



MINISTRY
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All Media
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Minister Welcomes Adoption of ICASA Board Appointments to Strengthen Independent Regulation

The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Solly Malatsi, welcomes the National Assembly's adoption of the report recommending four appointments to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) Council.

The candidates nominated to fill the current vacancies are:

- Dr Charley Lewis
- Dr Joseph Maumela
- Ms Karabo Mohale
- Mr Abram Matseke

These individuals were selected based on a careful evaluation of their qualifications and experience. Collectively, they offer a balanced mix of continuity and new insight that will support ICASA's work as an independent regulator.

ICASA plays a critical role in ensuring fair regulation of South Africa's telecommunications, broadcasting and postal services. A fully constituted Council is essential to enabling effective oversight, driving innovation, and protecting consumers in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

We now await the publication of the report in the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports (ATC) of Parliament by the Speaker of Parliament — the final administrative step that will allow the nominated councillors to officially commence their duties.

Following this, the Minister will proceed with the formal appointment of the four members to the ICASA Council, in accordance with section 5 of the ICASA Act, 2000 (Act No. 13 of 2000).

ENDS...

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Issued by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies

Dr Tshifhiwa Joshua Maumela

A highly efficient, results driven person with capabilities of implementing models from the ground up, Dr Tshifhiwa Joshua Maumela is an Electrical engineering and Economics graduate with over 12 Years ML/AI Experience.

He was recently promoted to be a Technical Lead for Machine Learning Engineering at Vodacom where he spearheaded the design of Vodacom's first deep learning recommendation system as a generic capability. His responsibilities included designing, building and managing the capabilities for the machine learning platform within Vodacom which helps with rapid development and deployment of AI products within the organisation.

Before his tenure at Vodacom, he developed the first customer facing Deep Learning powered product for Standard Bank which is also the first AI powered payment anomaly in Africa. His other accolades include developing the first Deep Learning powered Recommendation System for Standard Bank CIB. He has also mentored young engineers in Machine Learning who have taken many leading positions in different institutes in South Africa.

Prior joining Standard Bank, he was at Transnet where he developed his first industrial ML application solution to diagnose a locomotive in 2011. This was a project he proposed and formulated. He went on to lead a team of Machine Learning specialists to develop an opportunity and risk identification time series model using Deep Learning. The same solution was also able to forecast the revenue at 95% accuracy for 2019 financial year end. Through his leadership, the team was able to develop a Deep Learning solution to forecast the spares that will be needed for tugboats repairs in the environment where not much information was available on the condition of the tugboats.

He has had the opportunity to lead delivery teams from 2012 while still in Engineer in Training phase of career. He would go on to be a technical lead for a team that was responsible for delivering various Machine Learning use cases at Transnet. He continued on this role when he went to the banking sector as well. He also shows ability to make space to learn new skills as exhibited by him moving to a role to build ML Platforms that are used to fast track

deployment of models designed by Data Scientists. He also showed this feat when he pursued a Masters in Economics in Japan by moving from the comfort of his own country while learning a new skill.

He is a PhD holder in AI with Masters in AI and BSc Electrical and Electronics Engineering from University of Johannesburg respectively, and an additional Masters in Economics from Waseda University, Tokyo.

In his PhD he conceptualised, designed and developed a new Artificial Intelligence algorithm which is the first Artificial Intelligence algorithm to be conceptualised and designed from Africa, it was also the first algorithm to include Philosophy where we developed it based on Ubuntu Philosophy under the supervisions of Prof Tshilidzi Marwala and Prof Fulufhelo Nelwamondo. It was also one of the first few AI algorithms to use Mechanism Design.

He is a proud alumnus of University of Johannesburg which is the fastest rising and youngest university in Africa, standing as 2nd best university in Africa as of 2022. He is also an alumnus of Waseda University which is number 1 best private university in Japan and one with the highest number of alumni who are founders and executives in Fortune 500 companies.

Andrew Matseke

Andrew Matseke is currently an independent consultant in the ICT and electrical engineering industries with work experience of over thirty years. He is a former CEO of Broadband Infraco SOC Limited and has served as the head of telecommunications at Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) and as the managing director of TIS, a subsidiary of the JSE listed Altron Limited.

His experience in the ICT industry includes network design, implementation and project management, as well as O&M (operations and maintenance). He has also managed the commercial side of ICT, including sales and customer services.

His management and executive leadership experience includes strategy formulation and implementation, P&L (profit & loss) accountability, stakeholder management and corporate governance. His C-suite experience includes both the private and public sectors.

He has experience in the design and implementation of telecommunications solutions in South Africa and other African markets, including Botswana, Lesotho, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

He has a B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Cape Town, an MBA from the University of Pretoria, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management from Cranefield College.

He is registered as a Professional Engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and is a Senior Member of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE).

Karabo Mohale

Karabo Mohale is a Development Economist with a Master of Science in Economic Policy studied through the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS - University of London). She also holds a Master of Arts in Development Studies from the University of Sussex (UK), earned through the esteemed Chevening Scholarship. Her academic foundation is further complemented by a BCom Honors Degree in Marketing, achieved with distinction.

Appointed by The President of South Africa on the recommendation of Parliament, she has served as the Executive Deputy Chairperson of The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). In this pivotal role, she spearheaded investments and led special projects aimed at fostering transformation and socio-economic inclusion among young people.

Her professional journey began in the Financial Sector, where she honed her skills at reputable institutions such as Standard Bank and Sanlam. With nearly a decade of experience in Governance, her track record is characterized by significant contributions to various sectors. Notably, she served as a Member of Council at the Tshwane University of

Technology (TUT), lending her insights to strategic decision-making for three impactful years. Additionally, her tenure as a member of the Gauteng Liquor Board underscored my commitment to effective governance practices.

Currently, she serves as the Board Chair of The Tshwane Institute for Continuing Education, a vital entity wholly owned by TUT. In this capacity, she drives initiatives aimed at generating third-stream income to bolster the academic agenda through Short Learning Programmes and Continuous Professional Development (CPD). Furthermore, she actively engaged as a Board Member of the OR Tambo School of Leadership, where she also serve on the Audit and Risk Committee.

Her multifaceted background, coupled with a passion for societal advancement, positions her as a dynamic leader capable of driving impactful change at both strategic and operational levels.

Dr Charley Lewish

Charley Lewis (PhD, MComm) has extensive experience across the wide field of ICT sector policy and regulation, covering broadband and telecommunications, broadcasting and the Internet. Covering a wide variety of key areas, his expertise ranges from universal access and service, through the digital divide, consumer protection, quality of service, statistics and indicators, to spectrum management and the 4th industrial revolution and 5G.

Dr Lewis' varied career includes teaching Mathematics and English at high school level; Information Systems Analyst in the banking sector; Head of IT at COSATU (Congress of SA Trade Unions); Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand; Independent Analyst and Researcher; and Councillor at the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa. He has managed and taught professional development and academic courses on ICT policy and regulation to policy-makers, regulators, and industry practitioners.

Dr Lewis holds a BA Hons in English, a Higher Education Diploma, an M Comm in Management of Information Systems, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He is an experienced researcher and a published author, with his book, Regulating

Telecommunications in South Africa: Universal Access and Service (Palgrave Press, 2020) following on from the research for his award-winning PhD thesis.

Dr Lewis was part of the Ministerial Task Team on a Post-Covid-19 Economic Response Strategy, having previously served on South Africa's National ICT Policy Review Panel (2012-2015).

Most recently Dr Lewis completed a four-year term as Councillor at the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (2020-2024), six months of which was in the role of Acting Chairperson of Council.