

Maldives Media and Broadcasting Regulation Act
September 2025

CHAPTER 1				
General Provisions				
Introduction and Title	1	(a)	This is a law to promote and develop freedom of the press in the Maldives, while maintaining press freedom, establishing principles and rules for media outlets, journalists working in media and other parties to follow in order to increase media responsibility and to introduce easy, convenient and robust standards for registering newspapers and magazines to advance press freedom in line with modern times and aims to establish a commission to implement the matters specified in this law and Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act), and to stipulate the objectives, responsibilities and powers of that commission and related procedures.	
		(b)	This law shall be called the "Maldives Media and Broadcasting Regulation Act".	
Objective	2	The objective of this Act is to achieve the following.		
		(a)	(1)	To maintain and foster the freedom of expression granted under the Constitution of the Maldives and to improve, develop and maintain freedom of the press in the Maldives.
			(2)	To maintain press independence in the Maldives and establish an independent administrative system to increase and oversee the responsibility of those working in media and journalists, including broadcast media.
			(3)	To establish and implement policies and standards for providing various types of media services in the Maldives including newspapers, magazine, broadcast, rebroadcast and other media services.
			(4)	To establish standards to be followed by broadcasters, those working in media and journalists in disclosing information, and to establish a code of conduct they must abide by.
			(5)	To increase public trust and confidence in the role of media in society in disseminating news.
			(6)	To introduce convenient standards for registering newspapers and magazines to promote press freedom in line with modern times.
			(7)	To prevent the spread of false information and fake news and take necessary measures to prevent the deliberate spread of such information.

		(8)	To prevent activities conducted through media by individuals or groups in an organized manner to deliberately conceal facts or mislead for a specific purpose or to achieve a specific objective, and to take action against media that facilitate such activities.
		(9)	To investigate complaints related to violations of the principles, rules and ethical standards established under this Act and take action.
		(10)	To designate the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission as the institution to implement the matters specified in Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
		(b)	In implementing this law, the Commission must uphold all principles stated in international treaties related to human rights, media, and broadcasting to which the Maldives is a party.
CHAPTER 2			
Establishment of Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission			
Inception of the Commission	3	Upon commencement of this Act, a commission called the "Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission" is formed to achieve the objectives specified in Section 2 of this Act and to carry out all matters required to implement this Act.	
Establishment the office of the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission	4	The President shall establish an office called the "Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission" on the date this Act comes into effect to carry out the responsibilities and duties of the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission under this Act.	
Legal Status	5	The Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission is an independent legal entity with the power to sue and be sued in its own name, conduct transactions in its own name, and have its own seal.	
Fundamental principles to be followed by the Commission	6	All affairs of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the objectives specified in Section 2 of this Act and with the aim of upholding the following fundamental principles:	
		(a)	To promote, develop and maintain freedom of the press, which is a fundamental freedom guaranteed by Article 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, to the widest extent possible.
		(b)	To recognize that freedom of the press entails responsibilities and obligations higher than the public's right to know, and to recognize that the responsibility of those working in media and journalists is a responsibility to the public and society.
		(c)	To establish a media that acts responsibly in the Maldives.

		(d)	To establish an independent administrative system to increase and oversee the responsibility of those working in media and journalists, including broadcast media, without bias towards any political ideology or protecting the interests of any financially powerful or influential party.
		(e)	To provide appropriate protection and security to media, those working in media and journalists in order to promote, develop and maintain freedom of the press to the widest extent possible.
Responsibilities of the Commission	7	The responsibilities of the Commission are as follows:	
		(a)	To carry out the matters required of the Commission under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act) in accordance with the objectives specified in Section 2 of that Act.
		(b)	To develop a plan for the use of frequencies allocated for broadcasting under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
		(c)	To oversee the licensing of broadcasters under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
		(d)	To ensure broadcasters comply with the conditions set for licensing under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
		(e)	To advise the government on matters related to the broadcasting sector.
		(f)	To work to revive and promote the freedom of the press and freedom of expression granted by the Constitution and laws, and to increase public awareness on such matters.
		(g)	To submit to relevant authorities matters that appear to hinder freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and freedom to seek and receive information, whether by the government, media or other parties, and to resolve such matters.
		(h)	To research political, legal, commercial or economic factors that hinder the freedom to disseminate information to the public and the public's right to know, and to rectify such matters through relevant government authorities.
		(i)	To register news magazines as stated under this Act.
		(j)	To compile and maintain a register of journalists and issue press passes as specified in this Act.
		(k)	To establish and maintain a code of conduct/ethical standards to be followed by broadcasters, media personnel and journalists.

		(l)	To establish a system for receiving complaints related to violations of code of conduct/ethical standards and other principles specified in this Act and regulations made under it by broadcasters, media outlets, media personnel and journalists, to investigate such complaints, and to take action against those who violate the code of conduct/ethical standards as specified in this Act
		(m)	To facilitate opportunities for those working in media and journalists to obtain technical skills in collaboration with foreign and domestic parties.
		(n)	To instruct relevant authorities and service providers to take necessary measures to stop platforms that spread false news.
		(o)	To carry out work to prevent the spread of content that contradicts Islamic principles, morally degrading stories, and narratives that encourage indecent acts;
		(p)	To carry out responsibilities designated to the Commission by other laws.
Chapter 3 Transitional Stage			
Repealed Act	8	Upon commencement of this Act, Law No. 47/78 (Newspapers and Magazines Act) and Law No. 15/2008 (Maldives Media Council Act) shall be repealed.	
Repealed Sections	9	Upon commencement of this Act, Sections 3 to 18, Section 20, and Sections 37 to 45 of Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act) shall be repealed.	
Dissolved Legal Body	10	Upon commencement of this Act, the Maldives Media Council established under Law No. 15/2008 (Maldives Media Council Act) and the Maldives Broadcasting Commission established under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act) are hereby dissolved.	
Result of dissolving the Maldives Broadcasting Commission	11	Upon commencement of this Act, the "Commission" referred to in Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act) shall be the "Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission" established under this Act.	
Positions that will be dissolved	12	Upon the commencement of this Act, as a result of the commencement of Sections 8 and 9 of this Act, the legal status of the following positions shall come to an end:	
		(a)	Members of the Council elected under Sections 4 and 5 of Law No. 15/2008 (Maldives Media Council Act),
		(b)	The President and Vice President of the Maldives Media Council elected under Section 11 of Law No. 15/2008 (Maldives Media Council Act),
		(c)	Members of the Maldives Broadcasting Commission appointed under Section 5 of Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act),

		(d)	The President and Vice President of the Maldives Broadcasting Commission appointed under Section 8 of Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act), and
		(e)	The Secretary General of the Maldives Broadcasting Commission appointed under Section 14 of Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
Transfer of property, resources, rights and responsibilities	13	(a)	Upon the commencement of this Act, the following shall be transferred to the Commission:
		(1)	Land, buildings, property, money, resources and archives under the ownership or custody of the Maldives Media Council and the Maldives Broadcasting Commission;
		(2)	Any agreement made by the Maldives Media Council or the Maldives Broadcasting Commission with a third party; or rights acquired and obligations to be fulfilled by the Maldives Media Council or the Maldives Broadcasting Commission in relation to a transaction made, and
		(3)	Records and archives registered with the relevant ministry regarding newspapers and magazines under Law No. 47/78 (Law on Newspapers and Magazines).
		(b)	When the effect of this law, broadcasters and media outlets registered in the Maldives under Law No. 47/78 (Law on Newspapers and Magazines) and Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act) shall be considered as broadcasters and media registered and operating in the Maldives under this law.
		(c)	After this law is in effect, newly registered broadcasters and media, broadcasters and media re-registering after cancellation of registration for any reason, and parties required to renew a license or registration for any reason, must apply in accordance with this law and Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
Transfer of Employees	14	(a)	Upon the commencement of this Act, employees serving in the Maldives Media Council and the Maldives Broadcasting Commission shall be transferred as employees of the Commission.
		(b)	When employees are transferred as stated in subsection (a) of this section, their period of service shall continue to be counted as employees of the Commission without any interruption to the period of service that was being counted.
Temporary Operation of the Commission	15	(a)	Until members appointed to the Commission as specified in Section 17 of this Act take over the administration of the Commission, the affairs of the Commission shall be

			temporarily administered by an interim committee of 5 (five) members formed by the Civil Service Commission. These 5 (five) members shall be from among civil service employees working in offices within the civil service sector, holding positions above the level of Director General.	
		(b)	The Civil Service Commission must appoint the interim committee to be appointed under (a) of this section within 3 (three) days of the law coming into effect.	
		(c)	The 5 (five) member committee appointed under subsection (a) of this section must meet the following requirements.	
			(1)	Must not be a member of a political party.
			(2)	Must not have any business interests in the communications and media service sector.
			(3)	Must not be the responsible person or editor of a media outlet.
		(d)	The President and the vice president of the commission of the interim committee appointed as per (a) of this section shall be decided through a secret vote of the 5 (five) members	
		(e)	The allowances of the interim committee appointed as per (a) of this section shall be determined by the National Pay Commission.	
		(f)	Until a commission is appointed in accordance with section 17 of this law, the interim committee appointed under subsection (a) of this section will be able to do the following.	
			(1)	The administrative tasks of the Commission.
			(2)	Receiving complaints submitted to the Commission.
			(3)	Deciding on the registration of parties applying for registration under this law.
		(g)	During the transitional period, the interim committee shall not have the power to do the following:	
			(1)	Investigating and taking action regarding cases submitted to the Commission in accordance with this Act, and unresolved cases that were being investigated by the Broadcasting Commission and the Maldives Media Council as per Article 76 of this Act.
			(2)	Cancelling the registration of any party registered under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act) and Law No. 47/78 (Newspapers and Magazines Act).
CHAPTER 4				
Organizational Structure of the Commission				
Number of Members	16	The Commission shall consist of 7 (seven) members.		
Composition of the Commission	17	(a)	The Commission shall consist of the following members:	
		(1)	3 (three) members appointed by the People's Majlis (Parliament of the Maldives), and	
		(2)	4 (four) members elected by the media.	

		(b)	(b) The members elected by the media under subsection (a)(2) of this section shall comprise 2 (two) members representing broadcasters and 2 (two) members representing other media.
Requirements of the members	18		The requirements of the Commission members are as follows:
		(a)	Be a Maldivian citizen.
		(b)	Be at least 30 (thirty) years of age.
		(c)	Hold a first degree in journalism or broadcasting, or policy-making, or management, or have at least 5 (five) years of experience in the media field.
		(d)	Not be the responsible person or editor of a media outlet.
		(e)	Not hold any position elected or appointed under the Constitution or a law.
		(f)	Not hold a position in a political party.
		(g)	Not have been convicted of an offense for which a <i>hadd</i> is prescribed in Islam.
		(h)	Not be convicted of a drug trafficking offence.
		(i)	Not be convicted of child sexual abuse.
		(j)	Not be convicted of fraud or bribery.
Members appointed by the People's Majlis	19	(k)	Not have any business interests in the communications and media service sector.
Approval by the Parliament	20	(a)	In appointing members to the Commission under Section 17(a) of this Act by the People's Majlis, the announcement to apply to be Commission members must be publicly announced and must be done as per the regulations of the People's Majlis.
		(b)	To appoint the initial members to the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission under this Act, the People's Majlis shall make an announcement within 15 (fifteen) days from the date this law comes into effect.
Elected Members	21	(a)	To appoint members to the Commission for the first time under this Act, as specified in Section 19(a), the People's Majlis must make a decision regarding the approval of received names within 10 (ten) days since the expiry of the public announcement.
		(b)	From among the names submitted by the President to the People's Majlis as per Section 19 of this Act, the President shall appoint to the positions of members specified in Section 17(a) of this Act those persons approved by a majority of the total membership of the People's Majlis.
Elected Members	21	(a)	The election to elect members specified in Section 17(b) of this Act shall be conducted by the Elections Commission in accordance with regulations made under this Act.
		(b)	To elect members to the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission for the first time under this Act, the Elections Commission shall hold an election and elect the members

			specified in Section 17(b) of this Act within 30 (thirty) days of the commencement of this Act.
		(c)	Those eligible to vote in elections held under this section shall be broadcasters and media outlets registered in the Maldives as specified in regulations formulated by the Elections Commission under this Act. Under this section, each broadcaster and media outlet shall be entitled to cast 1 (one) vote.
		(d)	Voting in elections held under this section shall be by secret ballot.
		(e)	If the term of members first elected to the Commission under subsection (b) expires or if a position of an elected member becomes vacant, members shall be appointed to that Commission in the manner specified in this section.
		(f)	The Elections Commission shall make and publish in the Government Gazette the regulations required to be made under subsection (b) of this section within 7 (seven) days of the commencement of this Act.
		(g)	Within 7 (seven) days of the date members are elected under this section, the President shall provide those members with letters of appointment to the Commission.
Appointment and Dismissal of the President and Vice President of the Commission	22	(a)	A President from among the Commission members shall be appointed and removed by the People's Majlis.
		(b)	The Vice President of the Commission shall be elected by the members of the Commission through a secret ballot.
		(c)	The Vice President of the Commission shall be dismissed if 4 (four) members of the Commission members propose the removal at a Commission meeting, and it is passed by a majority of the members present and voting at that meeting.
Responsibilities of the President of the Commission	23		The responsibilities of the President of the Commission are as follows:
		(a)	Planning and managing all work required to be done by the Commission under this Act.
		(b)	Determining the agenda of Commission meetings, chairing meetings, and maintaining meeting rules.
		(c)	Assigning work of the Commission to Commission members.
		(d)	Managing and overseeing all affairs of the Commission.
Responsibilities of the Vice- President of the Commission	24		The responsibilities of the Vice President of the Commission are as follows:
		(a)	Temporarily carrying out the responsibilities of the President in situations where the President of the Commission is unable to perform his duties or is excused or the position becomes vacant.

		(b)	Carrying out work assigned by the President of the Commission in relation to the Commission's work.
		(c)	Assisting the President the Commission in carrying out their responsibilities
Responsibilities of the Commission members	25	The responsibilities of Commission members are as follows:	
		(a)	Attending Commission meetings, unless there is a clear and known excuse.
		(b)	Carrying out responsibilities assigned by the Commission, unless there is a clear and known excuse.
		(c)	Establishing policies and standards related to the Commission's work.
		(d)	Appointing the Secretary General of the Commission.
		(e)	Investigating complaints and cases submitted to the Commission.
		(f)	Maintaining the confidentiality of information designated as confidential by the Commission.
		(g)	Not using the power and authority granted for improper purposes to harm any party, using the authority granted within the bounds of the law properly, and respecting the rights, duties and legitimate interests of others as stated in law when exercising that authority.
		(h)	Serving the Commission with independence, justice and fairness, and carrying out assigned tasks without being influenced, in accordance with the laws of the Maldives.
Term of the members	26	(a)	Members appointed and elected to the Commission shall serve for a term of 5 (five) years.
		(b)	No person appointed or elected as a member under this Act may serve for more than one term, whether consecutively or otherwise.
Salary	27	The salaries and other benefits for Commission members shall be determined by the National Pay Commission.	
Vacancy of post	28	(a)	A member's position on the Commission shall become vacant upon the occurrence of any of the following circumstances:
		(1)	Resignation in accordance with this Act;
		(2)	Loss of any of the requirements specified for members in this Act;
		(3)	Committing an act unbecoming of the position of member;
		(4)	Becoming incapable of carrying out the responsibilities of membership;
		(5)	Expiration of the term of membership
		(6)	Death
		(b)	If a committee of the People's Majlis finds that a circumstance described in subsection (a)(3) or (a)(4) has occurred, and a

			majority of members present and voting at a sitting of the People's Majlis votes to remove the member, that member shall be removed from their position.
Appointment of members for vacant posts	29		If a position becomes vacant due to a circumstance described in Section 28 for a member appointed under Section 19, a new person shall be appointed to that position within 30 (thirty) days of the vacancy, in accordance with this Act.
Election of members for vacant posts	30		If a position of a member elected to the Commission as per Article 21 of this Act becomes vacant due to a circumstance mentioned in Article 28 of this Act, a person shall be newly elected to that position within 30 (thirty) days of the position becoming vacant, in accordance with this Act.
Vacation of the position of President of the Commission or Vice President of the Commission due to vacancy of posts	31		If the position of President or Vice President of the Commission becomes vacant due to a circumstance mentioned in Article 28 of this Act, a person shall be appointed to that position within 30 (thirty) days of the position becoming vacant, in accordance with this Act.
Resignation	32	(a)	If a member of the Commission wishes to resign from their position, they shall submit a letter stating the reason to the President of the Republic, and upon the President receiving that letter, the member shall be considered to have resigned from membership.
		(b)	If the President or Vice President of the Commission wishes to resign from that position, they shall submit a letter stating so to the President of the Republic, and upon the President receiving that letter, that person shall be considered to have resigned from the position of President or Vice President of the Commission.
Meetings of the Commission	33	(a)	A Commission meeting shall be held at least 1 (one) time every month.
		(b)	The quorum for a Commission meeting shall be a majority of the Commission members.
		(c)	Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if any case is submitted with the signatures of 3 (three) Commission members, or by a state institution, a Commission meeting must be held within 48 (forty-eight) hours of the submission of the case to decide how to proceed with the case.
		(d)	Unless otherwise specified in this Act, in deciding matters considered at the full Commission level, efforts shall be made to reach decisions unanimously. In cases where a unanimous decision cannot be reached on such matters, decisions shall be made by a majority of the Commission.

Declaration of Interests	34	(a)	If any member has a personal interest or role or financial benefit or any other benefit in a matter being considered by the Commission, that member shall disclose it at that meeting.
		(b)	Matters disclosed under subsection (a) of this section shall be included in the minutes of that Commission meeting.
		(c)	After disclosing an interest as per subsection (a) of this section, that member shall not participate in any discussion or decision related to that matter.
Formation of regulations on the operation of the Commission	35	The Commission shall specify the procedures for carrying out the Commission's work under the regulations made under this Act.	
CHAPTER 5			
Operation of the Commission			
Secretary General	36	(a)	The Commission shall appoint a Secretary General from the Civil Service Commission to manage the day-to-day operations of the Commission's office. The Secretary General shall administer the affairs of the Commission's office in accordance with the policies determined by the Commission and regulations formulated.
		(b)	The person appointed as Secretary General shall possess the requirements of Commission members as specified in Article 18 of this Act.
		(c)	The responsibilities and duties of the Secretary General shall be determined by the Commission.
		(d)	The salary and benefits of the Secretary General shall be determined by the Commission based on the advice of the National Pay Commission.
Employees of the Commission	37	(a)	The employees of the Commission shall be civil servants. The Civil Service Act (Law No. 5/2007) and regulations made under that Act shall apply to those employees.
		(b)	The Commission members shall formulate and approve by majority an administrative structure specifying the categories and responsibilities and responsibilities of the Commission's technical and administrative employees within 3 (three) months of this Act coming into effect. That structure shall specify the qualifications for staff positions and the number of staff required for various functions.
		(c)	Action shall be taken in accordance with the structure formulated under subsection (b) of this section within 4 (four) months of this Act coming into effect. effect. The Civil Service Commission shall appoint and dismiss employees needed by the Commission as per that structure and in consultation with Commission members.

		(d)	In appointing senior officials and employees to positions as per subsection (c) of this section, the Commission has the discretion to transfer officials and employees previously employed at various levels in the Maldives Media Council and Maldives Broadcasting Commission to positions fitting the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission's staffing structure, dismiss staff who do not fit the structure, and appoint new staff to various positions. However, employees' positions can only be changed, or employees can only be dismissed in accordance with the Civil Service Act (Law No. 5/2007) and regulations made under that Act.
CHAPTER 6 Code of Conduct			
Formulating a Code of Conduct	38	(a)	The Commission shall formulate a code of conduct for broadcasters, media personnel and journalists to follow, in consultation with broadcasters, media personnel and journalists, and in accordance with the principles specified in Article 39 of this Act.
		(b)	The code of conduct specified in subsection (a) of this section shall be formulated and published by the Commission within 3 (three) months of this Act coming into effect.
Principles	39		Broadcasters, media personnel and journalists shall work in accordance with and upholding the following principles:
		(a)	Respecting Islam, the Constitution and laws;
		(b)	Maintaining national security and safety;
		(c)	Maintaining social conduct and public order;
		(d)	Protecting people's dignity and privacy;
		(e)	Respecting human rights;
		(f)	Disclosing truthful information and disseminating news and information in a fair and transparent manner'
		(g)	Giving space to different thoughts and ideas on matters of public interest as permitted by laws;
		(h)	Giving special care and attention to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups in society when disseminating news and information about them.
		(i)	"Refraining from disseminating news and information that may directly or indirectly harm children's rights.
Matters to be included in the Code of Conduct	40		In addition to the principles specified in Article 39 of this Act, the Commission shall include the following matters and related rules in the code of conduct formulated under Article 38 of this Act, considering matters related to programming and content:
		(a)	Not broadcasting or publishing anything that encourages any religion other than Islam;

		(b)	Giving priority to impartially presenting news and current affairs programs without bias towards any party, and working to disseminate truthful information;
		(c)	Rules and standards for conducting interviews and how they can be edited;
		(d)	Refraining from using information recorded without permission and the use of devices used for such recording;
		(e)	Not showing or publishing anything containing pornographic material as defined, or visuals and audio depicting sexual acts or sexual organs, or visuals and audio depicting objects made to resemble sexual organs for the purpose of sexual acts;
		(f)	Not showing or publishing anything containing words, gestures, actions or behaviors that could violate someone's dignity or honor or diminish their respect or status or cause some form of humiliation, or words inappropriate for use in society;
		(g)	Distinguishing between factual and fictional content;
		(h)	Not showing or publishing anything disrespectful to people of different races, genders, age groups or persons with disabilities, or anything that violates human dignity.
		(i)	Respecting individual freedom;
		(j)	Not using visuals and audio of low moral standards;
		(k)	Not spreading false information and news.
Standards for disclosing personal information	41	(a)	Media workers shall only seek personal information of various parties if it is a matter of public interest. In seeking and using such information, they shall not unjustly intrude into that party's personal space of freedom. The personal reputation and dignity of that party shall always be respected.
		(b)	Personal information and photos obtained of an individual shall only be published for the purpose for which that information was sought. A party providing personal information about someone, as well as the person the information is about, has the right to assume that information is being provided or received for a specific purpose.
		(c)	Personal information about an individual that is obtained and used must be true, complete, accurate, and up-to-date. If personal information about an individual is found to be untrue, it must be corrected and rectified publicly through the same medium at the earliest opportunity. Such information must not be used a second time.
		(d)	Media personnel shall maintain and protect personal information obtained about a party in a manner that prevents its misuse, loss, or access by unauthorized parties.

		(e)	Sources providing information to various media outlets have the right to be protected. Unless required by law, a media worker shall not disclose details of a source when revealing information obtained anonymously.
Standards for disclosing information on matters of public interest	42		Information published by media outlets or broadcast on matters of public interest shall meet the following standards:
		(a)	Distinguishing between the facts of the case and personal opinions expressed based on those facts;
		(b)	When disclosing information about a case, refrain from presenting information in a way that misleads the public about the truth or any aspect of the case, or that withholds certain information related to the case;
		(c)	When revealing a fact about a case, refrain presenting it in a manner that makes it seem untruthful, casts doubt on its authenticity, or makes a true fact appear like a false fact from the way it is presented
		(d)	When expressing news, information, or an opinion, if there is any personal interest, disclosing that interest.
		(e)	Not disclosing personal information considered part of someone's dignity and information that could harm their reputation or dignity or mislead people without basis in fact.
		(f)	Although the media has full discretion and authority to publish information, if after viewing, listening to or reading that information it could be something that may undermine common social standards, explaining the reason for disclosing that information.
		(g)	If criticizing and publishing something directed at a particular party or group, maintaining fairness, justice and ethics in doing so.
Right of the recipients of media resources	43		The public has the right to believe that information broadcast or published in the media is provided fairly and truthfully, and that such information is provided to media consumers in a manner that respects the personal freedoms of individuals and gives them due dignity and respect.
Responsibility to disclose true information	44		For the purpose of Section 43 of this Act, the following are responsibilities imposed on broadcasters, media personnel and journalists under this Act:
		(a)	Refraining from disclosing information through any media outlet that is known to be false or has a high likelihood of being false;
		(b)	Not disclosing information received by the media without making reasonable efforts to verify its accuracy when there is opportunity to do so

		(c)	When disclosing information that cannot be verified to be true, stating it as so when disclosing such information.
CHAPTER 7 Registration of Newspapers and Magazines			
Registration and Publication of magazines	45	(a)	Unless otherwise specified in this Act, upon this Act coming into effect, any newspaper or magazine published in the Maldives through any medium must be registered with the Commission before publication. It is not permitted to operate newspapers or magazines in the Maldives without registering under this Act.
		(b)	For the purpose of subsection (a) of this section, a register of newspapers and magazines registered in the Maldives at that time must be compiled and published in the Government Gazette within 45 (forty-five) days after the first formation of the Commission under this Act.
		(c)	(c) If a newspaper or magazine is not registered in the register mentioned in subsection (b) of this section, a written complaint must be submitted to the Commission within 7 (seven) days of the register's publication. The reason for non-registration must be communicated to the complainant in writing within 5 (five) days.
		(d)	Publications in the following circumstances, by a political party, club, association, company or government agency registered in the Maldives under the relevant law, published solely among its members to disseminate information about that entity are exempt from registration for publication under this Act.
	46	(1)	Not being published for commercial purposes;
		(2)	Not containing advertisements;
		(3)	Being generally and publicly available to people;
		(4)	Containing only internal news of that entity.
Submission for registration of newspaper and magazines	46	(a)	A party wishing to register a newspaper or magazine shall apply to register the newspaper or magazine using the form issued by the Commission for that purpose.
		(b)	A party applying to register a newspaper or magazine shall, in addition to the matters specified in the regulations made under this Act, submit the following information to the Commission:
		(1)	Official documents showing that the responsible person for the newspaper or magazine meets the conditions specified in Section 49 of this Act.
		(2)	If the responsible person is a legal entity, an official document showing it is a legal entity.

Name of the News of Magazine	47	(a)	The name proposed for a newspaper or magazine must not be of the following types:
		(1)	The name of a newspaper or magazine registered in the Maldives;
		(2)	The name of a newspaper or magazine submitted to the Commission for registration;
		(3)	The name of a well-known newspaper or magazine published outside the Maldives;
		(4)	A name similar to, or a name that if used would imply a connection with, a registered newspaper or magazine, or one that has applied for registration, or a famous newspaper or magazine published outside the Maldives;
		(5)	The name of a well-known program or column created and run by any media outlet in the Maldives.
		(b)	The name of a newspaper or magazine registered in the Maldives can only be registered to a party other than the one it is registered to 3 (three) years after that registration is cancelled. This rule does not apply when transferring responsibility for a registered newspaper or magazine to another party.
Language of publication of the news or magazine	48		When submitting to register a newspaper or magazine, the language or languages intended to be published in must be stated. If publishing in any other language, the Commission must be notified.
Responsible party	49	(a)	The responsible party for a newspaper or magazine may be an individual or a legal entity.
		(b)	If the proposed responsible person for a newspaper or magazine is an individual, they must meet the following conditions:
		(1)	Not be someone convicted by a court of an offense for which there is a <i>hadd</i> punishment prescribed in Islam.
		(2)	Not be someone convicted by a court of sexually abusing children.
		(3)	Not be someone convicted by a court of embezzlement or bribery.
		(4)	Not be someone sentenced in a criminal case within the past 5 (five) years.
		(5)	Not be someone convicted by a court of drug trafficking.
		(c)	If the proposed responsible person for a newspaper or magazine is a legal entity, it must meet the following conditions:
		(1)	Be registered under a law of the Maldives.

			(2)	Have publishing newspapers or magazines included among its objectives.
			(3)	Not be a party against which a court judgment has been issued in the past 2 (two) years.
Vacancy of the Responsible Party	50	(a)	If the responsible party for a newspaper or magazine is an individual and either of the following two circumstances occur, the position of responsible person becomes vacant. It is the responsibility of the most senior editor at that time to appoint someone to that position within 30 (thirty) days from that day.	
			(1)	Death of the responsible party,
			(2)	Loss of a quality required to be the responsible party under Section 49(d) of this Act,
		(b)	If the responsible party for a newspaper or magazine is a legal entity and it is dissolved under the relevant law, or loses a quality required to be in the responsible party under Section 49(c) of this Act, the position of responsible party for that newspaper or magazine becomes vacant. It is the responsibility of the most senior editor at that time to appoint a responsible party to that position within 30 (thirty) days from that day.	
		(c)	If a responsible party is not appointed within the period specified in this section, the Commission has the power to cancel the registration of that newspaper or magazine.	
Office of the Newspaper or Magazine	51	(a)	Every newspaper and magazine published in the Maldives must have an office registered with the Commission.	
		(b)	If there is a change to the address of the newspaper or magazine office, the responsible party for that newspaper or magazine must notify the Commission within 5 (five) days and arrange to register that office with the Commission.	
Editors of Media	52	Editors working in media outlets registered and operating in the Maldives under this law must fulfil the requirements set by the Commission. The requirements for editors mentioned in this section, their responsibilities, code of conduct, and all related matters shall be specified in the regulations formulated under this law.		
Providing information requested by the Commission	53	If the Commission requests any information related to a matter specified in this Act from a newspaper or magazine office, the responsible party for that newspaper or magazine must provide that information to the Commission within 7 (seven) days of the date requested.		
Supplement and Editions	54	(a)	A newspaper or magazine may publish a supplement to that newspaper or magazine. However, the supplement must be published as a part inside that newspaper or magazine.	

		(b)	A daily newspaper may publish an additional daily edition. A daily newspaper may also publish an additional regional edition.
		(c)	If publishing an additional edition as per subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the information this Act requires to be in a newspaper or magazine must be in that edition.
Establishing a code of conduct for the news or magazine	55		This Act does not prevent a newspaper or magazine from developing a code of conduct containing the journalistic objectives and ethical standards that newspaper or magazine will follow in journalism, in accordance with the code of conduct developed by the Commission under this Act.
Taking Responsibility	56	(a)	If any issue arises regarding news, writing, photo or drawing published anonymously in a newspaper or magazine, the editor of that newspaper or magazine shall bear responsibility for it.
		(b)	If any issue arises regarding news, writing, photo or drawing published with attribution in a newspaper or magazine, the person who wrote it, took the photo, and the editor of that newspaper or magazine shall bear responsibility for it.
Renewing Registry on change of Responsible Party	57		When transferring responsibility for a newspaper or magazine, its registration must be renewed from the date of transfer.
Cancellation of Registry	58	(a)	After this Act comes into effect, if a registered newspaper or magazine stops publishing as it had determined to publish and 12 (twelve) months pass after publishing its last issue without publishing any further issues during that period, it shall be considered to have ceased publication. In this case, the Commission has the discretion to cancel the registration of such a newspaper or magazine.
		(b)	If it is proven after registration that the Commission was misled during the registration process of a newspaper or magazine, the Commission has the power to take legal action against that party and the authority to cancel the registration of that newspaper or magazine.
Register of Journalists	59	(a)	A register of journalists and editors working in the Maldives must be maintained by the commission. Journalists shall be considered those who officially practice journalism in the Maldives.
		(b)	The following individuals shall be listed as journalists with the Commission under subsection (a) of this section:
		(1)	People who write news, feature articles, and reports for registered broadcasters or media, and photographers for newspapers.
		(2)	People engaged in disseminating news and information through electronic means.

Press pass	60	(a)	The Commission shall issue a press pass to journalists whose names are included in the register mentioned in Section 59 of this Act.
		(b)	The pass mentioned in subsection (a) of this section is a pass that can be used to enter places that are generally not accessible to the public during events, incidents, and disasters occurring in various parts of the Maldives in the capacity of a journalist. Relevant authorities should respect this pass and provide journalists with safe and convenient working conditions.
Application of Newspaper Rules to Electronic Media	61	The principles stated in this Act regarding newspapers shall also apply to electronic media to the extent relevant to such media. The principles stated in this Act regarding journalists for electronic means shall apply to people working in electronic media to the extent relevant to them.	
CHAPTER 8			
Monitoring, Submission of Complaints and Disciplinary Measures			
Monitoring	61	(a)	It is the duty/responsibility of the Commission to monitor the following.
		(1)	To monitor and ensure broadcasting license holders, media personnel and journalists adhere to this Act;
		(2)	To monitor and ensure that newspapers and magazines operate as provided in this Act and Regulations formulated under this Act;
		(3)	To ensure that the content of news and information made public by media outlets are made public as prescribed in this Act and regulations formulated under this Act;
		(4)	To ensure that broadcasting license holders abide by Law No.16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
		(b)	Where the Commission finds that that there is a violation of subsections (a) (1) (2) (3) or (4) in this section is violated, the Commission must investigate such matter.
Investigating Cases and Lodging Complaints	63	(a)	Where there are issues of compliance with this Act and Regulations formulated under this Act, any person may submit complaints to the Commission
		(b)	Where a person or an entity acting on behalf of persons lodge a complaint alleging that a publication in a media has violated their rights, or could violate their rights, the Commission has the power to investigate the matter;
		(c)	Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if the Commission finds that any party has violated any provision of this Act or the regulations made under this Act, or if the Commission determines that the rights of an individual or a group have been infringed upon due to content published in a media outlet, the Commission has the authority to investigate such matters on its own initiative.

		(d)	The procedure to investigate complaints lodged under subsection (a) of this section must be included in the Regulations formulated by the Commission under this Act.
Power to Investigate Complaints	64		The Commission has the power to do the following in relation to investigations.
		(a)	Summon witnesses to the Commission and take witness statements;
		(b)	Summon those seen as relevant to the case under investigation and take their statements;
		(c)	Except for documents included in an ongoing investigation conducted by another authority with legal authority, obtain, examine, and where necessary, bring to the Commission documents that appear to be related to a case under investigation by the Commission, under a court order;
		(d)	The Commission may request police assistance to obtain, examine, and if necessary, bring documents that appear to be related to a case under investigation by the Commission under subsection (c). If the Commission requests so, the police must provide assistance to the Commission;
		(e)	Where the Commission deems that a person can provide specific information on a particular matter, require for such information be provided to the Commission in writing;
		(f)	If a government institution fails to provide information or a submit a report requested by the Commission regarding a matter being investigated by the Commission within the specified time period, the Commission may investigate the matter on their own;
		(g)	Gathering and keeping evidence on matters under investigation;
		(h)	When the Commission deems it necessary to obtain technical or other assistance for the investigation of a complaint submitted to the Commission, seek assistance from other enforcement authority of the state for such investigations.
Committee investigating the complaint	65	(a)	If a complaint is submitted to the Commission under Section 63 of this Act, or if the Commission decides to investigate a matter, the Commission shall establish a temporary investigative committee to examine that case. Alternatively, if the Commission deems that the matter requires investigation by the entire Commission, the Commission itself shall fulfill the role of the investigative committee in that case.
		(b)	The Commission has the discretion to appoint individuals who are not members of the Commission to the investigative committee.
		(c)	Individuals appointed as members of the investigative committee who are not Commission members must be professional individuals who fulfill the requirements for Commission members as stated in this Act.
		(d)	The number of members in the investigative committee must be an odd number. Furthermore, the committee shall appoint one member of the committee investigating the complaint as the chairperson of the committee.

		(e)	The investigative committee shall also have the powers granted to the Commission for investigating cases, as outlined in Section 64 of this Act.
Principles to be followed when investigating cases	66		In investigating cases under Section 63 of this Act, the Commission and the investigating committee shall take due care to uphold the following principles:
		(a)	Ensuring freedom of press and freedom of expression to the fullest extent provided by the Constitution and laws;
		(b)	Balancing or working to balance the public's right to information and individual rights of freedom to the fullest extent possible;
		(c)	Maintaining fairness, impartiality, and principles of due process in investigating cases.
Providing Opportunity to Respond	67		In relation to a case being investigated by the Commission under this Act, the Commission shall provide adequate opportunity and time for the licensed broadcasting service provider, newspaper, magazine, media worker, or journalist to whom the case pertains to respond to the allegations. In every case investigated by the Commission, the respondent of the case has the right to seek legal counsel.
Report of the Investigating Committee	68	(a)	After investigating a case, the investigative committee shall determine the recommended course of action, prepare a report containing the committee's decision, submit it to the Commission, and the Commission shall make a decision regarding the report.
		(b)	If the Commission finds that the report of the investigating committee needs further research, or that further clarifications are required, the Commission can instruct the committee to include those matters and complete the report within a specified period.
Findings of the Commission	69	(a)	Except under exceptional circumstances, the Commission must investigate and conclude complaints submitted to the Commission or investigations initiated by the Commission within a maximum of 30 days from the date the complaint was lodged or the investigation was initiated.
		(b)	Decisions made by the Commission under subsection (a) shall be public and include the reasons for the decision, specify if any sanctions are applicable under this Act, and include information on the right of appeal of respondent to the relevant authority. The decision of the Commission shall be provided in writing to the respondent and the complainant.
		(c)	If the Commission is certain that they will not be able to reach a decision on the matter, within the 30 (thirty) days as stated in subsection (a) of this section, the reason must be stated in writing and communicated to both the complainant and the respondent.
Sanctions against broadcasting license holders	70		Where a broadcasting license holder violates the provisions of this Act or the Code of Conduct formulated under this Act or the conditions for broadcasting license stipulated in Law No.16/2010 (Broadcasting Act), the Commission has the power to impose one of the following administrative sanctions taking into consideration the severity of the issue and the frequency of its occurrence:

		(a)	Order the license holder to rectify the act;
		(b)	Publish a warning given to the license holder;
		(c)	Order the license holder to publicly announce the correction of a mistake or to retract information publicized, at a time given by, and as directed by the Commission;
		(d)	Order the license holder of necessary actions required by them, whether they be actions or related omissions, to ensure that the violation is not repeated;
		(e)	Where a broadcasting license holder violates the provisions of this Act or the Code of Conduct formulated under this Act or the conditions for broadcasting license stipulated in Law No.16/2010 (Broadcasting Act), fine the license holder an amount between MVR 50,000 (Fifty Thousand Maldivian Rufiyaa) and MVR 250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Maldivian Rufiyaa).
		(f)	Order the temporary discontinuation of part of their programming schedule where a license holder is repeatedly found in violation of the law or refuses to rectify an act as ordered by the Commission;
		(g)	Where content may be deemed to be against Islam, and endanger national security, public order or public health, prohibit the broadcasting of content through relevant authorities of the State;
		(h)	If any party provides a broadcasting service without a license, or modifies a license issued by the Commission without the Commission's permission, the Commission may order the cessation of such service, or fine the service provider, or confiscate the equipment used for this purpose, or fine the party as well as confiscate the equipment used; when the Commission decides to confiscate equipment used to provide services as stated in this subsection, the Commission must submit a request to the police to confiscate the equipment under a court order.
		(i)	Submit to court seeking to cancel the broadcasting license of a broadcasting license holder who repeatedly violates the law and cancel the broadcasting license as instructed by the court. In such cases, the court must decide on whether to cancel the license within 30 (days) of the case being submitted to the court.
Sanctions Against Newspapers and Magazines	71		Where a newspaper or magazine violates the provisions of this Act or the Code of Conduct formulated under this Act, the Commission has the power to impose one of the following administrative sanctions taking into consideration the severity of the issue and the frequency of its occurrence:

		(a)	Order the newspaper or magazine to rectify the act;
		(b)	Publish a warning given to the newspaper or magazine;
		(c)	Order the newspaper or magazine to publicly announce the correction of a mistake or to retract information publicized, at a time given by, and as directed by the Commission;
		(d)	Order the newspaper or magazine of necessary actions required by them, whether they be actions or related omissions, to ensure that the violation is not repeated;
		(e)	Fine the newspaper or magazine to an amount between MVR5,000 (Maldivian Rufiyaa Five Thousand) and MVR100,000 (Maldivian Rufiyaa One Hundred Thousand) where a newspaper or magazine repeatedly violates the provisions of this Act or the Code of Conduct formulated under this Act;
		(f)	Temporarily revoke the registration until the newspaper or magazine rectifies their violation or the investigation of the Commission is concluded, where a newspaper or magazine is repeatedly found in violation of the law or refuses to rectify a violation as ordered by the Commission;
		(g)	Discontinue the platform used to publicize content published by a newspaper or magazine that may be deemed to endanger to Islam, national security, public order or public health through relevant authorities of the State;
		(h)	Submit to court seeking to cancel the registration of a newspaper or magazine which repeatedly violates the law, and cancel the registration as instructed by court.
Sanctions Against Media Personnel and Journalists	72	Where a media personnel or journalist violates the provisions of this Act or the Code of Conduct formulated under this Act, the Commission has the power to impose one of the following measures:	
		(a)	Order the media person or journalist to rectify the act that violates this law;
		(b)	Order to issue a public apology
		(c)	Order to publish a correction of the violation, or to publish a statement retracting what has been done, at a time specified by the Commission and in a manner specified by the Commission.
Apology for disclosure of	73	(a)	Where incorrect information is disseminated via any media, as soon as such information is identified, the information shall be retracted, or a correction issued, or the matter further clarified, and a public

Incorrect Information			apology issued. It is the responsibility of the party that disseminated the information to act as pledged.
		(b)	The Commission has the power to order broadcasters, media personnel and journalists who do not abide by subsection (a) to revise any incorrect information they disseminated or to apologize for such information.
		(c)	The Commission has the power to sanction them as stipulated in this Act, where parties do not comply with orders issued by the Commission.
Right to file a counter case /claim regarding the decisions of the Commission	74		Where decisions by the Commission on provision of Broadcasting License under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act), or decisions against a broadcasting license holder, or newspaper or magazine, or media person(s), or journalists infringe on their rights, they have the right to file the case at court within six months from the date of the decision.
Matters that can be investigated	75		Except for taking necessary action in relation to a matter submitted to the relevant government authority at the time this Act comes into effect, a case can be submitted to the Commission under this Act and the Commission can investigate a case only if the events on which the case is based occurred after the date this Act comes into effect.
Pending Cases	76	(a)	Cases pending before Maldives Media Council and Maldives Broadcasting Commission at the time this Act comes into effect will be investigated by this Commission.
		(b)	Where there are cases the Maldives Media Council and Maldives Broadcasting Commission are a party to at the time this Act comes into effect, the Commission will be the party to the matter and/or communications.
Power to investigate under other Acts	77		This Act does not obstruct/prohibit the Commission from imposing sanctions on broadcasting license holders, newspaper or magazine, person(s) working in the media or journalists under any other Act, where the Commission investigates a matter under powers provided by another Act.
CHAPTER 9 Miscellaneous			
Accountability of the Commission to the People's Majlis	78		Members of the Commission shall appear before the People's Majlis or a committee thereof whenever required. Members of the Commission shall truthfully answer to the best of their knowledge any questions posed to them by the Majlis or its committee.
Financial Matters	79	(a)	The Commission may obtain funds through the following means:
		(1)	Broadcasting license fees collected under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act);
		(2)	Grants/aid from local or foreign parties; and

		(3)	Funds obtained through other means that do not violate Maldivian laws and regulations.
		(4)	Funds allocated from the state budget
		(b)	All accounts and records of the Commission shall be maintained in accordance with Law No. 3/2006 (Public Finance Act) and the Public Finance Regulations.
Auditing	80	The Commission's accounts shall be audited once every year through an auditor appointed by the Commission and approved by the Auditor General.	
Annual Report	81	(a)	An annual report based on the Commission's activities shall be sent to the President and the People's Majlis before the 10th of February each year.
		(b)	The annual report mentioned in subsection (a) of this section shall include the following matters that occurred during the reporting period:
		(1)	Details of work done by the Commission and the extent to which the Commission's objectives have been achieved
		(2)	Information about licenses issued by the Commission
		(3)	Information about newspapers and magazines registered by the Commission
		(4)	Information about complaints or cases submitted to the Commission
		(5)	Information about cases decided by the Commission and how they were decided
		(6)	Information about ongoing cases among those submitted to the Commission
		(7)	Details of measures taken in cases where the Commission has taken action
		(8)	A copy of the auditors' report
Commencement of the Act	82	This Act shall come into effect on the date it is passed, ratified, and published in the Government Gazette.	
Formulating and Enforcing Regulations	83	(a)	Unless otherwise stated in this Act, regulations required under this Act shall be made and enforced by the Commission.
		(b)	All regulations required to be made by the Commission under this Act shall be made and published in the Government Gazette within 6 (six) months of this Act coming into effect.
		(c)	No regulation made under this Act shall conflict with, negate, or hinder the implementation of the objectives of this Act.
Interpretation	84	Unless specified otherwise in this Act, the following phrases and words are to be treated to mean as follows.	
		(a)	"Unauthorized person" means a third party who does not have the authority to know the information, other than the source who shared the information and the journalist.
		(b)	"Newspaper" means daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, trade publications and publications in other names registered in the Maldives, sold or distributed free, published on the internet or other

			media sources, to disseminate information, news, opinions and advertisements.
	(c)		"Broadcasters" means those who hold the license to broadcast under Law No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act).
	(d)		"Court" mean legal courts in the Maldives.
	(e)		"Personal information" means information related to the life of a specific individual, and where public dissemination of that information that may infringe upon the individual rights of that individual.
	(f)		"Electronic media" means the dissemination of news and information through electronic devices, including audio and video, digital or tape, and the internet.
	(g)		"Edition" means new editions of registered publications in Maldives published with updated news and information.
	(h)		"Elections Commission" means the Elections Commission established under Law No. 8/2008 (Elections Commissions Act).
	(i)		"Public order" means the general principles that must be maintained in society, and matters that, if absent or affected, would harm the safety and security of society.
	(j)		"Having public interest" means containing information that could cause unlawful harm or disadvantage to a large number of people in society, information that a large number of people in society might want to know, concerning information, and information about ongoing matters that a large portion of society might consider important to know.
	(k)		"Media" means to broadcast news, information, entertainment, opinions and advertisements to the public through TV, radio, cable television networks, and content distributed through these means via internet-based software, websites, or applications, as well as daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, magazines, and other such publications that disseminate news, information, and current affairs, whether printed or published through internet-based software, websites, or applications.
	(l)		"Media workers" refers to editors, those who carry out editorial responsibilities, reporters, journalists, presenters, photographers, videographers, and technicians.
	(m)		"Magazine" means academic, scientific publications and other specialized publications publishing news, information and opinions, including journals.
	(n)		"National security" refers to matters that, due to external or internal causes, could inflict major damages to the independence of the Maldives, the entire nation, or a large portion of society, as well as matters and interests that could endanger the state of Maldives.
	(o)		"Regional editions" means extra editions or copy published for specific regions of the country by newspapers published in the Maldives.

Sections proposed to be repealed from Act no. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act) through the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Regulation Bill

1. Section 3 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Inception of the Commission	3. The Commission titled as “Maldives Broadcasting Commission” is hereby established as an independent institution under Article 2 of this Act; Encompassing the endorsement, to defend, uphold and implementation of broadcasting policies, overseeing the implementation of the policies by broadcasters, taking action against broadcasters in breach of these policies and undertaking other broadcast policy related activities, to carry forward all activities related to strengthening and promoting responsible broadcasting services in the Maldives. This Commission has the legal authority to independently represent itself in court.
2. Section 4 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Mandate of the Commission	4. The following are the responsibilities of the Commission. a. developing a plan for utilizing the broadcast frequency; b. administer license issuing procedure to broadcasters; c. ensuring that licensing conditions are respected by the broadcast licensees; d. formulate and oversee the implementation of Broadcast Code of Practice; and e. advise the government on broadcasted related matters.
3. Section 3 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Members of the Commission	5. a. The Commission shall consist of 7 (seven) members appointed as per Article 6 of this Act. By virtue of their education or experience each member shall have relevant expertise in the field of broadcasting, especially in formulating policies, laws, innovations, journalism and or business, and shall be individuals who maintain socially accepted moral standards, integrity, good conduct, impartiality b. and Members shall meet the following requirements is competent. ; 1. be a Muslim. 2. be a Maldivian citizen. 3. be 18 years and above. 4. not be convicted of a crime or corruption within last 5 (five) years, in which the penalty is stipulated in the Islamic Sharia. 5. should not hold an elected or appointed position stated in the Constitution or any laws of Maldives. 6. should not be employed in the civil service, government or a government share holding company; 7. should not have any financial interests in the fields of communication and broadcasting

4. Section 6 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Appointment of Members	6. a. The President of Maldives, pursuant to this Article, will appoint members of the Commission. b. In the election process of the Commission members, the President's Office should announce for interested applicants to submit their names, curriculum vitae, and send the submitted documents to Parliament. As seemed fit the President should prioritize the list of applicants to be appointed to the Commission prior to sending it to the Parliament. The members shall be appointed once the President receives names approved by the Parliament. c. The President should appoint members to the commission as approved by the parliament.
5. Section 7 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Tenure of Members	7. a. Members shall serve in the Commission for a period of 5 (five) years from the date of appointment. b. Members can be re-elected for a consecutive term
6. Section 8 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
President and Vice President of the Commission	8. a. The Commission shall appoint its own President and Vice President from among its members. b. The President shall preside meetings of the Commission. Also, facilitate and encourage performing the functions and responsibilities stipulated in this Act. c. If, the President is incapacitated to perform his responsibilities or is indisposed or the position falls vacant, then the Vice-President shall temporarily execute the responsibilities of the Presidential position. In addition, the Vice President has to carry forward the tasks assigned by the President.
7. Section 9 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Vacancy of Post	9. a. The post of Commission member will be deemed vacant upon the fulfillment of a following condition. 1. completion of term. 2. resignation. 3. termination from the position, in accordance to Article 12 of this Act.

	4. is elected to a political position stated in the Constitution or laws of the Maldives. 5. death. 6. failure to fulfill any prerequisites for Commission members stipulated in this Act. 7. convicted for an offence, in which the penalty is determined in Islamic Sharia. b. The post of Commission's President and Vice-President shall be deemed vacant upon fulfillment of the same prerequisites for a vacancy of a member's position.
8. Section 10 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Election procedure for vacant post	10. a. New members shall be elected before the completion of the ongoing term, ensuring this post occupied at all times. b. If the post for Commission Member is vacant for any of the reason stated in Article 9 (a) from 2 to 7, a member shall be elected to that post within 60 (sixty) days.
9. Section 11 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Responsibilities of Commission Members	11. Below states the responsibilities of the Commission Members; a. Members shall attend all the Commission meetings, unless for an accepted b. reason Establish; policies and guidelines and counsel on how to execute Commission's responsibilities; c. The Commission shall appoint a Secretary General; d. Members elected to the Commission shall be unbiased and maintain autonomy, when performing the duties and responsibilities of members in accordance with the Commission's rules and public opinion. Members shall constantly work for the development of Broadcasting Policies.
10. Section 12 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Termination of membership	12. a. A Commission member maybe removed from their post upon fulfillment of the following conditions and when President submits the matter to the Parliament or; when the respective committee of the Parliament submits the matter to the Parliament floor and the matter is passed by majority vote of members who attended the Parliament sitting. 1. bankruptcy declared by a court of law. 2. incapable or failure to perform to his/her duties and responsibilities effectively as a Commission member.

	3. negligent when executing their duties stated in this Act. 4. contradicts with broadcasting policies. 5. failure to attend 03 (three) consecutive Commission meetings without a valid reason. b. Member maybe removed from the post, once the Parliament endorses the termination as stated in Article 12 (a). c. No member shall be removed from the post without first being given an opportunity to present their defense at the Parliament. d. Any member who is removed from the post shall be provided with written reasons for his/her removal.
11. Section 13 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Resignation	13. a. A member may any time resign from his/her post by giving notice in writing to the President. Once the President receives the resignation letter the member is deemed removed from the post. b. President and Vice-president may resign as pursuant to Article 13(a). Resignation from these titles will not terminate the member posts
12. Section 14 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Employment of Commission Secretary General and staff	14. a. The Commission shall appoint a Secretary General to administer its secretariat. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the proper administration and management of the functions in accordance with the regulation laid down by the Commission. b. The Commission shall employ a Secretary General who meets with the conditions stated in this Act. c. The Commission shall set conditions of employment of the Secretary General. d. Secretary General shall be responsible for the management of the Commission in accordance with the Commission policies. e. Commission may vote to remove the Secretary General, if found guilty of an offense stated in the laws and regulations of Maldives. In such an instance, the Commission shall provide the Secretary General with written reasons of his/her removal. The Secretary General may appeal his/her removal to court. f. The Commission shall, in accordance with the budget and in consultation with the Secretary General, establish a secretariat with staff qualified to perform its functions effectively.

	g. The Secretary General and the employees shall be independent and impartial in the exercise of their functions and shall work in accordance with the broadcasting policies.
13. Section 15 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Salary and other Allowances	15. a. The Parliament will confirm the salary and other allowances given to the Commission President, Vice-President and Members. In accordance with the budget, the Commission shall provide travel expenses for the official visits of the President, Vice-President and members. b. The salary and other allowances given to President and Vice-President shall not be reduced during their period of designation. Similarly, The salary and other allowances given to Commission members shall not be reduced during their period of membership. c. The Commission, in consultation with Ministry of Finance and Treasury, will determine the salary and other allowances given to employees.
14. Section 16 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Financial Matters	16. a. The Commission may receive funds from the following sources; 1. license fees paid by broadcasters under this Act; 2. finance from the government budget; 3. financial aid by local and foreign bodies; 4. loans; and 5. money received from other sources within the law and regulations of Maldives. b. Before the end of each year, the Commission shall submit a budget statement for the next financial year to Ministry of Finance & Treasury. Subsequently, the Ministry shall send it to the Parliament for endorsement. c. The Commission shall submit a financial report, according to the Public Financial Act, to the President Office and Parliament; comprising Commission's revenue, expenditure, assets and financial statistics, with the consultation of the Auditor General, and an audited statement of accounts, prepared in accordance with Commission's regulations; along with Annual report pursuant to Article 20 of this Act.
15. Section 17 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Commission's Operational Regulation	17. a. Commission shall establish regulations stated in this Act and execute their work according to these regulations.

	b. The Commission shall hold meetings as often as it deems necessary to perform its functions effectively, with no duration exceeding 30 (thirty) days between two consecutive meetings. c. Meetings of the Commission shall be convened by the Commission's President, or in his or her absence the Vice-president; a meeting shall be convened within 7 (seven) days of a request for such a meeting by not less than 3 (three) members. d. The quorum for the meetings of the Commission will depend on the majority of total Commission members. e. The Commission shall strive to arrive on decisions unanimously. Instances where decisions cannot be reached unanimously and if not stated otherwise, the Commission shall come to a decision by majority vote of members present in the meeting. In case of equal votes, the chair of the meeting shall cast a vote to decide on the matter. Chair of the meeting cannot cast a vote unless in the case of equal votes. f. Minutes shall be kept of every meeting of the Commission and shall be endorsed in the following meeting and signed by the Chair of the meeting. g. The Secretary General of the Commission shall attend all meetings of the Commission as a non-voting member, unless decided otherwise by the Commission. h. The Commission may invite any person to attend a meeting of the Commission for advising it on any matter under discussion, provided that the person so attending shall have no right to vote at the meeting.
16. Section 18 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Disclosure of interest	18. a. Any member of the Commission therefore who has an interest as a personal, financial, or other beneficial matter under discussion by the Commission meeting, shall disclose the fact and nature of his/her interest to the Commission. b. Disclosure, under Article 18(a), shall be included in the minutes of that particular Commission meeting. c. After a disclosure, under Article 18(a), a member in question shall not take part nor be present during any discussion, deliberation or decision of that meeting.
17. Section 20 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Annual Report	20. a. Commission shall submit an Annual report to the President and Parliament by 28th February of each year, encompassing the activities undertaken by the Commission in the previous year.

	b. The Annual Report stated in 20 (a) of this Article shall include the following information; 1. details of activities undertaken and the extent to which the Commission has met its objectives; 2. a copy of auditors report; 3. information relating to issued license, complaints and conducted researches; 4. Details of the actions taken against broadcasters/rebroadcasters; 5. any change brought to organizational structure or Commission's membership; 6. any recommendations to alter operational procedure of the Commission.
18. Section 37 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Code of Practice	37. a. The Commission shall in consultation with broadcasters, media personnel and stakeholders formulate a "Code of Practice" for broadcasters and review and amend when necessary. b. Under the Article 37 (a) the Commission shall publish and provide a copy of the Code of Practice to every licensee. c. Inclusive of the following the Code shall address programming related aspects. 1. prioritize balance and impartiality in news and current affairs programs and strive to disseminate factual information; 2. Protect the rights and dignity of children and refrain from broadcasting content in contravention to this; 3. classification of programs and films according to the recommended age. 4. Terms, principles in conducting interviews and editing; 5. Information recorded without permission and the use of such equipment; 6. Content which amounts to pornography or any visual or sound depicting a sexual act or any visual or sound depicting a sexual organ and any visual or sound depicting an object which represents sexual organs, shall not be aired. 7. content which damages the dignity, nobility and respect of an individual or a group of people or the use of derogatory and abusive language; and actions and activities beyond accepted social norms shall not be aired. 8. distinguish between factual and fictional content; 9. content which disrespects the rights and dignity of any race, gender, any age group and disabled persons shall not be aired; 10. respect for privacy of individuals; 11. low quality images and sound shall not be used; 12. Advertising; 13. no content that violates the religion, Constitution of Maldives or contravenes any law or promotes any religion other than Islam shall not be aired

	d. The Commission shall formulate the Code of Practice in a manner that promotes mass participation in line with democracy, catering to competitive debate and facilitate for the production of creative, entertaining programs and Commission shall actively facilitate to provide fair and balance information through a series of programs.
19. Section 42 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Complaints and Monitoring	42. a. Anyone who believes that a broadcast service licensee has breached the Code of Practice under the Article 37 of this Act, may lodge a complaint in writing to the Commission; and the Commission shall investigate every such complaint, unless it considers the complaint to be unfounded. b. It is a duty of the Commission to ensure that broadcast service licensees comply with this Act; and the Commission shall monitor the licensees and undertake an investigation where it believes there may have been a breach of this Act or a condition of the License c. Where the Commission conducts an investigation pursuant to Article 42 (b) the Commission shall provide the licensee with adequate written notice of any allegation of a breach and with a reasonable opportunity to make representations. In the case of a complaint, the Commission shall also provide the complainant with a reasonable opportunity to make representation.
20. Section 43 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Decisions	43. a. The Commission shall come to a decision on a complaint lodged or a case investigated within 2 (two) months' time unless an exceptional circumstance arise. b. Where the Commission determines that a broadcast service licensee is in breach of this Act, or any license condition, or Code of Practice, it shall publish its decision inclusive of the reasons and any sanctions to be imposed pursuant to Article 44; and notify the broadcaster of their right to appeal to the relevant authority. The Commission shall provide the broadcaster and the complainant with a copy of its decision.
21. Section 44 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Sanctions	44. a. Where the Commission determines that a broadcast service licensee is in breach of this Act, or any license condition, or Code of Practice, it may apply one or more of the following sanctions; 1. inform the licensee to rectify the specified action. 2. issue a public warning to the licensee. 3. inform the licensee to broadcast a statement of correction or retraction at a specified time and manner the Commission prescribes.

	4. inform the licensee to take such action or desist from taking such actions as it deems necessary to rectify or prevent repetition of the breach. b. In case of repeated breach of license conditions, the Commission may order the broadcast licensee to pay a fine not exceeding 2% (two percent) of the licensee's total revenue of the previous year. c. If a broadcast licensee is in constant breach of this Act and Broadcast Regulation and if they fail to rectify the breach after the Commission informs, the Commission may order a temporary suspension of part of their program schedule. And in cases where such a breach is repeated the Commission may submit to cancel the license to court and terminate the license as per the court decision. d. If a broadcast licensee breaches any rule relating to broadcast content under this Act and Regulation, the Commission shall not impose sanctions prescribed in Article 44 (b) and (c) unless by majority vote of total Commission members and where other, lesser sanctions have failed to prevent further breach. e. Where any party carries out broadcasting services without a license, or bring changes to a broadcast license without the consent of the Commission, the Commission may order the termination of such broadcast activity, impose a fine and/or confiscate equipment used for such broadcast. f. If any party fails to comply with a directive of the Commission, issued under this Article, it shall be deemed non-compliance of a directive of the Commission. And the Commission may request the relevant authority to press charges of noncompliance.
22. Section 45 of Act No. 16/2010 (Broadcasting Act)	
Advocate for the rights of Broadcast licensees	45. Any person aggrieved by the Commission's decision in granting or refusing to grant a license, renewing or refusing to renew a license, imposing conditions in issuing a license, imposing or refusing to impose a sanction on a licensee, they may appeal to the courts for a review of that decision within 3 (three) months of that decision being taken