

RECENT REGULATIONS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

By Roberto Bonilla

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Recently, the General Superintendence of Electricity and Telecommunications (“SIGET” by its Spanish acronym), approved and published in the Official Gazette on October 9th, 2018, the Regulation on Public Telephone and Data Transmission Service Quality, which aims to establish and develop the parameters, characteristics, indicators and obligations regarding the quality of the public telephone service and the data transmission service provided to customers, as well as determine the procedures and mechanisms that will be used for the evaluation of the indicators and obligations related to the quality of the public telephone service and the data transmission service provided to customers/users.

This approved regulation is the first of a series of regulations in discussion that aim to increase regulation for telephone operators in terms of the functioning and quality of their operations and to regulate media activities in the country. In addition to the aforementioned regulation, two preliminary bills related to the telecommunications sector have been submitted to the Legislative Assembly: on the one hand, the Draft of the **Special Law for the Protection of the Rights of Users of Telecommunications and Information Services** was submitted to the Economic Committee of the Legislative Assembly, which aims to strengthen and develop the rights of users of telecommunications and information services, seeking to grant them special protection in the

contracting and use of such services. This bill aims to expand on the technical parameters established in the Regulation on Public Telephone and Data Transmission Service Quality, effectively seeking to adopt a new regulatory framework that reinforces the rights of consumers and users of telecommunications and information services.

On the other hand, the Draft of **Public Shows, Cinematography, Mass Media and Publicity Law** is being analyzed by the Legislation Committee of the Legislative Assembly, which aims to regulate the content transmitted by the different media to protect moral integrity and human dignity (especially of women and minors) and aiming to spread a culture of peace in our country. Said bill establishes that the State, through the Ministry of the Interior and an Interinstitutional Consultative Council of Public Shows, Radio, Film and Television, will have to ensure the safeguarding of the guiding principles of the Superior Interest of Children and Adolescents, of Family Counseling, Stewardship, and Freedom of Thought and Speech.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact us.



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