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INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

GENERAL NOTICE 4180 OF 2026

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

DEPARTMENT: ICASA

NOTICE NO: 4130

GAZETTE NO: 55299

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT A MARKET INQUIRY INTO THE AFFORDABILITY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. On 4 September 2026, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority") published Notice 4130 of 2026 in Government Gazette No. 55299, giving notice of its intention to conduct a Market Inquiry into the Affordability of Telecommunications Services in South Africa in terms of section 4B of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act, 2000 (Act No. 13 of 2000).

2. The Authority hereby gives notice that Notice 4130 of 2026 is withdrawn with effect from the date of publication of this Notice.

Mothibi G. Ramusi
Chairperson
Date: 28/09/2026

GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE ___ OF 2026

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT MARKET INQUIRY

INTO THE AFFORDABILITY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority") hereby publishes a notice of intention to conduct an inquiry into the affordability of telecommunications services in South Africa, in terms of section 4B of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act, 2000 (Act No.13 of 2000), to the extent reflected in the Schedule.

Mothibi G Ramusi

Chairperson

GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE ___ OF 2026

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT MARKET INQUIRY

INTO THE AFFORDABILITY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority") hereby gives notice of its intention to conduct an inquiry into the affordability of telecommunications services in South Africa, in terms of section 4B of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act, 2000 (Act No.13 of 2000) ("the ICASA Act").

1.2. This Inquiry is explicitly aligned with ICASA's statutory mandate, previous market inquiries into data services, and its role in monitoring pricing outcomes following spectrum assignment and pro-competitive interventions.

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

2.1 Section 4B of the ICASA Act states the following:

"The Authority may conduct an inquiry into any matter with regard to:

(a) the achievement of the objects of this Act or underlying statutes;

(b) regulations and guidelines made in terms of this Act or the underlying statutes;

(c) compliance by applicable person with this Act and the underlying statutes;

(d) compliance with the terms and conditions of any licence by the holder of such licence issued pursuant to the underlying statues; and

(e) the exercise and performance of its powers, functions and duties in terms of this Act or the underlying statutes."

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE INQUIRY

3.1. Affordable access to telecommunications services is a critical enabler of digital inclusion, economic participation, education, and service delivery. Despite progress in network coverage and mobile broadband penetration in South Africa, concerns persist regarding the affordability of voice and broadband services, particularly for low-income households, rural communities, youth, and informal sector workers.

3.2. The purpose of this Inquiry is to investigate the affordability of telecommunication services in South Africa and potential regulatory or market interventions, in terms of section 4B of the ICASA Act.

4. THE INQUIRY PROCESS

4.1. The Authority will commence and conduct the inquiry in a series of phases as follows:

4.2. Phase 1 (commencement of the market inquiry)

4.2.1. The Authority publishes

(a) notice of intention to conduct an inquiry into affordability of telecommunications services, in the *Gazette;* and

(b) a supply-side questionnaire for Electronic Communications Service providers on affordability of telecommunications services inquiry, on its website.

4.2.2. Stakeholders will be given ten (10) working days, from the date of publication of this Notice and the supply-side questionnaire, to send comments on the questionnaire.

4.2.3. The Authority will respond to all comments by publishing a briefing note on its website within ten (10) working days after the final date for submission of comments on the questionnaire.

4.2.4. Stakeholders are invited to submit written responses to the supply-side questionnaire within forty-five (45) working days from the date of publication of the above-mentioned briefing note.

4.2.5. The Authority may request one-on-one meetings in relation to information submitted by a stakeholder, where necessary to clarify information that is submitted.

4.2.6. Additionally, the Authority will conduct a consumer survey to assess the affordability of telecommunications services from the demand-side perspective.

4.3. Phase 2 (Discussion Document)

4.3.1. A Discussion Document will be published for public comment for a period of forty-five (45) working days.

4.3.2. Stakeholders may submit written representations on the Discussion Document by the set deadline and must indicate whether they require an opportunity to make oral representations, should the Authority hold public hearings.

4.3.3. Written representations on the Discussion Document will be made available for public scrutiny on the Authority's website.

4.4. Phase 3 (Public Hearings on the Discussion Document)

4.4.1. The Authority may hold public hearings and confirm details of the hearings in a notice to be published on the Authority's website.

4.4.2. The notice to be published in terms of clause 4.4.1 above will contain the date (s) and the order to which interested persons will be expected to make the oral representations to the Authority.

4.4.3. At the hearings, affected stakeholders may be requested to provide supplementary information, within seven (7) working days.

4.5. Phase 4 (Findings Document)

Within Ninety (90) days from the date of conclusion of the Inquiry, the Authority will publish a summary of its findings in the Government Gazette and on the Authority's website.

5. Confidentiality

5.1. Stakeholders may request confidentiality, in terms of section 4D of the ICASA Act, on information submitted to the Authority during this review process.

5.2. Such request for confidentiality must be accompanied by a confidential and non-confidential version of the stakeholder's submission.

5.3. The Authority hereby refers stakeholders to the Guidelines for Confidentiality, published on 17 August 2018 in Gazette No 41839, to assist stakeholders when requesting confidentiality.

All communication relating to this process must be directed to the Chairperson (Affordability Market Inquiry) on affordtelecominquiry@icasa.org.za.

GENERAL NOTICE

WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICES REGARDING ICASA'S INTENTION TO CONDUCT MARKET INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF OTT SERVICES ON LICENSEES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority") hereby withdraws Notice No. 4129 published in Government Gazette No. 55299 of 4 September 2026 and Notice 4148 published in Government Gazette No. 55357 of 9 September 2026.

2. The Notices above are withdrawn in their entirety effective from the date of publication of this Notice.

Mothibi G. Ramusi
Chairperson
Date: 28/09/**2026**

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