

THE FOCUS

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The cover photo and inside cover photo are in honour of ICASA's intervention in the Kuruman region of the Northern Cape featuring the beautiful and unusual rock formations to be found in the area.

Inside cover photo: View over the arid bushveld near Kuruman, with well-preserved stromatolites in the foreground.

Cover photo: A weathered arch in the Banded Iron Formation of the Kuruman Formation in the Northern Cape.

Images and captions: iStockphoto



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Editor's note

Welcome to the third issue of The Focus for the 22/23 Financial Year.

In this issue, we report on some of the international events that ICASA hosted during the third quarter, including the 5G Forum meeting and the 7th Sub-Sahara Spectrum Management Conference.

As the year draws to a close, the Authority also welcomed four newly appointed Councillors to the team. The arrival of Cllrs Thabisa Faye, Cathrine Mushi, Nompucuko Nontombana, and Ntombiza Sithole will significantly strengthen the work of the Authority as it regulates the ICT sector. We look forward to interacting with the new Councillors and to their collective and individual contributions.

In addition, we feature ICASA's consumer education activities in the Northern Cape. These were aimed at empowering consumers and creating awareness of the work of the Authority.

We would like to thank our readers and contributors for the continued support and sheer determination to ensure the newsletter's success.

We trust you will enjoy reading this issue of The Focus.

Have a safe festive break, happy holidays and a wonderful, prosperous New Year!

EDITOR & EDITORIAL TEAM

ICASA empowers consumers in the Northern Cape



Northern Cape consumers got a chance to interact with the ICASA team and learn about the role ICASA plays in regulating the electronic communications, broadcasting, and postal services sectors.



Local entertainers brightened the event.

The consumer educational campaign took place on 24–25 November 2022, when the ICASA team engaged with the communities of Kathu, Kuruman and surrounding areas such as Mapoteng, Wrenchville, Mothibistad, Magojaneng and Batlharos.

The two-day educational programme included presentations on the licensing process of broadcasters, ISPs and postal service providers.

It's important to conduct such educational activities to ensure consumers become aware of

the work of the Authority and learn about their rights in the respective sector.

The Northern Cape consumer education campaign, which forms part of the Authority's countrywide consumer campaign, was well attended by consumers, community leaders and local government officials.

ICASA appreciates the support from all the stakeholders that were present, especially the JTG GCIS, Gamagara Municipality and Kurara FM for working around the clock to ensure the success of the campaign.



The ICASA team provided valuable information.



ICASA officials display non-approved type approval devices confiscated in Kuruman and Kathu.

Enabling equal access to telecoms services



International
Day of
Persons with
Disabilities

3 DECEMBER



"ICASA's vision is entrenched in creating an inclusive digital society for all"

Cllr LS Mkumatela

4.9%
of South
Africans,
5 years and
older are
classified
as disabled

2020 General Household
Survey by Stats SA

On 3 December, ICASA joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities under the theme *"Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world."*

The day is aimed at promoting an understanding of disability issues and the rights of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities have an equal right to access broadcasting, postal and telecommunications services. In this regard, the Authority published the Code for Persons with Disabilities as gazetted on 9 April 2021.

As part of ensuring inclusivity of persons with disabilities, the Authority also introduced the National Relay System (NRS)

that enables persons who are deaf or have hearing and/or speech impairment to access emergency services through sign language interpretation.

Additionally, as part of the same intervention, audio description services have been introduced to amplify accessibility for the maximum consumer experience for the blind and/or the visually-impaired.

Working with various stakeholders, the Authority through its regulations will continue putting measures in place to ensure inclusivity, and equal and equitable access for persons living with disabilities – particularly those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually-impaired.

ICASA hosts various international events

As part of ICASA's standing in International Fora, it is essential to keep abreast of developments in the ICT Sector. ICASA hosted a workshop, a conference and a meeting during November to affirm the Authority's leadership in telecommunications regulation.



**ITU
Workshop
on spectrum
monitoring**

1 - 2 NOVEMBER 2022



Presentation to attendees of the ITU spectrum monitoring workshop on 2 November at the CTICC



From left to right: Firdosia Subrayen from ICASA (left) shares learning on spectrum monitoring during the workshop



From left to right: Glynn Fourie and Louis Pieterse from ICASA, stand ready to demonstrate the vehicle used to conduct spectrum monitoring.

ICASA hosted a workshop on spectrum monitoring as part of the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) projects.

The PRIDA projects are aimed at training all attendees on the latest methods and technologies of spectrum monitoring.

This workshop not only provided training, but also saw key stakeholders delve deeply into the challenges of spectrum monitoring and spectrum monitoring methodologies with the presentations from the ITU on Spectrum Management Systems for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) and the Harmonised Calculation Method for Africa (HCM4A).

The workshop came at an opportune time following the successful spectrum auction that took place in March 2022.

3-4 NOVEMBER 2022

The 7th Sub-Sahara Spectrum Management Conference was hosted by South Africa (ICASA) in a hybrid physical-virtual format at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The two-day conference was part of the Global Spectrum Series, which is the world's largest collection of regional spectrum policy conferences.

Delegates discussed topical issues relating to the management and coordination

of spectrum policy across the region, with interactive sessions and networking opportunities.

Some key stakeholders in attendance included the South African Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Hon. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni; the leadership team of ICASA; and Mr John Omo, Secretary-General of the African Telecommunications Union.

Sub-Sahara Spectrum Management Conference



Mr John Omo, Secretary General of ATU, during his keynote address



Mr Dick Sono (DCDT), Mr John Omo (ATU), Hon. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, ICASA Acting Chairperson Dr Charley Lewis and CIIr Peter Zimri



The conference concluded on 4 November with a group photo of all the delegates who attended the hybrid event in person.

16-17 NOVEMBER 2022



Delegates attending the 5G Forum

ICASA hosts the second 5G Forum



Dr Charley Lewis, ICASA Acting Chairperson

Five years ago, ICASA hosted the inaugural South African 5G Forum meeting in Sandton. The meeting was a success in that it brought together various stakeholders in the South African ICT sector to discuss, collaborate, and contribute to the development of the 5th generation mobile network for South Africa.

This year, ICASA had the opportunity to host the second 5G Forum meeting. The meeting was held under

the theme, Early Phase of 5G Deployment: Experience and Beyond, and placed the following key topics under the spotlight:

- The development status of 5G: African and global view;
- 5G Radio Frequency Spectrum as an enabler for economic growth in vertical industries; and
- Beyond 5G - on the road to 6G.

The second 5G Forum meeting also provided an open platform

for feedback on the work already carried out in the various areas of 5G and 6G.

The 5G Forum is an advisory body established by the Council of ICASA in 2016. Its purpose is to support the Authority in making meaningful contributions towards the development of spectrum regulations and standards for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), in line with the IMT 2020 vision and beyond.

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