



SILVATECH

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Silvatech Calls for Safeguards Before Belize Extends Broadcast Regulation to Online Speech

Belize-based AI and software company supports modern broadcast regulation but asks for narrower definitions, independent oversight, and stronger due-process protections.

BELIZE CITY, Belize - July 23, 2026 - Silvatech is calling for a rights-respecting revision of the Draft Broadcasting Bill, 2026 released for public distribution on July 16. Belize has legitimate reasons to modernize its broadcast law, including copyright enforcement, emergency communications, transparent rules for traditional broadcasters, and investment in Belizean content. The draft, however, reaches beyond radio and television into ordinary online expression.

Clause 2 includes transmission through the world wide web in the definition of broadcasting. Clauses 5 and 6 create a licence category for Belize-focused online broadcasters and require an application for exemption, while leaving objective audience or revenue thresholds outside the primary legislation.

"Modernizing broadcast law is legitimate. Licensing lawful online expression by default is not. Belize should regulate demonstrated harms with clear rules, not make creators ask permission to speak." -

Cristian Silva, founder of Silvatech

This is an economic issue as well as a constitutional one. The Statistical Institute of Belize reports that 81.3% of households had internet at home and 93.4% owned a mobile phone in its 2024 MICS snapshot. Belizeans use online channels to teach, report news, discuss politics, market services, reach customers, and earn income.

Clause 34 uses broad concepts including public morality, offensive material, and the highest professional and ethical standards. Clauses 20, 24, and 28 allow administrative penalties, court applications for domain and IP-address blocking, and fines reaching \$100,000. Schedule I gives the Minister appointment power over all seven members of the Authority's Board, while clause 12 removes Tribunal review for some decisions framed as necessary for national security.

This is not an allegation of misconduct by any official or drafter. It is an institutional-design concern. A regulator empowered to license speakers, impose penalties, and initiate blocking proceedings should be structurally independent and its decisions should remain reviewable regardless of which administration holds office.

Silvatech asks that the revised Bill:

- **Protect ordinary online expression:** automatically exclude individual users, community speech, education, podcasts, political commentary, and small creators.
- **Put thresholds in the Act:** use objective revenue, audience, and editorial-control tests rather than requiring permission to be exempt.
- **Narrow content rules:** tie restrictions to precise existing law and constitutionally legitimate harms.
- **Create independent oversight:** use mixed appointments, fixed terms, removal for cause, and public conflict disclosures.
- **Guarantee review:** preserve full appeals for licensing, penalty, takedown, and blocking decisions.
- **Make blocking a last resort:** require notice, narrow remedies, necessity and proportionality findings, time limits, and transparency.

Silvatech asks the Government and the Belize Broadcasting Authority to publish a clause-by-clause response to public submissions, release a redline of the next draft, and allow a fresh public-comment period after material revisions. Belize can protect copyright, children, public safety, and local culture without building a permission system for lawful digital speech.

About Silvatech

Silvatech is an AI and software engineering company based in Belize City. The company builds production software, AI-assisted workflows, WhatsApp systems, and digital products for organizations in Belize and abroad. Silvatech is an Official Meta Tech Provider and a Member of the OpenAI Partner Network.

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Source note: Draft Broadcasting Bill, 2026 (July 16); Belize Constitution section 12; SIB MICS 2024; [2026 Joint Declaration on Children's Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age](#). [Read the full clause references](#)