

**SENTECH Presentation to ICASA
Draft National Radio Frequency Plan 2017
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Impact

- In the current state of affairs it is infeasible to migrate broadcasting services within a short period of time, and within manageable cost structure
 - Digital-to-digital (D2D) migration is estimated to cost SENTECH R173 million over a minimum period of three years
 - Migration of STLs is expected to cost SENTECH R119 million over a minimum of three years
 - There is no avenue to recover these costs, affecting sustainability of SENTECH and the industry
 - The program for ASO and D2D not yet firmed
 - Regulatory framework for restacking of DTT below 694 MHz not firmed
 - General frequency migration plan not complete
- Regulatory uncertainty may be a risk on universal service and on reliability for delivery of broadcast services – coverage, compliance, contractual and SLA obligations may be affected
- Inability to coordinate in 3800 – 4200 MHz may affect reliability of DTT

Recommendations – affecting DTT

- Follow ITU norms in allocation of bands in the range 470 to 862 MHz in region 1, with utilise appropriate footnotes similar to 5.312A and 5.317A in ITU radio regulations
- Utilise national footnotes to align the NRFP to the envisaged migration plan and overall DTT migration program to address
 - ASO and D2D programs
 - STLs migration program
- Development of a coordination framework for introduction of Mobile services in the radio frequency bands 694 – 790 MHz and 790 – 862 MHz, post-ASO
- Allow utilisation of guard band 821 – 832 MHz for ancillary services such as STLs (using national footnotes)
 - This allows innovation and efficient utilisation of spectrum
 - Reduces the cost of migration while enabling digital divided and smooth D2D migration
- Utilisation of a national footnote to facilitate protection of 3800 to 4200 MHz band

Recommendations...

- Allow both analogue and digital in the bands 535.5 – 1606.5 kHz and 87.5 – 108 MHz as a progressive approach to facilitate future digitisation of sound broadcasting in these bands
- Allow band 174 – 240 MHz to be shared between digital terrestrial sound and digital terrestrial television broadcasting
- Enable the immediate deployment of terrestrial digital sound services in the VHF band by extended the band by 2 MHz (from 238 to 240 MHz) – in line with other Region 1 countries

END

Thank You