



Independent Communications Authority of South Africa

Pinmill Farm, 164 Katherine Street, Sandton

Private Bag X10002, Sandton, 2146

**Opening Remarks by Chairperson, Dr Stephen Mncube: ITA
Press Conference for the 2.5 and 3.6 High Demand
Spectrum, 21 July 2010**

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be part of this Press Conference - a first for me as the Chairperson of the Authority.

For me it is an introduction to an important stakeholder, the media fraternity.

I expect, and indeed hope, that the ICASA-Stakeholder relationship will be nurtured and strengthened during my tenure as the Chairperson of the Authority.

I value stakeholder relations and management and consider it as part of the overall responsibility of accounting to the South African public. In fact all institutions, private or public, are duty bound to satisfy this requirement.

Enabling legislation, the Electronic Communications Act in this regard, provides for the regulation of communications in the public interest.

At the core of this mandate is the requirement to promote an "environment of open, fair and non-discriminatory access to broadcasting services, communication networks and communication services".

Of equal importance is the promotion of stability in the ICT sector, by conducting our business in transparency and openness, without fear or favour or prejudice.

You would appreciate that I am hardly a month at the helm of the organisation. I had to hit the ground running.

I had to undergo an induction process, and at the same time familiarise myself with the myriad of regulatory projects that are already being implemented.

The licensing of the high demand spectra has been on the radar screen of the Authority. As for stakeholders, they have been itching to get their hands on these spectra with the view to expand their business operations.

It is indeed the role of the Authority to position the information and communication technologies as a sector of choice for investors, both local and trans-national.

In doing so, we have to make sure that the environment is viable, stable and certain.

The issuing of new licences for these highly sought spectra should be matched by a roll-out of infrastructure to achieve universal service and access.

It is through the roll-out of infrastructure that South African can be competitive, and have an edge against other countries who are also vying for the attention of the investors.

I foresee good relations between ourselves, and trust that you share the same sentiment.

I will now hand over to the Councillor responsible for this project, Dr Marcia Socikwa.

I Thank You.