



ECA amendment Bill Submission.

The ECA bill is highly welcomed as it is seen to be responding to an industry that has for long been left to operate in its own corner and moving very slow on the country's transformation agenda.

Entering into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, South Africa notes that for it to continue on an upward growth trajectory we need to focus on ICT and Telecoms space for us to remain competitive.

Many economies note clearly that for a country to experience growth and job creation, a bulk of those will be created by SMMEs.

It is with this that our submission seeks to focus mainly on participation, and to put it blunt **meaningful participation** by previously disadvantaged (**Black**) SMMEs within the ICT space in the following initiatives:

1. **WOAN** – a minimum allocation to be rein fenced of between 50% - 60% for ownership by Black SMMEs within ICT industry. (This is both for the infrastructure company and for the service company, if it will be separated into 2 companies, one that manages the infrastructure and another doing sales and service portion).
2. **Funding** – a special funding from the existing funding institutions should be allocated, and DTSP alongside the ICT Industry through the collective from different organizations will work together in applying and acquiring approvals for such a funding from the funding institutions (SEFA, IDC, NEF etc.) Once the soon to be established DDF (Digital Development Fund) is in place, it will have to be mandated to have a set aside of funds which will deal strictly with previously disadvantage ICT SMME funding.
3. **We would like to reiterate our call to increase the SMME set aside to 60%**
4. Institutions such as the IDC, the PIC, the SA Development Bank; provincial Economic Development Agencies and all the commercial Bank Industry put their ICT development funds into the Digital Dividend Fund.
5. SITA ICT infrastructure bill must ensure that the current SITA setup is dismantled to ensure broad participation to SMME s , also ensure that more than 2 billion of SITA procumbent is dedicated to Black SMMEs , This bill must also ensure that relevant funding is enabled to fund any innovative idea
6. **RAPID** deployment national coordinating center must ensure that SMME are afforded a stake in the National spectrum distribution
7. ICT Structure to formulate a consortium of SMMEs that will hold 50% ownership than 50% Government owned.
8. **WOAN** must have a clear amendment to redress effective participants by targeted groups including **women, youth and person with disabilities**. Policy directed by minister must be issued to the Authority in terms of the Section 5 (6)



9. **WOAN (Wireless Open Access Network) –** The proposed Bill must seek to enable the licensing of a Wireless Open Access Network to provide wholesale electronic communication network services on open access principle. The WOAN must be able to address issues such as
 - Diversity of ownership and control
 - Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
 - Effective participants by targeted groups including **women, youth and person with disabilities.**

10. SMME strategy must seek to focus on:
 - Growth and Entry** i.e. Broadband (Phase 1), Services, Content (ISP's, Supplier Training Development)
 - Research** i.e. E-Commerce
 - Establish more integrated ICT Initiatives**
11. The minister needs to do a spectrum planning and allocation, there must be a use it or lose it' principle. The Minister must share the current ownership statistics to have a broad view with intention to ensure diversity in terms of Ownership, in this case blacks SMME must be given preference .

12. We strongly support the role of the deployment of national co-ordinating centre, the database should be available to the SMME's and access to fiber in different areas also be granted to SMME's. It's proposed that the co-ordinating center provide a database for existing TVWS spectrum in various areas including areas where migration to analog has not happened.
13. The rapid deployment steering committee must be represented by ICT stakeholders such as PBICT, BITF and ICT CHAMBER and it must ensure and the rapid deployment national coordinating center must include deployed members of I.T SMME organizations to form part of the program.
14. **Role of SALGA and Municipalities**
Municipalities must provide information on existing and planned municipal infrastructure including ICT infrastructure to the Rapid deployment coordinating center in digitized format.
15. The above enables SMME's to engage with SALGA and the municipality in collaborating on ICT projects. We propose that SMME's / co-operatives are empowered in this sector and development projects that will enhance connectivity and other related services.
Access to high sites for radio based systems.
16. We propose that SMME's are provided with access to Television White Spaces (TVWS) in areas where analog migration been implemented and where TVWS spectrum is available.

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#AccessAndOwnership

17. As SMME's in the ICT sector we have done site acquisitions and built substations in some rural areas, can such funds be provided to smaller ISP's for infrastructure to increase connectivity in under serviced areas at affordable rates.
18. Access to rights of way, public infrastructure as well as public electronic communication facilities through government facilitation.
We support the above statement with emphasis for access to towers based in townships and access to Fiber in relevant areas.

PBICT GAUTENG SECRETARY

WILLIAM LEDWABA

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