



Presentation on the Second Draft National Radio Frequency Plan 2025

15 January 2026



Presentation Overview

- Terrestrial Audio Services
- Proposal
- General



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

