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## GENERAL NOTICE

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### NOTICE 1276 OF 2009

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

#### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE SOUTH AFRICAN BROADBAND POLICY

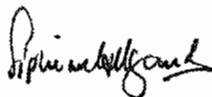
I, Gen (Ret) Sipiwe Nyanda, Minister of Communications, hereby give notice of intention to make South African Broadband Policy in the schedule in terms of section 3(1) of the Electronic Communications Act, 2005 (Act No. 36 of 2005).

Interested persons are hereby invited to furnish written submissions on the proposed South African Broadband Policy, within 30 calendar days of the date of publication of this notice at any of following addresses:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| For attention: | Mr Petrus Khoza<br>Deputy-Director: ICT infrastructure<br>Department of Communications;  |
| post to:       | Private Bag X860<br>Pretoria<br>0001;  |
| or deliver to: | First Floor, Block F<br>iParioli Office Park<br>399 Duncan Street<br>Hatfield, Pretoria; |
| or fax to:     | (012) 427 8455;  |
| or e-mail to:  | Broadband@doc.gov.za   |

Please note that submissions received after the closing date may be disregarded.

Mr. Petrus Khoza can be reached at tel. (012) 427 8057 for any enquiries.



**Gen (Ret) Sipiwe Nyanda**  
**Minister of Communications**



**the doc**

Department:  
Communications  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**DRAFT BROADBAND POLICY**  
**FOR**  
**SOUTH AFRICA**

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

## Table of Contents

|       |  |    |
|-------|--|----|
| 1     | INTRODUCTION .....   | 4  |
| 1.1   | Context .....  | 4  |
| 1.2   | Legislative framework .....  | 5  |
| 1.3   | Definition of broadband .....  | 5  |
| 2     | BROADBAND POLICY OBJECTIVE .....                                       | 6  |
| 2.1   | To build the information society .....                                 | 6  |
| 2.2   | To increase affordability .....  | 7  |
| 2.3   | Increase uptake and usage .....  | 7  |
| 3     | BENEFITS OF BROADBAND .....  | 8  |
| 3.1   | Drive economic development and GDP growth .....                        | 8  |
| 3.1.1 | Stimulate growth of SMME's and cooperatives .....                      | 8  |
| 3.1.2 | Increase employment .....  | 9  |
| 3.1.3 | Reduce the cost to communicate .....                                   | 9  |
| 3.1.4 | Improve the marketability of regions and encourage investment .....    | 9  |
| 3.2   | Socio economic .....   | 9  |
| 3.2.1 | Improved quality of education .....                                    | 9  |
| 3.2.2 | Improved quality of health services .....                              | 10 |
| 3.2.3 | Improved quality of government services .....                          | 10 |
| 4     | KEY PRIORITY AREAS .....   | 10 |
| 4.1   | Access .....   | 10 |
| 4.1.1 | Universal access to basic broadband .....                              | 10 |
| 4.1.2 | Access to broadband by needy persons .....                             | 11 |
| 4.1.3 | Government institutions must have access to affordable broadband ..... | 11 |
| 4.1.4 | Spectrum for broadband .....   | 11 |
| 4.2   | Affordability .....  | 11 |
| 4.2.1 | Create an enabling environment for broadband growth .....              | 11 |
| 4.2.2 | Telecommunications infrastructure based competition .....              | 11 |

|       |   |    |
|-------|---|----|
| 4.2.3 | Services based competition .....                  | 12 |
| 4.2.4 | Physical infrastructure sharing .....             | 12 |
| 4.3   | Usage .....                                       | 12 |
| 4.3.1 | Uptake and usage .....                            | 12 |
| 4.3.2 | Security .....                                    | 13 |
| 4.3.3 | Awareness .....                                   | 13 |
| 4.4   | Roles .....                                       | 13 |
| 4.4.1 | Role of the state.....                            | 13 |
| 4.4.2 | Provincial and local government.....              | 14 |
| 4.4.3 | State owned enterprises .....                     | 14 |
| 4.4.4 | Role of the private sector .....                  | 14 |
| 4.5   | Implementation .....                              | 15 |
| 4.5.1 | Establishment of an institutional mechanism ..... | 15 |
| 4.5.2 | Monitoring and evaluation.....                    | 15 |
| 5     | CONCLUSION.....                                   | 15 |

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 In 2007, the South African Government approved the building of an information society. This decision was based on the outcome of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society. This summit resolved that ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) infrastructure is the foundation to the development of an information society. (WSIS (World Summit on Information Society) Action Line C2: Information and Communications Infrastructure: an essential foundation for the Information Society.) The development of a Broadband policy is in line with world trends and is critical for South Africa to ensure the goal of an all inclusive information society that can enjoy the economic benefits associated with Broadband is realised in both urban and rural areas.
- 1.1.2 Broadband infrastructure is central in achieving the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICT's by all, and providing sustainable connectivity and access to remote and marginalized areas at national, provincial and municipal levels.
- 1.1.3 Currently Broadband penetration in South Africa is low, due to the unavailability of telecommunications infrastructure and the high cost of Broadband services, which causes the information society growth to be stifled. The OECD stipulate in their December 2008 Broadband statistics report that the average penetration rate for Broadband is 22.4%, South Africa had just over 1 million Broadband connections which translate into a penetration rate of 2%. South Africa is clearly well below the average penetration rate with regards to Broadband. The ITU also confirms that South Africa has a Broadband penetration rate of 2% and just over a million Broadband connections.
- 1.1.4 This policy's focus is to increase the accessibility and affordability of Broadband throughout South Africa.
- 1.1.5 Broadband Services ("always available, high speed multimedia capable network services") have been identified globally as a powerful transformative force. Affordable access to these networks has become a key policy for governments internationally. Broadband empowers the individual through access to the "Information Superhighway" which provides access to value-added local and