

**Opening Remarks by ICASA Chairperson, Dr Stephen Mncube, for the EASSY Management Committee Meeting on 04 Aug 2010**

Thank you Mr Programme Director for the introduction, and for extending the invitation to open the 16<sup>th</sup> EASSY Cable Management Committee Meeting.

I am told it is for the first time that South Africa is hosting this important gathering of industry heavyweights coming from various parts of the continent.

I feel honoured in many respects because a meeting of this nature is in the preserve of a Head of State or at least a Cabinet Minister responsible for the communications industry.

The coming into operation of the EASSY Cable represents an important milestone for the participating countries and their respective telecoms companies.

It is in the telecoms industry, and in particular the laying of submarine cables that the continent is witnessing extensive collaboration among national and trans-national companies.

I submit that such collaboration is in the spirit of NEPAD and the quest put the continent on a new path.

It is the pulling together of resources for the common good that offers better prospects for the continent's burgeoning ICT industries.

It is also this coming together that provides hope for the people of this continent in their quest for progress and development.

Investment in infrastructure is instrumental in enabling the continent to realise its Millennium Goals of using the ICT to fight poverty, ignorance and disease.

It is through infrastructure investment that the digital divide can be narrowed, so that millions of our people can access medical care, education and access to other government and public services that they so dearly need and deserve.

From the regulator's perspective, the Authority's role is one of enabling ventures such as EASSY Cable to prosper and flourish.

ICASA's doors are open for increased engagement with stakeholders to make the communications sector a sector of choice for investors, both local, regional and international.

Together with other regulators, starting at the SADC level, ICASA seeks to promote harmonisation of regulations and standards.

This is the spirit in which EASSY Cable is being viewed from a regulatory viewpoint.

I hope and believe that you will have incisive and fruitful discussions as you prepare for commercial launch of your venture.

I wish you well in your deliberations.

I thank you.