

INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AUTHORITY



Level 12, The Celicourt, Sir Celicourt Antelme Street, Port Louis

Press Communiqué

Following the article of L'Express Dimanche (5 April 2009) entitled "*L'antenne de la discorde*" the Information and Communication Technologies Authority wishes to bring to the attention of the public the following clarification.

1. The ICT Authority considers that the contents and tenor of the article give an inaccurate picture of the stringent processes involved prior to any telecommunication operator setting up an antenna on Mauritian territory.
2. The article alleges that the Authority does not have the necessary equipment to measure the radiation levels emitted by antennas set up by telecommunication operators. The Authority believes this is a misleading and malicious statement.
3. The Authority does indeed possess such equipment and the technical expertise to make field measurements conforming to international standards including those set out by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).
4. The ICT Authority further underlines that operators have to abide by the licensing requirements which include compliance with all relevant ITU recommendations.
5. The ITU is the world body, operating under the aegis of the United Nations, which through consultative processes, sets telecommunications and radio-communications norms. The ICT Authority, being the National Regulatory Authority for ICT and the Administrations for telecommunications and radio-communications for the state of Mauritius, ensures that the ITU recommendations and resolutions are properly applied and complied with in Mauritius.
6. Part of the process in setting up a telecommunication antenna entails that the operator has to also apply for authorization in respect of the setting up/modification of radiocommunication station. This form downloaded on the ICT Authority's website (www.icta.mu) requires that the operator give detailed information so that compliance evaluation of the proposed installation with safety limits for human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) may be carried out in accordance with the **ITU-T Recommendation K.52**. This process acts as a mechanism for the ICT Authority to ensure that applicants comply with the criteria of the ITU.
7. The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) sets the safety limits for human exposure to EMF. These are the limits recognized by the World Health Organisation and which the ICT Authority applies in the evaluation process.
8. With reference to the interference mentioned regarding television reception in the article, it is to be noted that users of wideband television antennas may experience degradation in the quality of television reception. In the recent past, the Authority had informed the public about the proper type of antenna that should be installed in order to avoid problems of similar nature. Further details can be obtained on the Authority's website (www.icta.mu).
9. In view of the above, the ICT Authority considers that the article is tantamount to unbalanced reporting liable to cause undue and unwarranted alarm and concern as well as disrepute to the ICT Authority.

7 April 2009