

## **Independent Communications Authority of South Africa**

350 Witch-Hazel Avenue, Eco Point Office Park Eco Park, Centurion. Private Bag X10, Highveld Park 0169

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

## ICASA allocates PEB slots to political parties and independent candidates contesting the 2021 municipal elections

## 06 October 2021

**Pretoria** – With the date for the municipal elections rapidly approaching, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA/the Authority) is readying itself to ensure equitable treatment for the election messages of all political parties and independent candidates on both public and community broadcasting platforms.

In line with Section 57 of the Electronic Communications Act, the Authority will allocate timeslots for party election broadcasts (PEBs) to ensure fair coverage for all political parties and independent candidates during the election period.

The allocation of PEB slots will take place on Friday, **8 October 2021** at **Protea Hotel**, **Midrand** from 09h00.

The Authority will apply a hybrid model of engagement to allocate PEB slots to contesting political parties and independent candidates. The allocation will therefore be held both virtually and in-person (with a limited number of political party and independent candidate representatives in attendance).

"The elections are a very important event in the history of the country, and it is very critical that, as the Authority, we should ensure that the public is able to make informed decisions in terms of who they want to elect as their political representatives especially at the local sphere of government which plays a key role in the delivery of essential services to communities," says ICASA Chairperson, Dr Keabetswe Modimoeng.

The Chairperson urges all political parties and independent candidates contesting the upcoming municipal elections to work with ICASA on this allocation process and to comply with the regulations. "Our regulations are carefully crafted to ensure equitable treatment of political parties and independent candidates during the election period, and we urge all stakeholders, including broadcasters, to support this process and comply with the regulations. The regulations are a basis on which we would ensure that every contesting political party and independent candidate receives coverage, and that they are able to share with the electorate what they can do for them as their representatives at local government level," says Dr Modimoeng.

The Chairperson will be on SABC Morning Live, DSTV Channel 404 on Thursday, 7 October 2021 at 08:40 to unpack how the allocation process will unfold.

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For all media enquiries, please contact:

Paseka Maleka

Tel : (012) 568 3455 Cell : 079 509 0702

E-mail: pmaleka@icasa.org.za

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