

PRC Decree No. 20

Decree by The People's Redemption Council of The Armed Forces of The Republic of Liberia to amend Chapter 87 of The Public Authorities Law Establishing The Liberian Broadcasting Corporation and Establishing The Liberian Broadcasting System.

It is hereby decreed by the People's Redemption Council (PRC) of the Republic of Liberia as follows:

Chapter 87 of the Public Authorities Law is hereby amended and may read as follows:

SECTION 1. LIBERIAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM (LBS)

- A. The Liberian Rural Communications Network (Rural Radio Network) is a development oriented public service broadcasting system with authority to establish a central programming facility and regional broadcasting stations. Its goals are to support rural development by promoting:
- a) the increased utilization by the rural population of existing Government services;
 - b) the expansion of these services to a greater portion of the rural population;
 - c) increased communication between the villages and the local, regional and national Governments;
 - d) increased self-help activities; and
 - e) increased involvement and participation in local and national development efforts.
- B. The National Television Network

(Educational and Commercial)

C. The External Broadcasting Service

D. The AM-Radio Commercial Service

E. The FM-Stereo Commercial Service

SECTION 2. POWERS AND OBJECTIVES

The Liberian Broadcasting System shall have the following Powers and Objectives.

1. To engage in the business of broadcasting, transmitting, relaying and distributing whether audible and visual by means of radio and television broadcasting apparatus or any other devices, machinery or equipment whatsoever, whether by wireless telegraph, wired system, cable or by other means, and to develop the radio and television broadcasting industry in Liberia.
2. To own, equip, maintain and operate broadcasting and receiving stations, national or international, and any connections between such stations and wired system for the relaying or distribution of broadcasting program, to transmit, send and broadcast news, talks, speeches, lectures, musical concerts, plays, theatrical recitals, programs (including programs and material sponsored by advertisers and others), reading, reports, advertisements and signals.
3. To produce, present, provide record or arrange for the production, presentation, provision, or recording of programs or material of every kind, including the presentation, or portrayal of news of current events for programs (whether audible or visual or both audible and visual) to be broadcasted, transmitted, relayed or distributed, whether by wireless telegraphy, wired system, cable or by other means.
4. To provide, establish, construct, equip or operate, maintain or manage wireless telegraphy stations, recording rooms, studies, offices and other buildings, plant, equipments, works and apparatus of every kind required or used for the purposes of or in connection with or ancillary to the preparation, production, presentation or recording of such programs or material thereof, or the transmission, broadcasting, relay or distribution thereof, whether by wireless telegraphy, wired system, cable or by other means.
5. To carry on the business of recording programs (whether audible or visual or both audible and visual) and selling, letting on hire or otherwise distributing thereof.

6. To buy, import, or otherwise acquire, manufacture or assemble, sell, let or hire or otherwise deal in apparatus for receiving or reproducing programs or broadcast transmitted, relayed or distributed, whether by wireless telegraphy, wired system, cable or by other means, or recorded programs, accessories and spare parts for and other equipments for use in connection with any such apparatus, and to install or maintain or undertake or arrange for the installation or maintenance of any such apparatus or any service in line or other accessories or equipment therewith, and generally to carry on all or any of the business of manufacturing or dealing in supplying or maintaining or contracting for the installation, supply, maintenance or servicing such apparatus, accessories or equipments.
7. To represent the Government's interest in national and international broadcasting or radio conferences and activities.
8. To engage in and conduct studies and experiments with a view to improving the suitability of radio and television broadcasting facilities and equipment to local conditions.
9. To enter into, perform and modify contracts, leases, agreements, or any other transactions, on such terms as may be deemed appropriate with any agency or instrumentality of Government or with any person, partnership, association, organization or other entity, public or private, singly or combination thereof.
10. To determine fair and reasonable rates, fees and charges which shall be charged in connection with radio and television broadcasting services.
11. To accept and use gifts or donations of services, funds, or property (real, personal, tangible or intangible).
12. To borrow or raise money for any purpose of the LBS, and acquire and dispense with the same upon such terms and conditions, and for such considerations as the Director-General of LBS shall determine to be reasonable through purchase, exchange, discount, re-discount, public or private sale, negotiation, assignment, exercise or option or conversion of rights or otherwise, for cash or credit, with or without tangibles, including but not limited, to mortgage, bonds and debentures (including convertible debentures) liens, pledges and other collateral or security, contracts, claims currencies, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, including bankers acceptances, cable transfers, and all other evidence of indebtedness of ownership, and guarantee payment against any instrument above specified.

(Educational and Commercial)

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10. To determine fair and reasonable rates, fees and charges which shall be charged in connection with radio and television broadcasting services.
11. To accept and use gifts or donations of services, funds, or property (real, personal, tangible or intangible).
12. To borrow or raise money for any purpose of the LBS, and acquire and dispense with the same upon such terms and conditions, and for such considerations as the Director-General of LBS shall determine to be reasonable through purchase, exchange, discount, re-discount, public or private sale, negotiation, assignment, exercise or option or conversion of rights or otherwise, for cash or credit, with or without tangibles, including but not limited, to mortgage, bonds and debentures (including convertible debentures) liens, pledges and other collateral or security, contracts, claims currencies, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, including bankers acceptances, cable transfers, and all other evidence of indebtedness of ownership, and guarantee payment against any instrument above specified.

13. To collect or compromise any obligations assigned or held by or any legal and equitable rights accruing to the LBS.
14. To take any and all actions determined by the Director-General to be necessary or desirable in making, carrying out, servicing, compromising, liquidating or otherwise dealing with, or realizing any transaction or operation authorized under this Decree.
15. To apply for, purchase, or by other means, acquire, hold, sell, assign, lease, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of and protect, and prolong, and renew whether in the Republic of Liberia or elsewhere any patents, patent rights, licenses, protections, concessions, trade marks and trade names and to use and turn to account and to manufacture under grant of license and to experiment upon and test and improve or seek to improve any patents, inventions, or rights which the LBS may acquire or propose to acquire.
16. To acquire, build, operate, and dispose of all necessary and convenient lands, buildings, structures, machinery, poles, wire and other things and devices incidental to the purposes of the LBS.
17. To do each and everything and exercise all the powers allowed by public Utilities Authority Law and Decree for the achievement of its purposes and powers in so far as the exercise of the powers so allowed does not conflict with the purposes and powers of the LBS herein specifically provided.
18. The Liberian Broadcasting System (LBS) is hereby granted the necessary Budgetary autonomy and authority to expend funds for the Liberian Rural Communications Network (LRCN) as necessary.

SECTION 3. DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The operational responsibilities for formulating and implementing the programs and policies of LBS shall be conducted by the Director-General who shall be assisted by a Deputy Director-General and three other Directors: one for the Liberian Rural Communications Network, one for Radio and the other for Television. The Director-General and Deputy Director-General shall be appointed by the Head of State with the advice and consent of the People's Redemption Council. The Directors for Television, Radio and Rural Communications shall be appointed by the Director-General. The Director-General, Deputy Director-General and the three Directors shall receive such salaries as shall be established by the PRC.

SECTION 4. FINANCING

The Liberian Broadcasting System shall receive sixty percent (60%) of its budget from the Government.

The remaining forty percent (40%) to cover operating expenses shall be generated from commercials and other enterprises as may be undertaken by LBS.

SECTION 5. AUDITS

The accounts of the LBS shall be subjected to periodic audits by the Government. The accounts of the LBS shall also be audited by a firm of independent accountants approved by the Auditor-General of the Republic of Liberia.

SECTION 6. REPORTS

The LBS shall submit an annual report to the People's Redemption Council and such other periodic reports as may from time to time be required. Such reports shall set out detail facts describing the operational and fiscal transactions of the LBS during the preceding year, its financial conditions and a statement of all receipts and disbursements during such year.

SECTION 7. BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Director-General, Deputy Director-General, and the three Directors shall, with the approval of the PRC, adopt By-Laws consistent with the Decree and issue rules and regulations under which the LBS is to operate.

SECTION 8. THIS DECREE

Shall take effect immediately upon publication in hand-bills.

Any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given under my hand this 10th day of
October, A.D. 1980

M/SGT. SAMUEL K. DOE
Chairman, People's Redemption Council
and Head of State, R.L.