

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**  
(Civil Original Jurisdiction)  
(Under Article 132 of the Constitution of India)

Writ Petition(C) 956/2020

**In the Matter of:**

Firoz Iqbal

.... Petitioner

Versus

Union Of India & Ors

... Respondents

**AFFIDAVIT**

1. That I am the Secretary General of News Broadcasters Association (NBA) , Respondent No.4 in the present case; and in that capacity I am conversant with the facts of the case and am competent to depose thereon.

2. The captioned Writ Petition was listed before this Hon'ble Court for hearing on 18-09-2020. The Hon'ble Court directed Respondent No.4 to give suggestions as to how the self-regulatory mechanism of News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) could be strengthened and made more effective in respect of the electronic media.

3. Respondent No. 4 has already filed an Affidavit enumerating the manner in which the independent self-regulatory adjudicatory body, NBSA adjudicates upon complaints received from viewers/aggrieved persons in respect of the programs telecast by the member broadcasters of Respondent No.4. However, in view of the fact that not all news broadcasters/news channels come within the jurisdiction of the NBSA, NBSA has the following suggestions to make the self-regulatory body and mechanism more effective and to give it more teeth:

**A. The NBA Code of Ethics should be included under Rule 6 of the "Programme Code" of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 (CTN Rules) by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOI&B) to make the Code of Ethics binding**

on all news broadcasters, irrespective of membership of NBA/Respondent No 4.

**B. This Hon'ble Court may grant recognition to NBSA, the "Independent Self-Regulatory Mechanism" so that complaints against all news broadcasters, whether members of NBA or not, may be entertained by the NBSA and the orders passed by NBSA would be binding and enforceable on all news broadcasters. Recognition to NBSA would also strengthen the News Broadcasting Standards Regulations and the penalties mentioned therein could be made more stringent.**

**C. Amenability to NBSA mechanism should be made a term of the Uplinking/Downlinking permissions for news channels; and the Orders made, if any, against a news broadcaster may be considered by the MoI&B at the time of grant and renewal of such permissions.**

4. That I have read and understood the contents of the affidavit filed on behalf of Respondent No. 4, which has been drafted under my instructions and I say that the contents thereof are true and correct to the

best of my knowledge from the records of Respondent No. 4 and upon legal advice received and believed to be correct.

**Deponent**  
Secretary General  
News Broadcasters Association  
New Delhi

**Verification :**

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify at New Delhi on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 that the contents of the present affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge, that no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

**Deponent**  
Secretary General  
News Broadcasters Association  
New Delhi

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

I.A. No. \_\_\_\_ of 2020

in

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 956/2020

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Firoz Iqbal Khan

....Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

....Respondents

**APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING  
NOTARISED COPY OF AFFIDAVIT**

TO THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA  
AND HIS COMPANION JUDGES OF THE  
HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

THE HUMBLE APPLICATION  
OF THE APPLICANTS HEREIN

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:-**

1. That the Applicant is the Respondent No. 4 in the accompanying application seeking intervention in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 956 of 2020.

2. The contents of the accompanying affidavit may kindly be read as part and parcel of the present Application and the same are not being repeated herein for the sake of brevity and to avoid prolixity. The Applicant craves liberty to refer to and rely upon the same as and when this Application is taken up for hearing.
3. That the present Application is being filed seeking exemption from filing notarized copy of the Affidavit of the Applicant.
4. That the Applicants have been unable to notarise affidavit (or get it attested) due to movement restrictions attributable to ongoing coronavirus pandemic. However, the urgency of the matter necessitates the filing of the accompanying affidavit immediately.
5. The Applicant undertake to produce the notarized Affidavit if this Hon'ble Court deems it necessary.
6. That the present application is being made bona fide and in the interest of justice.

#### PRAYER

For the reasons stated above, the Applicants above named most respectfully pray that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a. Grant exemption from filing notarized copy of the affidavit;

- b. Pass any other orders(s) or direction as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the case.

AND FOR THE ACT OF KINDNESS THE HUMBLE  
APPLICANTS AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER  
PRAY.

FILED ON: 19.09.2020

FILED BY:

Rahul Bhatia

Advocate for Respondent No. 4