991. It was established to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunity offered by the new Ethiopian Constitution to create media of communication unfettered by censorship and other forms of governmental constraints on free expression. The Reporter also aspires to set a standard in the ethics and excellence of public communication. Our hope is to be a voice for those rendered voiceless for too long.

FREE PRESS FREE SPEECH FREE SPIRIT



ነፃ ሃሳብ ነፃ ማገልጫ

Besides the clarification and assessment of government political policy, The Reporter carries regular features on social policy. In addition, there are columns where readers themselves can express their opinions on public issues. Finally, The Reporter engages in public service such as the training of journalists.

These and other efforts, though important, do not significantly reach the rural population or, even, the urban poor. In order to benefit this wider audience, radio is an indispensable medium. An effective radio transmission system would, for example, enable us to convey our lead stories and investigative reports to the bulk of the population. Radio and the printed press can therefore be mutually supportive media in Ethiopia's special circumstances.

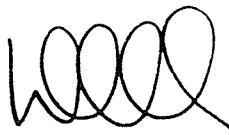
The Reporter forms only one part of the activities of Media Communication Center (MCC). In addition to the publication of newspaper, journals and books, MCC is licensed to produce audio and video production for radio, television, etc.; to train journalists; organize seminars, festivals, concerts; to engage in artistic productions of any genre; to engage in national and sub-national public relations work; to engage in radio and television consultancy; to act as an agent for foreign media companies, advertising agencies, and the like. These additional activities only compound our keen interest in AfriSpace's project.

It is therefore with enthusiasm that I endorse AfriSpace's proposal to establish a satellite transmission system.

Your approval of AfriSpace's application would lend invaluable support to the promising future of the free press in Ethiopia's exciting experiment in democracy.

Sincerely Yours,

Amare Aregawi
Editor In Chief
The Reporter


AMARE AREGAWI
General Manager

