

## **NEWS RELEASE**

March 15, 2011

### **For Immediate Release**

The Broadcasting Commission notes the public statement by Nationwide News Network Limited that it intends to comply with the directive of the Commission issued yesterday for breach of licence and regulations.

The Commission notes however, the regrettable decision by NNN to place on air in the same daytime slot, a recording of previously broadcast editions of the programme, which it was directed to discontinue.

By letter today to the station's management, the Commission informed NNN that broadcast of the "Ragashanti Live" programme in a recorded format, does not comply with the requirement that the programme "be immediately discontinued in its current daytime slot".

However, in an attempt to offer the station a final opportunity for compliance with the directive, the Commission today informed NNN that it is immediately to discontinue airing any recording of the programme in keeping with the directive. A continuation of such re-broadcasts will be deemed to be non-compliance and the necessary sanctions will ensue.

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The Commission also rejects claims by NNN, that it has not been given an opportunity to be heard. On March 4, 2011, the leadership of the Commission met with NNN and the management was given an opportunity by March 11, 2011, to “*provide the Commission with any explanation and/or additional information that it would like to be considered in further deliberations on the matter*”.

NNN responded by letter of March 11, 2011, stating that it “*supports the view of the Commission that much of the content cited is ‘problematic’.*” However, apart from expressing a general view about changing standards and tastes, and suggesting public consultations on that issue, NNN offered no explanation for its conduct, nor did it indicate any further matter for the Commission to consider as mitigating considerations.

In the circumstances, the Commission regards as false and untrue, the station’s claim in its recorded broadcasts, that the Commission did not afford it an opportunity to be heard.

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Contact: Nicole Morrison: 564-8691  
Dwaymian Brissette: 929-1998 or [dbrissette@broadcom.org](mailto:dbrissette@broadcom.org)