

ENSafrica telecoms and media in brief

Below, please find issue 23 of the **ENSafrica** telecoms and media in brief, a snapshot of the latest tax developments in South Africa.

Telecommunications and broadcasting

- **GG 44488: Review of the ICT COVID-19 National Disaster Regulations**
 - On 23 April 2021, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("**ICASA**") published a notice inviting written representation on issues that ICASA should consider regarding the review of the ICT COVID-19 National Disaster Regulations published in Notice No. 238 (*Government Gazette* No. 43207) dated 6 April 2020, as amended, by Government Notice No. 252 (*Government Gazette* No. 43279) of 5 May 2020, Government Notice No. 500 (*Government Gazette* No. 43707) of 11 September 2020, Government Notice No. 678 (*Government Gazette* No. 43945) of 27 November 2020 and Government Notice No. 165 (*Government Gazette* No. 44374) of 31 March 2021. The ICT COVID-19 National Disaster Regulations are available [here](#).
 - A copy of the notice inviting written representations is accessible [here](#).
 - Written representations on the review of the ICT COVID-19 National Disaster Regulations must be submitted to ICASA by no later than 16h00 on 7 May 2021 by hand delivery or electronically in word and signed PDF versions and marked specifically for attention Mr Davis Kgosimolao Moshweunyane at the following Delivery address: No. 350 Witch-Hazel Avenue, Eco Point Office Park, Eco Park, Centurion or email address: Covid19regulations@icasa.org.za
- **GG44427: Code for Persons with Disabilities Regulations, 2021**
 - On 9 April 2021, ICASA published the final Code for Personal with Disabilities Regulations, 2021 ("**Regulations**"). The reasons document provides that ICASA's reason for enacting these regulations "was due to the necessary improvement on and review of the Code on People with Disabilities Regulations published in *Government Gazette* No. 30441 of 7 November 2007 ('**the previous regulations**') so as to ensure broader access to television broadcasting and electronic communications services by persons with disabilities; to enhance aspects in the previous regulations and to ensure a streamlined process of reporting by licensees."
 - The Regulations will come into effect 18 months from the date of publication being, 9 October 2022.

In the news

- **ICASA and the United States Federal Communications Commission sign an International Agreement for Collaboration**
 - On 8 April 2021, ICASA the United States Federal Communications Commission (“**FCC**”) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“**MOU**”) that will see both regulators collaborating and sharing ideas on matters of mutual interest.
 - The MOU is a non-binding framework to facilitate exchange of ideas in the field of telecommunications regulation and policy for the mutual benefit of the two regulators.
 - ICASA, in its media statement has stated that ICASA and the FCC “have agreed to carry out a programme of information exchange and technical cooperation in the field of telecoms and related services and facilities, in accordance with their respective national laws, regulations and international obligations, and within the framework of their respective annual budgetary appropriations and their respective mandates.”

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