

L.N. 133 of 2002

**BROADCASTING ACT
(CAP. 350)**

**Broadcasting Code on the Correct Use
of the Maltese Language on the Broadcasting Media, 2002**

IN exercise of the powers conferred by article 19 and paragraph (b) of subarticle (1) of article 20 of the Broadcasting Act, the Broadcasting Authority, in conjunction with the Minister of Education, has made the following Code:—

Citation and entry
into force.

1. (1) The title of this Code is Broadcasting Code on the Correct Use of the Maltese Language on the Broadcasting Media, 2002.

(2) This Code shall come into force on the 1st October, 2002.

Broadcasters' duties.

2. Broadcasters shall have the duty to use the Maltese language correctly by:

(a) being aware of their responsibilities in safeguarding the Maltese language;

(b) especially in the case of journalists, keeping abreast of developments taking place in the Maltese language, whether written or spoken;

(c) being conversant with other languages so that proper translations and adjustments can be made;

(d) assisting those persons who participate in a programme as well as to stop a participant who abuses the language;

(e) being on the look out, especially in the case of educational, informative and children's programmes;

(f) ensuring that the Maltese language used is of a high level as to diction, semantics, grammar, syntax, morphology and content;

(g) being aware of all the aspects of the language so that the final result will be a unified one, well linked and comprehensible;

(h) using with due care all neologisms which make way into the Maltese language and where this is possible according to the existing morphology of the Maltese language;

(i) using Maltese words according to their roots at least in those cases where such words do not sound to be excessively archaic; and

(j) using words which are clear and easy to understand.

3. Each station shall be responsible:

Stations'
responsibility.

(a) to have its own consultant who is qualified in the Maltese language and who is well-informed in broadcasting. The said consultant is to be approved by the Broadcasting Authority following consultation with the *Akkademja tal-Malti*. The Broadcasting Authority shall also publish the name of such consultant in the Government Gazette;

(b) to follow the rules and directives issued by the *Akkademja tal-Malti* in so far as the use of the Maltese language is concerned;

(c) for the correct use of the Maltese language in every broadcast;

(d) to observe such condition imposed in the broadcasting licence requiring that the Maltese language be used in a proper manner; and

(e) to broadcast at least one programme in each schedule of programmes to advance in a proactive manner the Maltese language. The station shall inform the Authority of the date and time of such broadcast and shall forward to the Broadcasting Authority a beta tape of the transmission not later than seven days from the date of its transmission.

4. The Broadcasting Authority shall be responsible:

Responsibility of
the Broadcasting
Authority.

(a) to commission the *Akkademja tal-Malti* to prepare a handbook to contain all the main elements, including a glossary which is required to guide broadcasters. Moreover, the Authority shall commission the preparation of Guidelines as to the proper use of the Maltese language in programmes on subjects such as sports, sociology, economy and other specialised fields;

(b) when Programme Monitors are employed with the Broadcasting Authority, the Broadcasting Authority shall ensure that they possess a high level of understanding of the Maltese language;

(c) from time to time to organise courses on the Maltese language for broadcasters;

(d) request the *Akkademja tal-Malti* to forward a list of persons knowledgeable in Maltese who can be consulted by broadcasting stations should any need arise;

(e) to publicise its language policy;

(f) to award good practice by means of a special prize for the use of the Maltese language;

(g) from time to time to prepare and publish reports on the situation of the Maltese language in the broadcasting media; and

(h) to assist the Press Club to achieve its aims to be an auto-regulatory body in so far as language is concerned.