

Chairperson Address to Council and Senior Management Strategic Session

30 October 2013

Welcome remarks....

I would like to welcome you all to this important gathering of Council and Senior management, the 2013/14 Strategic Session

We hold this Strategic Session in the aftermath of the DoC Strategic Session held a month ago, for purposes of aligning our respective programmes with the aim of providing policy and regulatory leadership to this multi-billion rand electronic communications industry.

Welcome remarks...

We are also meeting at a time of change and transition...

Earlier in the year, we welcomed and showed Minister Carrim around our regulatory terrain

He was eager to see changes and the impact we make in the industry and in the lives of the citizenry

Welcome remarks

We responded promptly, with new reductions in the call termination costs

On our shores, changes came with the new interim arrangement, making Council responsible for regulatory programmes

Change is still unfolding with the organizational re-alignment process, and now in transition with regard to the Chief Executive Officer position

Welcome remarks...

As we bid farewell to Themba Dlamini, we thank him for his unwavering contribution and commitment. He is working up to his last minute on his contract to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr Dlamini, we are grateful for everything you did during your tenure, and would like to wish you well.

At the same time, I would like to welcome Pakamile Pongwana to the Authority. Council, Senior Management and staff are ready to work with you in delivering our mandate, and improving the lives of our people through the regulation of electronic communication services

Welcome remarks...

Although, the process of inducting and orientating the new CEO, formal presentations by divisions should be held shortly outlining their respective activities – how the regulatory and the corporate elements operate.

Of particular significance to Mr Pongwana is familiarity with the current and previous Auditor General Management Letters.

These will give a picture of where the Authority is coming from, and where it is going.

You are no stranger to this industry, this is your opportunity to also make an indelible mark – not only for yourself, but for our people as well.

Welcome remarks...

So whatever we do today in this session, is not about ourselves, but for the industry, our people and the country.

People come and go, by the service provided by the Authority remain, and should do so perpetually, I hope

Core Issues...

I would like to turn to issues affecting our business, and how to approach some of these issues going forward....

Annual Report Tabling...

The tabling of the Annual Report is now a closed chapter, even the PPCC admitted to the poor coordination of the requisite process.

ICASA's subsequent presentation was well received, in particular the issuance of a clear audit by the Auditor General.

We have to continue every year to make sure that we don't get audit qualifications anymore.

Organisational Re-Alignment

This is the biggest change process the Authority will be going through in the next 12 month or , pertaining to:

- The Dual Career Stream
 - Specialist stream
 - Managerial stream
- Regional Offices
 - Need for a re-configuration of the Regional Offices in terms role, scope and mandate
 - Are regional offices operational or strategic?
 - What needs to be done to strengthen ICASA's regional footprint across the country
 - Geographic representation, launch of new offices such as Mpumalanga and North West
- Internal communications and consultations are very important

International Relations Framework

Representation and participation in ITU, UPU, African Telecoms Union and Pan African Postal Union channeled through government, the DoC , in our case.

- Alignment of policy-maker's and regulatory agency's international relations framework very important, and dovetail with country's foreign policy imperatives
- Role of electronic communications in trade issues and trade agreements
- DoC to share with ICASA relevant documentation to ensure alignment of international framework, including Travel Policy
- ICASA to position and align its SADC/CRASA framework for the regulatory environment with country foreign policy objectives

20th Anniversary of Sector-Specific regulation

South Africa was one of the first countries to adopt the ITU advisory to establish a sector-specific regulatory agency

- Tallies with SA 20 years of democracy
- GCIS and DoC started coordinating events with State-Owned entities and Institutions
- Need to tell the ICASA story in various media platforms, starting from Q4 into the 2014/15 financial year

General Elections 2014

Authority plays important role in ensuring free and fair General and Municipal Elections

- Partnership with IEC to be maintained and strengthened
- Communications and Media Plan for ICASA's role important

Parting Shot

Policy and regulation are intertwined, the one is broad macro policy, and the other is micro seeking to articulate and actualize macro policy at a service provision level

As two sides of a coin, electronic communications policy and regulation should would see the communications sector assuming and maintaining its role as the motor that drives the South African economy.