



**Independent Communications Authority of South Africa**  
Pinmill Farm, 164 Katherine Street, Sandton  
Private Bag X10002, Sandton, 2146

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

**Tel: +27 11 321-8215**

**Fax: +27 11 321-8547**

11 January 2000

Patrick A. Boateng  
International Bureau  
FCC

Fax: 091-202-4182370

Dear Patrick

**REGULATOR CONSULTATIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS**

Thank you for faxing the amended Work Programme. I have attached the faxed copy with Mandla Langa's signature for your records. Unfortunately, the copy was not a good one but I think it will suffice for present purposes. I look forward to receiving the original in the mail.

regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Markovitz', written over a dark, scribbled-out area.

**MICHAEL MARKOVITZ**  
**ADVISOR TO THE CHAIRPERSON**

**Councillors: YT Carrim, WH Curric, JN Hope, M Langa (Chairperson), L Lloyd, LMS Ncetezo, N Smuts**

**UNITED STATES FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND THE  
INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**REGULATOR CONSULTATIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS**

**DECEMBER 2000 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001**

**Introduction**

The United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) have agreed to renew cooperative activities. The two organizations have developed the following Work Program to guide their cooperation during the twelve-month period.

**WORK PROGRAM**

**Rulemaking Procedures and the Public Process**

The year will see ICASA continuing South Africa's established public process in the making of various regulatory rules and regulations. This is an extremely important process, and ICASA and the FCC will continue consultations in this area.

The FCC will be available to provide ICASA advice on numerous aspects of the administrative process throughout this period, including internal agency structure, the rulemaking process, the proper role of ICASA's staff and Council, issues relating to the processing of applications, delegation of authority issues, and conflict of interest management. The Work Program envisions continuous contact and consultations on these and other related issues between FCC and ICASA staff.

**Universal Access and Consumer Issues**

Throughout the year, the FCC will be available to provide ICASA with policy and technical advice regarding the expansion of universal access to telecommunications throughout South Africa. Advice will focus on strategies aimed at attracting investment, fostering competition and choice for the public, ensuring open access to the network, and providing for appropriate and flexible regulations. The two agencies will discuss the relationship between telecommunications and education, health care and the environment, and access to advanced telecommunications services by libraries.

**Competition and Interconnection**

Throughout the year, the FCC will be available to provide advice to ICASA on methods of promoting competition and choice for the public through regulatory interconnection policy, numbering plans, and other regulatory structures and processes. These discussions will include consultations on specific ICASA proposals related to these topics. One of these topics will be the introduction of a new rate regime for Public Switched Telecommunications Service.

### **Telecommunications Licensing**

In pursuit of South Africa's policy to provide greater choice for its citizens in the telecommunications sector, the FCC and ICASA will regularly consult on the various issues surrounding licensing in telecommunications.

### **Spectrum Management and Monitoring**

As South Africa continues the process of delivering on the promise of universal access to communications services for all its citizens, the users of the spectrum will need unencumbered, interference-free use of the spectrum. Serving the public interest in this regard will require prudent management of this scarce resource. The FCC will be available to provide ICASA with policy and technical advice in this challenging area during the course of the Work Program.

### **Information Technology Infrastructure Development**

ICASA is aware of the sensitivity and confidentiality of certain information, databases, and other data necessary for the proper functioning of an independent regulatory agency. Therefore, during the course of the Work Program, ICASA will consult with FCC experts in information technology, confidential information management, and database management to gain insights in order to improve its handling of sensitive data and information.

### **Telecommunications and Broadcasting Training**

During the period of the Work Program, ICASA and the FCC will continue cooperation in staff training on current and emerging telecommunications and broadcasting issues and topics.

### **Broadcasting Licensing and Policy Development**

During the period of the Work Program, the FCC will be available to provide advice and exchange views on broadcasting policy development, including topics such as digital terrestrial television, the development of ownership rules and market definitions, broadcasting formats and implications of convergence. The FCC will also assist ICASA in developing streamlined procedures for the licensing of broadcasting operators.

### **Organizational Development**

Noting that ICASA is still undergoing a transformative process that will lead to a properly merged institution able to regulate the converging telecommunications and broadcasting industries, the FCC will assist ICASA in matters relating the structure and financing of the regulator, as well as other organizational development issues.

### **Other Exchanges**

Throughout the year, the FCC and ICASA will continue to exchange information on other regulatory issues relating to communications, trends in technology, satellite licensing issues, and operational aspects of communications services, including experimental authorizations and new services.

This work program is subject to the resources constraints of both organizations and may be modified as necessary by mutual agreement

*William E. Kennard*

William E. Kennard, Chairman, FCC

Date: January 9, 2001

*Mandla Langa*

Mandla Langa, Chairperson, ICASA

Date: January 11, 2001