GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 1276 OF 2009

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE SOUTH AFRICAN BROADBAND POLICY

I, Gen (Ret) Siphiwe 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 Deputy-Director: ICT infrastructure Department of Communications;
post to:	Private Bag X860 Pretoria 0001;
or deliver to:	First Floor, Block F iParioli Office Park 399 Duncan Street 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) Siphiwe 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