## GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

## INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA NOTICE 397 OF 2019



## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS ACT, 2005 (ACT NO. 36 OF 2005)

## LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM OF THE MORATORIUM ON COMMUNITY SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE APPLICATIONS

- On 22 September 2015, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority") published a Notice of a Moratorium in respect of Applications for Class Community Sound Broadcasting Service Licences and Applications for Radio Frequency Spectrum for Purposes of Providing a Community Broadcasting Service<sup>1</sup> ("the Moratorium").
- 2. The imposition of the Moratorium was necessitated by:
  - 2.1. A scarcity of analogue radio frequencies;
  - 2.2. The review of the Authority's Licensing Processes and Procedures Regulations wherein it intends to process registrations for class community broadcasting licences in two intervals per year; and
  - 2.3. The development of a new regulatory framework for community broadcasting services.
- 3. The Authority further indicated in the above-mentioned notice that the Moratorium would be lifted by a notice published in the Government Gazette.
- 4. The Authority published a new framework for community broadcasting in the form of the Community Broadcasting Services Regulations 2019<sup>2</sup> on 22 March 2019 ("New Community Broadcasting Framework").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Government Gazette No. 39226

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Government Gazette No 42323

- 5. Accordingly, the Authority hereby gives notice of the lifting of the Moratorium.
- 6. The Authority will consider applications for class community sound broadcasting service licences and radio frequency spectrum for purposes of providing a community broadcasting service in line with the New Community Broadcasting Framework which amongst others provides that the Authority must;
  - 6.1. publish an invitation for prospective applicants to submit pre-registration notice;
  - 6.2. decide on the pre-registration notice within ninety (90) days after the closing date for submission of the pre-registration notice; and
  - 6.3. Where the Authority is satisfied that the Applicant meets the requirements for the granting of a licence, the Authority will communicate such decision to the Applicant in writing, following which the Applicant may lodge the application for a community broadcasting service licence within thirty (30) days of the Authority's written communication.
- 7. The Authority will publish a invitation for prospective applicants to submit a preregistration notice and list of available frequencies in each district and local municipality as per the Terrestrial Broadcasting Frequency Plan 2013<sup>3</sup>, within three (3) months of publication of this notice.

Dr, Keabetswe Modimoeng Acting Chairperson

Date: 16/07/2019

<sup>3</sup> Published in Government Gazette No. 36321 dated 02 April 2013