



# Presentation on the Second Draft National Radio Frequency Plan 2025

15 January 2026





# Presentation Overview

- Terrestrial Audio Services
- Proposal
- General



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# Terrestrial Audio Services

## Critical Delay Impact

DSB regulations published April 2021 - commercialisation date still pending

### Investment Freeze

Broadcasters and infrastructure providers cannot plan capex, multiplex capacity bids, or rollout schedules

### Barriers for New Entrants

Community and niche broadcasters remain constrained; innovation stalled

### Market Stagnation

Manufacturers are reluctant to import receivers; consumers lack affordable devices

### Spectrum Inefficiency

Continued reliance on analogue FM/AM keeps spectrum congested; digital dividend unrealized

# Terrestrial Audio Services: cont...

## **Service Innovation Blocked**

Multimedia data services, targeted information, multilingual streams, emergency alerts, and ensemble services cannot be developed

## **Regulatory Paralysis**

National RF plans, multiplex allocation procedures, and DTAG advisory groups harder to finalize

## **Economic Impact**

Delayed job creation in installation, content production, receiver retail, and platform services

## **Public Interest Loss**

Deferred benefits including better emergency broadcasting and increased local content



# Proposal

## 1. Publish Clear DSB Roadmap

Time-bound milestone schedule: pilot → commercial dates, multiplex award process, consumer awareness programs

## 2. Fast-Track DTAG Formation

Technical and commercial guidance as provided in regulations

## 3. Clarify Spectrum Assignment Plans

Define "highest value uses" and basis for RFSAP in broadcasting bands

## 4. Develop Satellite Receiver Registration Platform

Purpose-built system separate from spectrum licensing platform

# General

## Terrestrial Broadcasting Bands

Authority must consider:

*E.TV (Pty) Limited and Others v Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies [2025]*

*ZAGPPHC 321 (27 March 2025)*

## Spectrum Allocation Clarity Required

- Distinction between "Land Mobile Services" and "Mobile Services" in DSA context
- Primary vs. secondary allocation in 3800-4200 MHz band
- ITU RRB Rules of Procedure for 3400-3800 MHz band
- Protection of satellite earth station

**Regulatory clarity is the key to unlocking industry planning and accelerating adoption**



# THANK YOU

