



# **PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BROADCASTING DIGITAL MIGRATION**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

At the last meeting, we provided the committee with an update on the ruling and outcome of the Constitutional Court on the matter between the Minister, eTV and others.

Since the last meeting, The Broadcast Digital Migration(BDM) project continues across the country with focus on the followings;

- Creation of BDM awareness focusing on the 30th of September registration deadline, project progress and digital migration benefits.
- Registration of Households Qualifying for Subsidized STBs.
- Installations of Set-Top boxes to qualifying households
- Implementation of the Con-Court ruling



# CREATION OF BDM AWARENESS



We have to ensure that our citizens are aware of the Digital migration process, understand the process benefits and know what they are expected to do to ensure that they are not left behind or negatively affected by the analogue switch-off. Our Broadcast digital migration messages must reach South Africans, irrespective of where they are, and our engagement processes are designed to ensure this.

In July, the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies announced the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 as the final date for applications of Government subsidized Set-Top Boxes. The extended window aim to provide a further opportunity for needy households to make applications and register for Government Subsidized STBs.

To ensure heightened awareness on the BDM process and the 30th of September applications date we adopted a multiprong approach as follows;

- We are broadcasting key messages on SABC public Radios in different languages to the tune of 5-6 slots per radio stations per day and 3 Slots for the 3 SABC Television channels.
- The SABC has the widest Radio and Television Coverage across the country, and they are appointed to champion broadcasting awareness messages to the public of South Africa.



# CREATION OF BDM AWARENESS



- We are collaborating with Community Media to drive the digital migration message home, in this regards , we are working 96 community Broadcasters to Broadcast the BDM message 3 time a day.
- We are conducting physical community engagement meetings in various provinces to educate our people about Digital migration, Drive registrations and STB installations in various communities. Since the last update, we held awareness activities in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng and Limpopo provinces.
- We are collaborating with the House of Traditional Affairs and Khoisan and the South African Local Government Authority (SALGA) as the central point of engagement with tribal communities and the public to disseminate the digital migration message to the public of South Africa.
- We are also utilising the social media platforms to further disseminate the message to the public of South Africa as can be seen on the platform of the DCDT and other participating entities.

Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies recently visited post offices in the 6 provinces of Northern Cape, Northwest, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free-State and the Eastern Cape to evaluate progress made on issuing of STB to the public. We are comfortable that there are no STBs issued to beneficiaries that are laying at Post Offices and continue to facilitate that STB be allocated and installed to Registered households.

The total number of new registered households between April 2022 and July 2022 now stands at 61,155 and this translates to an average of 15,288 registrations per month, therefore representing a decline in STB applications and registrations. Towards the STB registration deadline, we are evaluating registration data for the months of August and September.

Based on the consolidated number of registrations and installations, we are now left with approximately 200 000 installations to complete.



During the past period, we have been aggressively engaging the public to create awareness on matters of the BDM project as highlighted in previous slide.

After the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, we will consolidate number of new applications and registrations. We will evaluate the new registrations against the progress made with installations after the end of September 2022.

The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies will hereafter commence consultations with other stakeholders on the Final Analogue Switch-off (ASO) date.

During the next months, our teams will remain on the ground to drive STB installations and create awareness across the country, this is necessary to ensure that registered households are installed as we move towards terminating analogues services in the remaining four provinces.



- MNET/CSN has switched off analogue nationally. The SABC analogue transmission has been switched-off in the five provinces of the Free-State, Northern Cape, North-West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. During the past period eTV switched off additional 5 sites.
- In the 5 provinces ( FS, NC, NW, MPL, LP) where the SABC and Mnet analogue Services have been switched off, Sentech has concluded frequency restacking of spectrum bands for completion of digital migration in these provinces.
- ICASA is continuing to release the auctioned High Demand spectrum in these 5 provinces
- This process will enable the Telecommunication network operators to decongest the networks with the deployment of 4G and 5G networks.
- Until the ASO is achieved in Gauteng, Western-Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Eastern Cape digital migration cannot be completed and all the auctioned spectrum cannot be released.



- The STB installations process employs local SMMEs and creates employment opportunity for youth and women across the 9 provinces
- The newly appointed installed have been onboarded and they are positively impacting on the STB installations progress.
- During the month of August, the Minister engaged Women installers to motivate them to scale their business and grow their capabilities to ramp-up installations and be ready for the next ICT related opportunities.
- We want to harness the capacity created by the BDM project to Broaden Youth and Women participation in ICT opportunities.





- STB installations drive to ensure that registered household are installed with STBs as we approach the final ASO date for South Africa.
- Heightened Communication and Awareness Campaigns, to ensure that South African households prepare for the ASO.
- BDM Stakeholder engagements on the Analogue Switch-off date.
- Announcement of the final Analogue Switch-Off date for South Africa by the Minister.

