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Mr. Mandla Mchunu
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Re: Mopalema response to Notice 2678 of 2024: Proposed new Licensing Framework for Satellite Services

1. Introduction

We welcome the opportunity to make submissions on the above Enquiry. As an ECNS Licensee, this Enquiry hits home and we would be following deliberations with keen interest. Below we had made input on some selected points in relation to the relevant sections and we forgo the opportunity to make oral presentations to the Authority.

2. Mopalema's input on various selected issues raised in the Discussion Document

2.1 Section 6

We support the envisaged types of Licenses contemplated in the above section. We however, advice the duration of the Gateway Earth Station be increased to fifteen years with a provision for further fifteen years at instance of renewal. This is mainly to assist the incumbent to recoup their initial investment.

2.2 Section 8.1

The current formula used to calculate for Gateway Station Fee used by the Authority is antiquated and we fully support any of the proposed models in the discussion document.

2.3 Section 9

It appears as if this Enquiry is undertaken without regard to the published Draft Equipment Authorisation Regulations¹. We encourage the Authority to go ahead and group all the affected

equipments in this discussion document as Classification 1 (Low Risk Equipment) as contemplated in the above-mentioned draft regulations. Finally, we observed with greater concern that the current Authority's Official List² does not cover all the affected frequencies of this Enquiry.

The presence of SANS 301 489-12 on the Official List can only be complemented by the inclusion of the following specifications:

- (ETSI) EN 301 358; EN 301 360; EN 301 459 and EN 303 979

3. Closing Remarks


Recent pronouncements by both the Minister³ and ICASA Chairperson⁴ points to the urgency of transparent process dealing with the proposed new Licensing framework for Satellite Services. The limitations of current (wired, wireless and land based) terrestrial networks in providing much needed internet, data and voice services in and around not-so-profitable areas is well documented. No area will be beyond reach and the ensuing competition will force prices to be affordable. This might be an answer to bridging the digital divide. The consumers will have a wider pool of Service providers to choose from.

The proposed new licensing regimes in this discussion document will add to the multiplicity of new players in the sector. New skills pool will be created and unleashed to the Economy.

We support technology-neutrality approach on this Enquiry.

Finally, we look forward to be enriched by other participants input in this Enquiry.

Kind Regards,



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CEO: Mopalema

¹ Draft Equipment Authorisation Regulations, 2021, published in Government Gazette Number 44371 of 31 March 2021;

² Official List of Regulated Standards for Technical Equipment and Electronic Communications Facilities, 2020, published in Government Gazette Number 43132 of 24 March 2020;

³ MYBROADBAND article dated 12-08-2024;

⁴ ITWeb TV Interview with Ms. Simnikiwe Mzekandaba dated 06-09-2024.