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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the second issue of The Focus for the 2022/23 financial year.

As you read this issue, the most important meeting in the telecommunications calendar is taking place in the capital city of Romania: the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference.

South Africa is competing for re-election to the ITU Executive Council and one of our own, Mr Mandla Mchunu is standing for re-election to the Radio Regulations Board.

Locally, ICASA held public consultations as part of its regulatory work and hosted community engagement events in Limpopo as part of its Consumer Education Campaign.

In this quarter, the Authority said goodbye to the Chairperson of the ICASA Council, Dr Keabetswe Modimoeng (see page X for some snaps of the event) as well as to the CEO, Mr Wellington Ngwepe.

Happy reading!

**EDITOR &
EDITORIAL TEAM**

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY 2022

*One of our respected ICASA staffers in the field of radio communications, **Mr Samuel Mandla Mchunu**, is running for re-election as member of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB)*

Every four-years, member states of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) choose their new high-level representatives, whose perspectives and goals will set priorities in the telecommunications world.

The Radio Regulations Board consists of 12 members representing ITU's five regions who are elected at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (see sidebar).

The RRB approves rules of procedure, considers appeals against decisions made by the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) regarding frequency assignments, and plays an important role in the development and implementation of the Radio Regulations (RR).

RRB members perform their duties independently and on a part-time basis, usually meeting up to four times a year, in Geneva.

Mr Mchunu is competing with candidates from Egypt, Ghana and Morocco for the available seats afforded to the African Region (Region D) on the RRB.

Mr Mchunu has a long history of service at the ITU. He was part of the team that championed the implementation of Resolution 559 that is aimed at ensuring that the degraded orbital resources of African countries in the Broadcasting Satellite Service (BSS) Plan are replaced with new ones at future world radiocommunication conferences.

He was also a member of the South African team that carried out work that ultimately led to WRC 19 adopting the

ITU-R Resolution 32 aimed at simplifying the radio regulatory procedures for satellites with short duration mission.

South Africa as a country is also competing with 16 other African countries for the available seats in the ITU Executive Council for the African Region.

The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies submitted the South African candidatures for 2023 – 2026 which have been endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union.

The results of the elections will be announced in the middle of October.

ABOUT THE ITU

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for many matters related to information and communication technologies, is holding its Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest, Romania from 26 September to 14 October 2022.

The Plenipotentiary Conference is the supreme organ of the union. It meets every four years to set the union's general policies, adopt four-year strategic and financial plans and elect the senior management team of the union, members of council and members of the Radio Regulations Board.



"My passion for radio-communication comes from seeing ordinary South Africans have access to communication services."
Samuel Mandla Mchunu

ICASA aims to level and optimise the ICT playing field

ICASA is responsible for reviewing published regulations to ensure the industry is regulated in line with its core mandate regulating the sector in the public interest. This is also in line with ICASA's five-year strategic plan as approved by Council.

For that reason, the Authority held several virtual public hearings during the second quarter of this year in order to review and finalise the following regulations:



The Numbering Plan Regulations which are aimed at reducing SIM card fraud.



The optimisation of FM sound broadcasting with the primary goal of making efficient use of the VHF 87.5-108 MHz (FM) band for the analogue sound broadcasting, as well as to assign new frequencies to meet the growing demand for additional frequencies.



The Discussion Document on Broadcasting Signal Distribution Service. Signal distribution is an essential electronic communications network service that transports radio and television programmes (created by broadcasting licensees) to the actual broadcast target area, allowing listeners and viewers to hear or watch those programs on radio or television.

ICASA as the watchdog of the industry remains resolute in making sure that its licensees provide good quality service to the South African public.

Members of the public should look out for notices to get the latest information on upcoming hearings.

Notices are published on www.icasa.org.za or on ICASA social media pages.



The End-user and Subscriber Service Charter Amendment Regulations submissions were received and published. These are consumer protection regulations aimed at promoting transparency and protecting consumers from unfair business practices in the provision of communication services.



The Draft Amendment Standard Terms and Conditions Regulations for Individual Licence.



The Draft Amendment Regulations regarding the Process and Procedures for Individual Licence Applications, Amendments, Renewals, Surrender and Transfer.

For the record

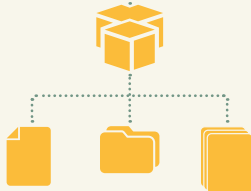
Find out more about the powerful features of ICASA's new Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS)

DOCUMENT STORAGE



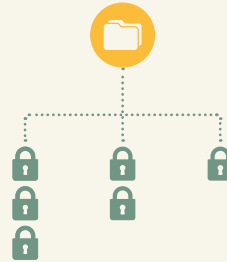
Paperwork tends to pile up over time, making it difficult to find the record that was created a while ago. Documents are stored in one convenient place, so they don't take up space on shelves or in miscellaneous computer folders.

RRR



EDRMS reduces the amount of paper printed by keeping documents in digital format. This improves business process and reduces our carbon footprint.

SECURITY



To have vital organisational information sitting on a shelf or in an unsecured computer folder is a recipe for disaster. An EDRMS keeps everything in one secure, centralised place.



One person who needs access to one file doesn't get the keys to the entire database of records.

SORTING AND SEARCH



EDRMS sorts and categorises paperwork so it can be found with just a few keystrokes - saving valuable time.

COMMUNICATION



It alerts the relevant division on a specific document that has been uploaded to the system, or automatically shares a file with individuals tagged on it.

ICASA engages communities in rural Limpopo



Communities in Limpopo got to know ICASA, its services and its role in regulating the ICT sector.

As part of its overall Consumer Education Campaign, ICASA recently hosted lively engagement events at the Thabhani Mall in Thohoyandou and the Masingita Mall in Giyani.

These events gave everyone living in the area a chance to get to know ICASA more closely. The ICASA team gave presentations and explained the licensing process of broadcasters, ISPs and postal service providers.

The team also explained how consumers can contact ICASA for protection and recourse when their consumer rights have been violated. The team provided information on careers

available within ICASA and introduced the provincial liaison officers.

The events were held in collaboration with other stakeholders and licensees such as SAPO, MTN, Cell C, Vodacom and various community radio stations. These stakeholders were afforded the opportunity to provide information about their own services as well as career possibilities in their organisations.

Similar engagements are scheduled to take place in all nine provinces during the coming months.



CONSUMER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN: UPCOMING EVENTS

Free State: 28 and 29 October 2022

- Mqohaka Local Municipality - Kroonstad
- Metsimaholo Local Municipality - Sasolburg

Northern Cape: 25 and 26 November 2022

- Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality - Kuruman
- Gamagara Local Municipality - Kathu

Consumers will get 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.



ICASA CEO and Chairperson say farewell



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