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**GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS**

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**INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA****GENERAL NOTICE 3845 OF 2026****POSTAL SERVICES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 124 OF 1998) ("PSA")**

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**NOTICE REGARDING THE RENEWAL APPLICATION OF SAPO 'S RESERVED  
POSTAL SERVICE LICENCE**

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1. On 17 August 2001, South African Post Office ("SAPO") was granted a twenty-five (25) year licence<sup>1</sup> by the then Department of Communications, now Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, herein referred to as ("Department") to provide reserved postal services (as defined in the PSA) and to provide basic postal services to the public. The reasons for the Department to grant the licence was that the then Postal Regulator was a new branch in the Department.
2. In 2006, the functions of the Postal Regulator were transferred to ICASA through a merger in terms of the ICASA Amendment Act No 3 of 2006 expanding the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority/ICASA") mandate to also regulate the postal sector.
3. SAPO's Reserved Postal Service Licence<sup>2</sup> was then aligned to the provisions of the ICASA Act in 2008 and further amended in 2012 to adapt quality of service performance and targets to the adjusted targets. The licence has since expired on, 31 March 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> Licence issued to the South African Post Office Limited in terms of Section 16 of the Postal Services Act, 1998 as published in Government Gazette No. 22574 dated, 17 August 2001

<sup>2</sup> Amended Postal Services Licence for South African Post Office Limited as published in Government Gazette No. 35080 dated 24 February 2012.

4. On 30 March 2025, the Authority received an application from SAPO for the renewal of its Reserved Postal Service Licence.
5. The application for the renewal of the SAPO Reserved Postal Services licence was made in terms of section 18(1) of the PSA.
6. Section 18 (1) of the PSA provides as follows: *"A licensee may, during the prescribed period, apply for the renewal of his or her licence."*
7. Section 18 (2) of the PSA provides as follows: *"If the requirements of subsection (1) have been complied with, a licence continues to be valid until such time as a decision has been made regarding the application for its renewal."*
8. The application seeks approval from the Authority to renew SAPO Reserved Postal Services Licence for a further 25 years, to ensure uninterrupted service delivery to the entire Republic of South Africa including the communities that fall within SA Post Office's Universal Service Obligation ("USOs").
9. The renewal application for SAPO will be made available and open for inspection by any interested parties in the Authority's library, during the Authority's office hours and on the Authority's website: [www.icasa.org.za](http://www.icasa.org.za).
10. There is currently no legislated process on the envisaged renewal in terms of section 18 (1) of the PSA. The Authority is therefore, publishing this notice to determine the best process to follow in considering the renewal of SAPO's service licence in the interest of fairness and transparency.
11. The Authority is hereby seeking public comments on the proposed **renewal process as outlined in table A below**, regarding SAPO 's Reserved Postal Service Licence, within 30 working days from the date of publication of this notice.
12. All written comments must be directed to the Licensing Department, at Block B, 350 Witch – Hazel Avenue, Eco Point Office Park, Eco Park, Centurion **OR** Private Bag X10, Highveld Park, 0169 **OR** by e-mail:  
[CG\\_SAPORENEWALCOMMITTEE@icasa.org.za](mailto:CG_SAPORENEWALCOMMITTEE@icasa.org.za)

**Table A: Proposed licence renewal process**

<b>Activity</b>
<b>1. Consultation with SAPO</b> The Authority will consult SAPO regarding the renewal application and the proposed draft licence terms and conditions.
<b>2. Publish draft licence terms and conditions</b> Interested stakeholders will be afforded an opportunity to make written submission.
<b>3. Public hearings</b> The Authority will afford the public an opportunity to present their written submissions.
<b>4. Publication of the Authority's Decision</b> The Authority's final decision will be published in the Government Gazette.



**MOTHIBI G. RAMUSI**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

**DATE: 05/11/2025**