

MEDIA STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS WELCOMES TELKOM'S ZERO-RATING OF ESSENTIAL ONLINE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SOURCES

26 Mar 2020

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) welcomes the agreement reached between Telkom and the Competition Commission which among other provisions, narrows the digital divide in the country by offering zero rated access to essential on line government services.

Telkom's offer includes free public access to the GCIS managed www.gov.za the gateway to government information and services

Telkom is also offering free access to educational institutions, including primary websites of more than 6 universities and FET institutions as well as knowledge- enhancing sites such as Wikipedia, Everything Science, Everything Maths and DBE Cloud.

Telkom and the Competition Commission announced an agreement on Wednesday 25 March which outlines Telkom's contribution to improved competition in the delivery of fixed broadband access by operators in this sector

Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu MP who leads the GCIS welcomes Telkom's initiative to empower citizens with information they are able to use to build a better life for themselves and their communities.

Minister Mthembu said "in line with our nation's single greatest challenge – that of youth unemployment – www.gov.za is used predominantly by young people looking for jobs and for information about opportunities and services that can enhance their employability or qualifications.

The zero rating of the www.gov.za website will come as a great relief to the many South Africans who require information about the constantly evolving and growing opportunities government puts in place for citizens self-empowerment.

"Over the last 12 months alone, more that 12 million users visited the website as well as the government news sites, www.sanews.gov.za and www.vukuzenzele.gov.za to access information on a range of services and programmes vital to the development of our country"

"As a leading brand in the South African economy, Telkom's contribution to access to information is also an important contribution to the growing partnership between government and the private sector to grow South Africa together"

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