

## ENSafrica telecoms and media in brief

Below, please find issue 25 of the **ENSafrica** telecoms and media in brief, a snapshot of the latest tax developments in South Africa.

### telecoms

- **GG 44803: Notice of Public Hearings: Notice Regarding the Draft National Radio Frequency Plan 2021 for Public Consultation**
  - On 9 July 2021, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“**ICASA**”) published a notice regarding the Draft National Radio Frequency Plan 2021 for Public Consultation, a copy of which is accessible [here](#).
  - Interested persons are invited to submit written representations on the draft update of the National Radio Frequency Plan by **no later than 16h00 on Friday, 27 August 2021**.
  - The public hearings will be held from **7 to 9 September 2021**.
  - Written representations or enquiries may be directed to:
    - 350 Witch-Hazel Avenue, Eco Point Office Park  
Eco Park, Centurion  
South Africa  
Private Bag X10,  
Highveld Park 0169  
Centurion, Pretoria  
Attention: Mr Manyapelo Richard Makgotlho  
e-mail: [rmakgotlho@icasa.org.za](mailto:rmakgotlho@icasa.org.za)

### broadcasting

- **GG44728: Notice of Public Hearings: Discussion Document on the Review of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (Advertising Infomercials and Programme Sponsorship) Regulations, 1999**
  - On 18 June 2021, ICASA published a notice advising all interested stakeholders that it would be holding public hearings on 14 July 2021 on the Review of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (Advertising Infomercials and Programme Sponsorship) Regulations, 1999.
  - ICASA published the [Discussion Document on the Review of the Independent Broadcasting Authority \(Advertising, Infomercials And Programme Sponsorship\) Regulations, 1999](#) ("**Discussion Document**"). For more on the Discussion Document, see issue 22, accessible [here](#).

- ICASA has received written comments from seven stakeholders, namely eMedia Investments, MultiChoice, Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), OUTsurance, South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and South African Screen Federation (SASFED), four of which have indicated that they are interested in public hearings.
- The hearings will be held virtually. Interested members of the public may request the link to the hearing from [shill@icasa.org.za](mailto:shill@icasa.org.za)

## in the news

- **Public Hearings held on the Must Carry Regulations**
  - On 28 June 2021, ICASA held public hearings on the draft Must Carry Regulations, a copy of which is accessible [here](#).
  - The SABC, in a [media statement](#), have welcomed the changes to the Must Carry Regulations, which requires that Multichoice and other pay-TV operators may only carry SABC channels “subject to commercially negotiable terms”.
  - Fin24 have reported that at the hearing, “Multichoice told ICASA [...] that there must be room for parties to negotiate a mutually beneficial must-carry regime, while the SABC said it needed a regime that would allow the public broadcaster to get what it believed was due to it.”
  - Multichoice have proposed that amendments to the Must Carry Regulations on hold pending policy certainty, while the SABC have stated that it would not be in the public interest to do so.
- **WASPA service that allows spam message recipients to identify senders**
  - The Wireless Application Service Providers’ Association (“**WASPA**”) has launched its new Codes project, which will allow South Africans to identify the owner of a short, long or USSD code.
  - The service is accessible [here](#) and will allow recipients to look up the sender’s details of marketing communications. Unfortunately, the details of the sender will only appear if the organisation is WASPA member.
  - With the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 now in force, this service may assist frustrated recipients identify the sender of communications and request them to remove their details or otherwise lay a complaint with the Information Regulator.
  - Additionally, the service can be used by consumer’s to verify that they are communicating with a reputable organisation.

For more information please contact:

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