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#SaveFreeTV



PRESS ALERT:

**Government plans to disconnect over 14 million people.
Civil Society unites to #SaveFree TV.**

Issued 8 March 2022 by #SaveFreeTV Campaign

Civil Society is uniting to challenge government plans to disconnect the analogue TV signal of over 14 million people on 31 March 2022.

Over 100 organisations are expected to attend the **People's Assembly to #SaveFreeTV** at 10 am on Thursday in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, as well as online (details below). We have invited the Communications Minister, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, to hold her accountable. Minister Ntshavheni is yet to confirm her attendance.

The Assembly will kick off a campaign to demand the government delay the analogue switch-off and keep their commitments to support the move to Digital TV.

Sthe Khuluse from the Right2Know Campaign explained “Unless we act now millions - including the most marginalised - will lose access to vital news, information and education. Free TV is critical to enabling our rights to free expression and access to information”.

“Our communication system will be even further privatised as those that can afford move over to Naspers’ Multichoice. The divide between the information-rich and information poor will only deepen,” said Hassan Logart of the Peoples Media Consortium.

Rehad Desai from the SOS Coalition said “It is hard to see how the SABC, our public broadcaster, will survive when they lose over a third of their audience overnight”. This is a blow to our democracy we cannot stand for.

Added Karen Thorne, Station Manager at Cape Town TV adds “Free-to-air television plays a critical role. producing and broadcasting public interest content that innovates and serves the needs of the excluded and marginalised in South Africa”.

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:

Date: Thursday 10 March 2022
Time: 10h00 - 12h00

Cape Town: Isivivana Centre, 8 Mzala Street, Khayelitsha
Durban: Diakonia Council Of Churches, 20 Diakonia Ave, Durban Central
Johannesburg: South African Human Rights Commission, 27 Stiemens Street, Braamfontein

Invite & Programme: <https://savefreetv.org.za/march10-assembly/>

Zoom Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAld-yhqD0vGdDZcVkoC3nInbwoNnDTXw7H>

ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME

- 10h00: Welcome
- 10h10: Initial response from Communities facing cut-off
- 10h40: Holding the Communications Minister to Account (Minister invited but not yet confirmed)
- 11h10: Developing our joint response
- 11h50: Closing remarks & closure

FOR FURTHER COMMENT:

- Hassen Logat, Peoples Media Consortium, hassenlogat@yahoo.com, 0823626180
- Sthe Khuluse, Right2Know Campaign, sthekhuluse.communityrights@gmail.com, 0610290037
- Rehad Desai, SOS Coalition, rehad@icon.co.za, 0839979204
- Karen Thorne, Cape Town TV, karen@capetowntv.org, 0846031061

FOR BACKGROUND:

- Mark Weinberg, #SaveFreeTV Organiser, majimaji11@gmail.com, 0727249601
- Statement online: <https://savefreetv.org.za/civil-society-unites/>



