

SABC trying to be impartial?



By [Rod Baker](#)

12 Dec 2012

NEWSWATCH: *IOL* reports that editorial control of all talk shows that deal with politics and governance have been subordinated to news and current affairs, apparently to "ensure SABC policies on objectivity, accuracy, fairness, impartiality and balance are adhered to". Meanwhile, the Metro FM show on Mangaung has been aired - with all parties present, reports *Mail & Guardian*. Not all the listeners were totally won over, it seems.



For more:

- *IOL*: [SABC moves editorial control to news...](#) The national broadcaster apparently has an editorial policy, you'll be glad to know, and it says that when an event of national importance is of a party political nature, "editorial staff are to ensure that the SABC policies on objectivity, accuracy, fairness, impartiality and balance are adhered to".

Given the number of "own goals" recently and the number of accusations from many quarters of political bias on the part of the SABC over many years, it's safe to assume that a great many people will reckon that the above-mentioned policy is honoured more in the breach than in practice.

- *Mail & Guardian*: [SABC Mangaung interview aired - with all parties present...](#) The show must go on... The Metro FM interview on Mangaung, which was canned at the last minute by SABC bosses, has been aired, but this time secretary general Gwede Mantashe on hand "to give the ruling party's view on the show" according to the *Mail & Guardian* report.

More than a few listeners were unhappy that the show had been pulled in the first place, and one suggested acting chief operating officer Hlaudi Moetsoneng "has no clue what he is doing" and is incompetent and asked SABC political editor Abbey Makoe whether he thought listeners are "stupid"?

What do you think? Do you think the SABC powers-that-be reckon we're stupid?

ABOUT ROD BAKER

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