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GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**NOTICE 1513 OF 2022****BROADCASTING DIGITAL MIGRATION POLICY (AS AMENDED):****CONSULTATION ON DATE FOR FINAL SWITCH-OFF OF THE ANALOGUE SIGNAL AND THE END OF DUAL ILLUMINATION**

The Constitutional Court judgment in the matter between e.tv (Pty) Limited v the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Case: CCT 89/22 delivered on 28 June 2022, stated in paragraph 103 thereof, the following:

“...All parties agree that there is a need for South Africa to migrate to digital and for the analogue switch-off to imminently take place. Analogue switch-off is an urgent, and unfortunately much delayed, national priority. Therefore, once adequate notice is given to the public to make informed decisions on whether to register for an STB, digital migration should proceed without further delay”.

The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies in giving effect to the Constitutional Court’s judgment, published a Notice in Government Gazette 46683 of 2002 dated 8 July 2022 providing members of the public with adequate notification that the deadline to register for Government subsidised Set Top Boxes (STBs), is 30 September 2022 to afford members of the public a further opportunity to apply. It must be borne in mind that the process to register for STBs started in 2015 and the Constitutional Court stated the following:

“I must point out that when determining a time period for further registration of STBs, this process is not required to start from scratch, and the Minister may legitimately take into account the opportunities already afforded to qualifying and indigent persons to register”.

Following processes embarked on from 2015 which included amongst others, partnership with provincial governments, imbizos and door to door awareness raising campaigns, media platforms were also utilised to inform the public of the deadline for registrations which include the following:

- 1) SABC Television and Radio Stations;
- 2) 119 Community Radio Stations;
- 3) Physical engagement in various provinces in collaboration with Local Government and House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders;

- 4) Social media platforms of the Department and its portfolio entities.

The Minister further embarked on engagements such as the distribution and installations of STBs and held media briefings on Broadcasting Digital Migration, which were held on:

- 1) 05 October 2021 - GCIS Media Room, Pretoria, GP;
- 2) 24 November 2021 - GCIS Media Room, Pretoria, GP;
- 3) 21 April 2022 - The Capital Pearls Hotel, Umhlanga, KZN;
- 4) 28 April 2022 - GCIS Media Room, Pretoria, GP;
- 5) 24 June 2022 - GCIS Media Room, Pretoria, GP;
- 6) 7 July 2022 - GCIS Media Room, Pretoria, GP; and
- 7) 25 August 2022 - GCIS Media Room, Pretoria, GP.

Having given effect to the Constitutional Court's directive, I, **Khumbudzo Ntshavheni**, Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, now therefore, in accordance with section 85(2)(c) of the Constitution, 1996 read with paragraph 3.3.1 of the Broadcasting Digital Migration Policy published in Government Notice No. 958, Government *Gazette* No. 31408 of 08 September 2008, as amended, intend to determine the date for final switch-off of the analogue signal and the end of dual illumination, as **31 March 2023**.

The public and all interested parties are invited to provide written comments on or before 27 January 2023, addressed to:

The Director-General
Department of Communication and Digital Technologies
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Written comment received after the closing date will not be considered.


KHUMBUDZO NTSHAVHENI, MP

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

