

THE FOCUS



"Skills for the changing world-
empowering youth for meaningful economic participation."

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Editor's note

Welcome to the first issue of The Focus for the 2025/26 financial year.

In this edition, we lead with the ICASA Strategic Plan 2025-2030 which serves as the blueprint for effective regulation of the Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Postal Sector for the next five years.

We further share highlights from the Youth Month Celebration at PHL Moraka High School in Hammanskraal. The CEO of ICASA shared her journey from being a learner at the school, to leading one of South Africa's key regulatory institutions, inspiring the learners to dream big.

We then focus on the appointment of four ICASA Councillors, their appointment ensures that there is a full complement of Council in line with the ICASA Act.

This issue reflects ICASA's celebration of the ITU International Girls in ICT Day held at Ivory Park Secondary School in Tembisa. This event encouraged young women (Grade 11 - 12 Learners) specifically those studying maths and science, to consider careers in the ICT sector.

Finally we conclude with an overview of the Community Sound Broadcasting Workshops held across all 9 (nine) Provinces. These workshops were designed to guide communities through the application process.

As always, we value your feedback and encourage you to engage with us through thefocus@icasa.org.za.

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

EDITOR & EDITORIAL TEAM

ICASA's Strategic Plan 2025-2030: Charting the Course for a Connected and Inclusive Digital South Africa

We are excited to share the ICASA Strategic Plan for 2025-2030. This plan serves as the blueprint for regulation of the Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Postal Sector over the next five years.



ICASA'S CORE IDENTITY: VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

The plan is built upon a clear foundation of purpose and principles.



Vision:

A connected and inclusive digital society.



Mission:

To regulate the telecommunication, broadcasting and postal sectors in the public interest.



ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Strategic Plan is guided by various national policies and legislation, particularly Section 192 of the Constitution, the ICASA Act and the Electronic Communications Act (ECA).

The plan aligns with the government's long-term vision outlined in the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP 2030) and the priorities of the Medium-Term Development Plan 2024-2029 (MTDP 2024-29).

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ICASA's Strategic Plan 2025-2030: Charting the Course for a Connected and Inclusive Digital South Africa

OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS: KEY OUTCOMES FOR 2025-2030:



Access to Broadband Services Increased:

Aiming to improve average download speeds and expand coverage, particularly through the assignment of additional IMT Spectrum. The target is to reach an average download speed of 95Mbps by 2030, building on a baseline of 45Mbps achieved by March 2025. This contributes directly to inclusive growth and job creation by enabling businesses and stimulating economic development.



Social Cohesion and Nation-Building Enhanced:

Upholding our constitutional mandate to regulate broadcasting in the public interest and ensure fairness and diversity of views. This involves promoting public, commercial, and community broadcasting services that are responsive to public needs and reflect diverse communities. Enhancing social cohesion is seen as a way to reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living by enabling collaboration and creating a stable environment for investment.



Consumer Rights Protected:

This involves ensuring regulatory measures result in benefits for consumers, such as lower costs and increased speeds, and enforcing compliance where necessary. Protecting consumers contributes to reducing poverty and the high cost of living while enabling a more equitable digital ecosystem.



Skills Produced for the Economy in ICASA:

This will be achieved through training ICASA employees in necessary digital skills, while contributing to the national goal of equipping people with relevant skills for the digital economy.



Competition in the ICT sector promoted:

Recognising ICASA's primary mandate under the ECA to promote competition, this involves regulatory interventions, market reviews, and facilitating investment to ensure open, fair, and non-discriminatory access to services and networks.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND DRIVING EFFICIENCY

Our situational analysis highlighted several critical issues, including:

- The need for efficient spectrum management and infrastructure expansion, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- Addressing the high cost of data and devices.
- Combating cybersecurity threats, misinformation, and fraudulent activities like call masking.
- Navigating the regulatory implications of emerging technologies like AI and the convergence of services.
- Reviewing and updating universal service obligations to meet modern needs.
- Improving internal systems and processes for greater efficiency.

OUR IMPACT STATEMENT

Ultimately, our plan is geared towards achieving our impact statement for the five years:

Access for all South Africans to a variety of safe, affordable and reliable communication services for inclusive economic growth.



Youth Month Celebration at PHL Moraka High School



On 26 June 2025, ICASA hosted a Youth Month engagement at PHL Moraka High School in Hammanskraal as part of Youth Month celebration, under the theme “Accelerating Youth Economic Emancipation for a Sustainable Future.”

The event formed part of ICASA’s continued commitment to empowering young people through access to information, guidance and opportunities within the ICT sector.

This year’s engagement saw ICASA’s CEO return to her alma mater to share her journey from being a learner at the school to leading one of South Africa’s key regulatory institutions. Her motivational talk was followed by a “Circle Talk” session, a unique platform where Grade 12 learners engaged in open conversation with the CEO, asking questions about academic success, professional growth and navigating life after school.

The Film and Publication Board (FPB) supported the event by leading an informative session on online safety, age-appropriate content and digital responsibility. This intervention complemented ICASA’s broader mission of building an informed generation that is empowered to navigate the digital world responsibly.



ICASA Welcomes Newly Appointed Councillors

ICASA welcomed four (4) Councillors in June 2025 at its Head Office in Centurion. This marked a significant milestone in completing the nine (9) member Council as required by the ICASA Act.



Honourable Professor JCW van Rooyen SC (Previously Acting Judge of the High Court of South Africa) presided over the ceremony, where the newly appointed Councillors—Dr Charles Lewis, Mr Andrew Dibi Matseke, Ms Karabo Mohale and Dr Joshua Tshifhiwa Maumela pledged to act with integrity, uphold the public interest and serve the people of South Africa.

The Councillors were warmly welcomed by Chairperson Mothibi Ramusi who had a few words to share: "We welcome new members to our Council who will join the journey of guiding South Africa's digital transformation through 2030 and beyond. As we look forward to

implementing the approved Annual Performance Plan 2025/26, their skills and diversity are needed to tackle opportunities of regulating in this fast-changing digital world - from AI to universal access, while regulating the sector in the public interest".

The newly appointed Councillors bring a wealth and diverse range of experience.



Dr Charles Lewis

A former ICASA Councillor, Dr Lewis is a recognised ICT policy expert with a PhD from Wits and published work on universal access.



Mr Andrew Dibi Matseke

Mr Matseke is an experienced engineer and project manager with a strong track record in ICT and infrastructure delivery.



Ms Karabo Mohale

Ms Mohale is a Development Specialist with a Master's from the University of Sussex and extensive governance experience, including roles at NYDA and the Tshwane Institute for continuing Education-Tshwane University of Technology.



Dr Joshua Tshifhiwa Maumela

An AI and economics specialist, Dr Maumela is known for creating Africa's first AI algorithm rooted in Ubuntu Philosophy.

International Girls in ICT Day: Sparking ICT Dreams in Tembisa



On 24 April 2025, ICASA brought the energy to Ivory Park Secondary School in Tembisa to celebrate the International Girls in ICT Day. The event saw over 160 enthusiastic Grade 11 and 12 learners for a day packed with inspiration, learning and a glimpse into the future of ICT careers.

In recognition of the ITU International Girls in ICT day under the theme “Girls in ICT for Inclusive Digital Transformation,” ICASA in partnership with Ivory Park Secondary School encouraged young women, especially those studying maths and science, to consider careers in the ICT sector. The day kicked off with welcoming words from the school Deputy Principal Ms Mphela, followed by remarks from ICASA CEO Tshiamo Maluleka-Disemelo.

With Ayanda Shabalala moderating, the day featured an inspiring panel with ICASA leaders – Councillors Ntombiza

Sithole and Nompucuko Nontombana, along with Busisiwe Mashigo and Pumla Ntshalintshali – who shared their personal journeys, challenges and wins in the ICT space. From “why ICT matters” to “the future is ICT” the panel had learners hooked. The Q&A that followed buzzed with curious questions—proof that the message hit home.

To wrap up, learners were treated to a live demo of ICASA’s spectrum monitoring vehicle, led by engineers Louis Pieterse and Sandile Mthombeni – a hands-on moment that made ICT feel real, exciting, and within reach.



ICASA supports Community Sound Broadcasting Licensing Applicants



Between April and June 2025, ICASA travelled across all nine provinces to host in-person workshops, helping guide communities through the application process for community sound broadcasting service (CSBS) and radio frequency spectrum (RFS) licences. This follows the release of an invitation to pre-register (ITP-R) back in December 2024.

These sessions were open to new applicants and focused on breaking down the technical and legal details contained in the ITP-R. Topics included how to meet funding requirements, what is expected for signal coverage, and how to stay compliant with ICASA's regulatory framework.

The response was very encouraging as communities showed strong interest in the process, with participants asking questions and engaging fully. ICASA's team offered practical advice to ensure everyone understood what is expected.

Overall, the workshops were a big step in helping communities gain fair access to the airwaves. ICASA remains committed to growing the community broadcasting sector across South Africa.



Q1 Highlights: April - June 2025



Swearing in of newly appointed Councillors



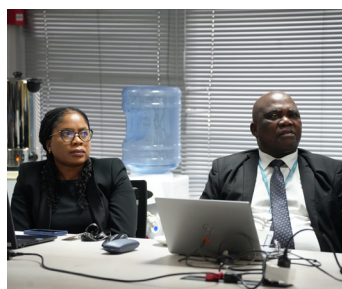
Community Sound Broadcasting Services Workshops



International Girls in ICT Day at Ivory Park Secondary School



Youth Month engagement at PHL Moraka High School



Benchmark study visit to ICASA by the Mozambique and Eswatini regulatory counterparts

