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MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All Media

Date : 27 January 2026

MINISTER MALATSI WELCOMES THE END-USER AND SUBSCRIBER SERVICE CHARTER REGULATIONS AMENDMENTS BY ICASA

The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Solly Malatsi, has welcomed the recently gazetted amendments to the End User and Subscriber Service Charter Regulations, or EUSSC Regulations, by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA).

The new regulations bring relief to consumers by ensuring that purchased data can be rolled over, as well as providing users with the option of transferring data.

The move also strengthens consumer protection and aligns with the GNU's broader efforts to make communication services more affordable. This is essential to expanding access so that all South Africans can participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

“The need for data in the digital economy is ever-increasing. Lower data costs enable households, learners and small businesses to use the internet more productively and to participate meaningfully in the digital economy. Which is why we, as Government, are taking several important steps to make connectivity more affordable and accessible”, said Minister Malatsi.

These steps include:

- * Reducing taxes on smart devices;
- * Encouraging investment and competition to drive innovation and affordability;
- * Working with local and international members of this important ecosystem to extend connectivity;
- * Align permitting processes for access to land including government infrastructure; and
- * Encouraging infrastructure-sharing to reduce network build costs.

Minister Malatsi also acknowledged the role of civil society, political parties, consumer groups and industry stakeholders who have consistently advocated for more proactive action to reduce the cost of communication and to protect the interests of users.

“We remain committed to working with all partners in the sector to drive down data costs, improve access and accelerate South Africa’s digital transformation for the benefit of all”, concluded Minister Malatsi.

...ENDS...

For Media Enquires

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Issued by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies.