

**DRAFT RADIO LOSPALOS
THE COMMUNITY RADIO COUNCIL**

I-INTRODUCTION

1-Mission Statement

Hence, the Objectives of the Community Radio "Radio Lospalos" are to:

2-General Objectives

In line with general community radio principles, the Radio Los Palos station was established to

- give voice to the people who ordinarily have no access to the mass media nor opportunity to express their views on community development; and
- seize every chance to use the radio station in a constructive way, ensuring fullest respect for and adherence to basic democratic processes.

Furthermore, the station was established with the understanding that

- it shall not serve in any way to give advantage or disadvantage to a political party or candidate, political platform or purely partisan interest; and that
- its newscasts and information programmes shall be edited for strictly factual and objective presentation,
- bearing in mind that upon discovery or after being informed of any error or shortcoming in the implementation of the policy, the Los Palos Community Radio shall rectify said error or issue corrective statements at the earliest convenience.

3-Development Objectives

Through its regular operations, the Radio Los Palos will seek to

- provide a development forum for the community
- encourage participatory community development
- particularly encourage the participation of the underprivileged groups such as women and young people
- promote the sharing of information within the community
- encourage innovation in community development

- increase the free flow of accurate and balanced information to and within the community; and
- provide a forum for local cultural expression
- improve people's access to information in local languages.

II. RADIO LOSPALOS COMMUNITY RADIO COUNCIL

1. Members

The Radio Lospalos Community Radio Council (CRC) is a group of leaders representing a cross-section of the community. Its task is to take decisions and formulate policies with respect to the operation of the community radio.

Its composition (7-15 members) is based on the representation by the principal sectors in the community such as the following:

1. farmers
2. fishermen
3. women
4. youth
5. ethnic groups, if any
6. labor groups including professionals and employees
7. education sector
8. church sectors
9. local /national government
10. transportation group
11. business group
12. civic organizations, notably NGOs
13. senior citizens
14. A minimum number of political factions, represented in the CRC, should be three or four, if any at all are represented.

All sectoral representatives should preferably be selected or nominated by the sector itself.

The members must have demonstrated a genuine concern in uplifting the plight of his/her sector and the community at large. Should a sector be utterly divided that no outstanding person appears to deserve the representation, the other members of the community media council may determine the criteria and considerations in deciding who should be allowed to sit in the CRC. Handpicking by a few influence groups such as politicians or businessmen, should be strictly outruled..

The station manager and the volunteer staff are eligible as members of the CRC. Should it happen that no member of the staff is a member of the CRC by virtue of his/her representation of one sector enumerated above, the staff may elect a representative to the CRC.

2. Observers

It is also possible that a sector such as the farmers, the fishermen, the youth and the ethnic community would send in more than one representative for the purpose of taking more active part in the deliberations of the council. During the time of the voting, however, it may be decided that the each sector should have only one vote. Voting privileges should have been decided beforehand.

3. Annual Review

The CRC shall review its composition in every annual meeting, to make sure it reflects adequately the principal sectors of the community, including newly emerged sectors.

4. Selection Criteria

As to which sectors will be represented in the CRC should be decided by the key leaders in the community. The community representatives should be in a good position to determine who are the people best suited to represent the various sectors lined up above. Certain criteria should be laid down in order to avoid confusion.

A person, to be accepted in the membership of the CRC, must:

1. have proven integrity
2. be able to participate effectively and soundly in a democratic deliberation of community matters.
3. have demonstrated high level of interest in the well-being of the community.
4. espouse the cause of his/her sector but willing to subjugate the sectoral interest in favor of the greater community.
5. possess leadership quality
6. be willing to undergo workshops/seminars on the operations of a Community Radio and related issues.

5. Functions

The CRC, representing the whole community, collectively makes decisions and formulates policies with respect to the Community Radio.

The CRC shall decide and resolve issues with respect to the following -
it shall

1. initiate, develop and approve radio station's code of conduct ;
2. approve the job descriptions of the station manager, deputy station manager and the cashier, and any other volunteer staff member as may be deemed necessary;
3. appoint the Station Manager, Deputy Station Manager and cashier;
4. invite an external auditor;

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5. exercise the authority to review the decisions of the station manager to ensure they are in line with the goals and objectives of the station;
 6. decide on possible honorarium, salaries/ fees and allowances of the members of the staff or management of the CR;
 7. decide on what kind of fund-raising schemes, announcements, sponsorship and other income generating revenue should be allowed, as well as
 8. confirm and regularly review the tariffs for announcements, sponsorship arrangements, public awareness spots by individuals, local businesses, development agencies, government/non-government organizations, etc.
 9. It shall also decide
 - how long the daily/weekly broadcast hours shall be
 - what types of programs shall be aired
 - should there be political programs and approve the related guidelines bearing in mind the objectives of the station
 - what kind of religious programs there should be
 - should a new program be accommodated
 - should an old program be cancelled
 - how much time should be allocated to cultural shows.
 - All in all it should ensure that the programme schedule is in line with the mission statement and objectives of the station, and takes into account the needs of the CR audiences and is responsive to the needs of the specific times.

The CRC should further

1. decide how often it will meet; and how and when the invitations should be delivered.
 - The meetings can be weekly, fortnightly, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly.
 - All decisions should be recorded, for possible consultation by the members of the CR and for historical purposes.
2. The CRC should also discuss its own term of office, systems of decorum, honoraria (if any), and such other matters relating to the maintenance and continuation of the CRC in order that it may truly represent the community in its decision-making functions.

The CRC should adopt measures to avoid making its deliberations an arena for political bickerings.

6. Right to sign

With the CRC being a deliberative body with no juridical personality nor administrative mechanism, the operation of the radio station has to be placed in the hands of a duly registered co-operative, foundation or association. (This should happen as soon as the respective legislation is in place.)

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Until the CR has been duly registered, it should nominate the Chairperson and the Station Manager, on behalf of the community radio, to make transactions, enter into contracts, engage in business, and receive grants.

It should also decide on the mechanism of receiving local announcements and payments for them, as well as the related financial reporting.

7. Terms and Conditions of Office and Other Conditions

Individual membership in the CRC will be for a period of one year which term is renewable, depending on the recommendation of the sector and the acceptance of the CRC.

The CRC shall have the option to replace poorly performing members, including the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, by recommending to the sector the necessity to field an alternate representative. A member shall be replaced if s/he is absent from more than half of the meetings organized in 6 months. Should the sector fail to send another acceptable representative, it thus forfeits its chance to participate in the deliberations.

The CRC as a body may terminate, suspend or refuse to accept an individual member for any misconduct which it deems prejudicial to the deliberations of the council. Habitual tardiness, absenteeism, non-observance of proper decorum, coming to the meeting under the influence of liquor and drugs, and other forms of misbehaviour shall be ground for sanction by the council.

8. Election of the Chairperson and other officials

The chairpersonship of the CRC shall be subject to election every one year, renewable for three years. Any member in good standing can be nominated and elected to the chair. While observers and resource persons can be invited to the meetings of the CRC, voting rights shall be limited to the membership of the council.

The council can decide whether election shall be by secret ballot or by viva voce.

The CRC shall also elect a Vice-Chairperson, Cashier, and Secretary, subject to election every one year.

9. Relations with the Volunteer Staff

The station manager, and/or in his absence the deputy station manager should attend the CRC meetings. The Chairperson, Station Manager and/or Deputy Station Manager should hold regular (weekly or bi-weekly) meetings with the volunteer staff to discuss with them the editorial policy on important community matters, new programme schedules and formats, inform them of the decisions of the CRC, as well as collect feedback from the reporters to ensure their views, experience and contact with the community are adequately reflected in the policy decisions.



Approved by the Radio Lospalos Community Radio Council,

Place: Lospalos

Date:

Chairperson: _____