

QUESTIONS TO SENTECH

1. The 2008 DTT Regulations as amended provided for two muxes allocating capacity to the SABC, e.tv, community broadcasters and Mnet which has since given up its licence.
2. Can Sentech confirm that at present only two muxes remain operational?

SENTECH can confirm that two muxes were implemented in compliance with Policy and Regulations.

3. The proposed regulations make provision for seven muxes, including capacity for non-existing entities and testing. Does Sentech have any immediate plans to take the necessary steps to establish the remaining five muxes?

In 2022, the Authority began a process to review signal distribution services. This process proceeded as follows, namely: 1) Inquiry; 2) Discussion Document; 3) Public Hearings; 4) Further Discussions; 5) Draft Regulations; and 6) Public Hearings. SENTECH has acknowledged the inability to make any plans regarding the seven (7) multiplex plan due to the Authority's process linked to the finalisation of the *Signal Distribution Services Regulations (2025)*, which commenced with the Inquiry.

4. If it does plan to take steps to build up the mux capacity to seven muxes, then can Sentech provide the following information:

- 4.1 Details of the plan setting out time periods for the establishment of each separate mux;

N/A

4.2 The cost of establishing each additional mux at today's rate;

N/A

4.3 Whether Sentech will finance the establishment of each separate mux itself and if it has the capacity to do so. If it does not, how will the establishment of each mux be financed?

N/A

4.4 In relation to the mux allocated for testing, which will not be used on a regular basis by any broadcaster paying for transmitter capacity, who will fund the ongoing costs associated with such mux.

N/A

4.5 Will the fact that there are no longer any DTT boxes available for distribution have any impact on the DTT process.

N/A

4.6 As the government is now distributing DTH boxes to the indigent to enable them to access DTT, does this have any impact on Sentech and/or the viewers? If so, what is the impact?

N/A

5. From a technical and financial point of view, does Sentech believe that DTT has a future or is the preferable mode of distribution of television a DTH model?

SENTECH is of the view that the DTT network is still primed to enable the company to remain sustainable. The company's contributions to the ITU process,

Policy and regulation-making have always advocated for flexibility and future-proofing broadcasting to enable a hybrid terrestrial broadcasting architecture as an element of broadcast–broadband convergence under the umbrella of Next-Generation Terrestrial Broadcasting Systems. For example, the combination or integration of DVB-T2 and FeMBMS forms a hybrid or integrated terrestrial broadcast ecosystem that merges traditional DTT networks and mobile 5G broadcast delivery, aimed at providing seamless, spectrum-efficient, multi-device content delivery within a unified terrestrial ecosystem.

6. As ultimately the DTT regulations cater for ASO, and given the number of South Africans reliant on terrestrial television, can Sentech please confirm the following:

6.1 How many STBs which are being subsidised still need to be installed before ASO can take place?

SENTECH is not positioned to answer the question, as the Department is the appropriate institution to address this issue.

6.2 Whether Sentech has the required STBs available to it, whether at SAPO or otherwise?

This question is not within the scope of the Authority's process.

6.3 If it does not, how long it anticipates it will take to source and install the remaining STBs?

This question is not within the scope of the Authority's process.

6.4 Whether it or, insofar as it is aware, anyone else, is taking steps to ensure the procurement of appropriate STBs so that those members of

the public reliant on FTA television but who earn above the threshold of R3,500 a month are able to purchase them and watch free-to-air television after ASO.

SENTECH is not positioned to answer the question, as the Department is the appropriate institution to address this issue.