



**Independent Communications Authority of South Africa**

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**BI-ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS OF TARIFF NOTIFICATIONS  
SUBMITTED TO ICASA FOR THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY 2023 TO 30 JUNE  
2023 – ABRIDGED REPORT**

**1. Introduction**

- This is an abridged report of Bi-annual Report on the analysis of Tariff Notifications submitted to ICASA for the Period 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023. This report is produced for the benefit of those consumers that may not have time to read the full report.
- Section 2 highlights the aim of the tariff analysis report. Section 3 indicates the number of tariff notifications received by ICASA. Section 4 provides key findings from ICASA's tariff notification analysis. Section 5 gives the conclusion.

**2. What is the aim of the Tariff Analysis Report?**

- ICASA produces two (2) Bi-annual reports on the Analysis of tariff notifications submitted to ICASA by various telecommunications licensees on an annual basis. The first Bi-annual report covers the period 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023. The second Bi-annual report will cover the period 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

- The Tariff Analysis Report gives an overview of the Bi-annual Tariff Notifications as well as an update on tariffs that were filed by various telecommunications licensees during the period under review.
- The aim of the Tariff Analysis Report is to ensure that there is retail price transparency in line with object 2(n) of the Electronic Communications Act, 2005 which is to “promote the interests of consumers with regard to the price, quality and the variety of electronic communication services”.

### **3. How many tariff notifications were received?**

- ICASA received a total of 335 tariff notifications, which consisted of 84 new promotions, 135 amendments, 55 extensions, 16 terminations and 45 new products from the period 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.

## **4. Key Findings from ICASA’s Tariff Notification Analysis**

### **4.1. Mobile Data Services Market**

#### *100MB - 120MB*

- MTN replaced its 100MB data bundle which it offered for R 20 with a 120MB data bundle also offered for R 20, translating to a 20% increase in data bundle volume and a decrease in the in-bundle rate from R 0.20 per MB to R 0.17 per MB.

#### *500MB – 600MB*

- MTN was the only operator that amended its 30-day standard prepaid 500MB data bundle which translated to a R 0.01 decrease in the in-bundle rate from R 0.14 per MB to R 0.13 per MB.
- Telkom Mobile and Vodacom still offer their respective 500MB data bundles for R 69 which translates to R 0.14 per MB.

- Cell C offers its 600MB data bundle at R 69 which translates to a R 0.11 per MB in-bundle rate. Therefore, Cell C's 600MB offers more value for money in the 500MB to 600MB data bundle range.
- On average, customers are charged R 68 in the market on the 500MB to 600MB data bundle range.

### *1GB*

- In the period under review, only MTN amended the price of its 30-day standard prepaid 1GB data bundle from R 85 to R 79, matching Telkom Mobile's 1GB price.
- Cell C and Vodacom currently offer the least affordable 1GB data bundle among the four operators, priced at R 85.
- On average, the 30-day standard prepaid 1GB data bundle is offered at R 82 in the market.

### *2GB*

- In the period under review, only Telkom Mobile amended the price of its 30-day standard prepaid 2GB data bundle, wherein it increased the price by R 7 or 5% from R 139 to R 146. Despite the price increase, the operator still offers the most affordable 30-day standard prepaid data bundle among the four operators, which is R 3 less than what Cell C, MTN and Vodacom charge for their 2GB data bundles (i.e., R 149).
- On average, the 30-day standard prepaid 2GB data bundle costs customers R 148.25 in the market.

### *3GB – 100GB*

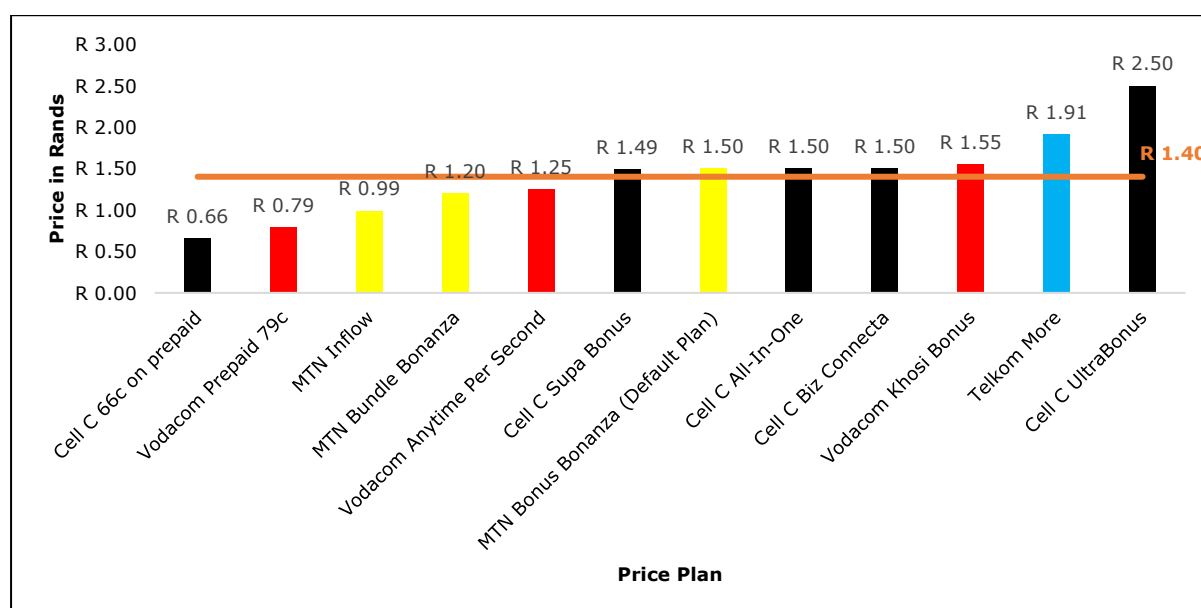
- Additionally, Telkom Mobile also increased the price of its 30-day standard prepaid 3GB, 5GB, 10GB, 20GB, 50GB and 100GB to R 209 (5%), R 314 (5%), R 493 (5.1%), R 734 (5%), R 1 574 (5%) and R 2 624 (5%), respectively.

## **4.2. Voice Services Market**

- The Authority received four notifications regarding prepaid flat-rate tariffs and two prepaid on-net focused tariffs in the period under review. For example, on 14 March 2023, Vodacom filed its new Khosi Bonus Price Plan wherein it charges customers R 1.55 per minute, R 0.52 per SMS, and R 0.49 per MB of OOB rates.
- Cell C introduced two prepaid tariff plans in the period under review, namely, the Biz Connecta and Supa Bonus prepaid tariff plans. The plans charge flat-rates of R 1.50 and R 1.49, respectively.
- Telkom Mobile, increased prices of its voice bundles and tariff plans in the period under review. For example, the OOB voice rate of Thola More off-net and on-net OOB voice rates were increased by 8.7% and 16.7% to R 0.75 and R 0.35 per minute, respectively. Telkom Mobile filed an amendment of its All-net and On-net Voice Bundles with the Authority on 17 March 2023, wherein the largest increase of R 131 or 32.8% occurred on the Telkom Mobile 1000min All-net voice minutes package wherein it increased from R 400 to R 531.
- Figure 1 shows flat-rate voice tariffs offered by Vodacom, MTN, Cell C and Telkom.
- Cell C's 66c On Prepaid still ranks first from the lowest to the highest flat-rate offered by the MNOs, charging R 0.66 per minute, followed by Vodacom 79c which charges R 0.79 per minute. Cell C's Ultra Bonus ranks 10<sup>th</sup> (i.e., last) on the depicted flat-rate tariffs.
- On average, customers are charged R 1.40 per minute on OOB rate voice calls.
- Cell C's UltraBonus 0.2 and Super Bonus flat-rates both rank 6<sup>th</sup>, while the Biz Connecta flat-rate ranks 7<sup>th</sup> among the depicted tariffs.

- The amendment on the OOB voice rate from R 0.99 to R 1.50 on MTN's Bonus Bonanza price plan also resulted in it shift from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> lowest OOB voice rate charge on the depicted rates, which is 7.1% above the average rate.
- Vodacom's new Khosi Bonus price plan ranks 8<sup>th</sup> which is 10.7% above the average rate.

Figure 1: Flat-rates per minute



Source: ICASA Database based on Filed Tariff Notifications

### 4.3. Fibre Services Market

- There were 133 notifications filed regarding fibre services (up from 115 in the preceding reporting period) from various Fibre Network Operators (FNOs) in the period under review. This signals the growing competitiveness in this market.
- The Authority undertook a comparative analysis of Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) packages provided on 3<sup>rd</sup> party FNOs to show how different

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) price their packages of the same line speeds versus the average market price.

- The average price of the sampled 25/25Mbps line speeds was R 612 per month which is down by R 7 or 1.1% from R 619 in the previous reporting period. Cell C's 25/25Mbps on Link Layer charges the highest price R 799 (30.6% above the average price) and Amobias 25/25Mbps Vumatel network charges the lowest price at R 449 (26.6% below the average price).
- The average price of the sampled 50/50Mbps line speeds was R 803 per month, with Cell C's 50/50Mbps on Netstream being the highest priced at R 1 049 (30.8% above the average), while the fibre packages offered by Cell C (on MetroFibre) and Cybersmart (on Vumatel), both at R 649 per month (19.1% above the average price).
- The average price of the sampled 100/100Mbps line speeds was R 974 per month, with Vodacom's 100/100Mbps on Waterfall Access Networks (WAN) being the highest priced at R 1 299 (33.4% above the average price) and Lasernetet on Vuma Fibre being the lowest priced at R 765 (21.5% below the average).

#### **4.4 Over-the-Top (OTT) Service Offerings**

- In order to capitalise on the growth in uptake of OTT services, licensed operators continue to launch various product offerings so as to maximise their data revenues.
- In the period under review, Vodacom, Cell C and Telkom filed their Social Bundles and/or amendments thereof with varying validity periods with the Authority.
- Vodacom filed its Social Bundles wherein it offers its prepaid, post-paid and hybrid customers URL-specific data bundles with varying validity periods giving customers access to Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp.

- Cell C and Telkom filed additional WhatsApp bundles with daily, weekly and monthly validity periods.

#### **4.5 Fixed Wireless Access Services (LTE, 5G and Wireless fibre Internet services)**

- The Authority observed a continued competitiveness in the provision of LTE, 5G and Wireless Internet services, with 26 notifications received in the period under review.
- For example, MTN introduced its new Super Data Price Plan, wherein it offers affordable 30-day mobile broadband data bundles, with its 30GB Anytime data bundle priced at R 199.

### **5. Conclusion**

- ICASA continues to observe data price reductions with various amendments filed by licensees. ICASA will continue to monitor and publish its reports with retail market prices to ensure that subscribers have information on the competitive rates which are prevailing in the market.
- The full Bi-annual Report on the analysis of Tariff Notifications submitted to ICASA for the Period 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 is available on ICASA's website.