SKMM’S DECISION ON THE LIVE TELECAST OF THE MCA PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE ON NTV7

Cyberjaya, 16 October 2008- As a licensee under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, NTV7 is subject to a special licence condition requiring it to obtain the Commission’s prior approval for any live or delayed telecast programme. This approval must be obtained not less than FOURTEEN (14) days prior to the proposed date of the telecast.

Through an existing guideline which outlines specific process and procedures, Licensees have been made aware of the requirement to submit all application at least TWENTY ONE (21) days before the proposed telecast.

NTV7 did not comply with the above stipulated timelines in submitting its application to enable the programme to be broadcast on 14 October 2008 for the debate between the candidates for Deputy President and on 15 October 2008 for the candidates for President.

In addition, the Commission notes that there were last minute changes to the programme format which differed from the application submitted. Accordingly, the application was not approved.
Notwithstanding the decision by the Commission, ntv7 may still proceed to broadcast the programme on a recorded basis, subject to the approval of the Lembaga Penapis Filem (LPF), in compliance with its licence condition.

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Notes to Editor:

1 If your organization wishes to include a quote from Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (SKMM) in an article or news item, kindly attribute the quote to our organization (SKMM) rather than an officer of the organization, unless a designated spokesperson from SKMM is specified in the Press Release or reply to Press.

About Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (SKMM)

The primary role of SKMM is to implement and promote the Government's national policy objectives for the communications and multimedia sector. SKMM is also charged with overseeing the new regulatory framework for the converging industries of telecommunications, broadcasting and on-line activities, in accordance with the national policy objectives set out in the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (CMA), as well as postal services and digital certifications.

The CMA provides that SKMM undertakes a policy implementation role, while policy decision-making is vested with the Minister. The Minister may also give policy directions to the Commission. For more information visit http://www.skmm.gov.my

For media clarification, please contact:

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