



MINISTRY
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KEY MESSAGES

by Minister, Hon Khumbudzo Ntshavheni
during the 2022 SONA Debate

15 February 2022

HIGH FREQUENCY COMMUNICATION SPECTRUM

“Through ICASA, we have set social service obligations to connect within 36 months of the licensing of spectrum, all outstanding public schools (18 520), public health facilities (5 731 of both clinics and hospitals) and offices of traditional leadership/ authorities that hold certificates of recognition (8 241).”

“We are anticipating that the national fiscus will also benefit in excess of R8 billion from the proceeds of the auction.”

“We are also working on the Radio Frequency Spectrum Policy for embedding 5G network and preparations for advances to 6th and 7th Generation networks. This will allow us to prescribe minimum data to the home as data has become the new utility like water and electricity are to the home.”



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BROADCAST DIGITAL MIGRATION

“To date, the analogue switch-off programme has supported 396 installer companies who have created 3109 job opportunities to locals.”

“When currently, the broadcast digital migration has increased available true free to air TV channels from four to 12, we are committing ourselves to provide capacity to carry 18 additional TV channels in the year 2022/ 23, with capacity for additional 36 TV channels by 23/24 financial year.”

“By year 2025, South Africa will have capacity for 102 TV channels, and these are not only for the SABC but for community TV, and new commercial TV houses.”

We shall this year submit to this House, a Bill to bring the ECA in line with the goals of delivering a digital economy that is inclusive.”

“We are awaiting Minister Patel to publish shortly, a Notice for the prohibition of importation of analogue TV sets and this will also enable South Africa to expand the market for locally manufactured digital TV sets.”



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SOUTH AFRICA CONNECT

“In the next 3 years, we will connect 44 600 government sites (includes 18 036 schools, 3 873 health facilities, 949 libraries and Thusong Centres and 8241 tribal authority sites that will be connected through the telecommunications operators). In the same period, we will well rollout more than 33 000 Community WiFi and broadband to households.”

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A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SABC

“The SABC implemented 96% of the key actions of its Turnaround Plan.”

“The SABC is working to launch, this year, its own Over-The-Top (OTT) platform that will offer consolidated (TV and radio) SABC programs over the internet.”



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SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICE

“The South African Post Office (SAPO) is not for sale. SAPO has the potential to contribute to South Africa's social and developmental goals by providing postal, logistics, ICTs, and government services via its far-reaching Postal Network.”

“The Department is considering modalities to Designate SAPO as an Authentication Authority for South Africa that will also enable it to effectively fulfil its role as a national Trust Centre in the age of digital identity and services.”

“We are picking our pace in the work to corporatize the Post Bank to take its rightful place within the financial services sector.”