Friday, 21 August 2026]

No 138—2026] THIRD SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST 2026

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Referral to Committees of Bills introduced

(1) The following Bill is referred to the **Standing Committee on Finance** for consideration and report:

(a) **Long-term Insurance Amendment Bill** [B17–2026] (National Assembly – sec 75).

(2) The following Bill is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development** for consideration and report:

(a) **Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Amendment Bill** [B19–2026] (National Assembly – sec 75).

2. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

(1) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development**:

(a) Proclamation Notice No. R.331, published in *Government Gazette* No. 55151, dated 7 August 2026: Referral of matters to existing Special Investigating Unit and Special Tribunal: In respect of the affairs of the Northern Cape Department of Education, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

(b) Proclamation Notice No. R.332, published in *Government Gazette* No. 55151, dated 7 August 2026: Further Amendment of Proclamation No. R. 3618 of 2023, as amended by Proclamation No. 216 of 2024: Chris Hani District Municipality, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

(c) Proclamation Notice No. R.333, published in *Government Gazette* No. 55151, dated 7 August 2026: Referral of matters to existing Special Investigating Unit and Special Tribunal: In respect of the affairs of the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

(d) Proclamation Notice No. R.334, published in *Government Gazette* No. 55151, dated 7 August 2026: Referral of matters to existing Special Investigating Unit and Special Tribunal: In respect of the affairs of the Knysna Local Municipality, in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act No. 74 of 1996).

National Council of Provinces

The Chairperson

1. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

(1) The following papers are referred to the **Select Committee on Economic Development and Trade** for consideration.

(a) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism (signed: 13 May 2026), tabled in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

(b) Explanatory Memorandum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism.

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Speaker and the Chairperson

(a) Prudential Authority's Revised Budget, Estimates of Expenditure, Fees and Levies Proposals for 2026/2027, in terms of the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017).

National Assembly

1. The Speaker

(a) Reply by the Minister of Public Service and Administration to *Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration on the Annual Performance Plans 2026/27 and Budget Vote 11 of the Department of Public Service and Administration*, as adopted by the House on 4 June 2026.

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Oversight Report of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services to Grootvlei Maximum Correctional Centre, dated 18 August 2026.

The Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services undertook its oversight visit to Grootvlei Maximum Correctional Centre in the Free State Province on 04 August 2026 and reports as follows:

1. **Introduction**

1.1 The Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services (the Committee) undertook an oversight visit to Grootvlei Maximum Correctional Centre on 04 August 2026.

1.2. The focus area for the oversight visit was to look at progress made after DCS took over the management of Grootvlei Maximum Correctional Centre (Formerly known as Mangaung Correctional Centre).

1.3. The following Members and Support Staff were part of the oversight visit:

- Hon KA Ramolobeng
- Hon M Sokopo
- Hon S Moela
- Hon EA Cloete
- Hon E Hendricks
- Hon J Engelbrecht
- Hon K Kgobisa-Ngcaba
- Hon LG Shangase
- Hon MM Gasa
- Hon C Niehaus.

Staff members

- Mr S Mthonjeni
- Mr M Mathabathe
- Ms S Ndlela
- Mr J Molafo.

PART I

2. Grootvlei Maximum Correctional Centre

2.1 Grootvlei Management Area comprises of 8 Correctional Centres. The Centres are Grootvlei Maximum; Grootvlei Medium A; Grootvlei Medium B; Wepener; Winburg; Ladybrand; Boshof; and Brandfort Correctional Centres. The Management Area accommodates only male inmates both sentenced and remand detainees

2.2 The Committee also invited the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to their oversight visit as well as the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services.

2.3 The approved bed space for Grootvlei Maximum Correctional Centre is 2 928 and currently the centre is 100% occupied.

2.4 The post establishment of Grootvlei Maximum is 710 while only 401 positions are filled resulting in a vacancy rate of 43.52%.

2.5 The facility has a total of 1 624 offenders serving life sentences.

2.6 There are 243 foreign national inmates at Grootvlei Maximum Centre of which majority are from Lesotho (126), followed by Zimbabwe (55) and Mozambique (39).

2.7 The following prevalent crimes have been committed by foreign national inmates incarcerated in this facility:

- Murder - 128

- Rape – 90
- Kidnapping – 32
- Robbery aggravating – 105
- Immigration laws – 62.

2.8 Progress on uniform for 401 newly appointed officials was reported as follows:

Males were issued with:

- Trousers x 2
- Jersey x 1
- Shoes x 1 pair – Boots x 1 pair
- Socks x 3 pairs
- Bunny jacket x 1
- Wool Cap (Beanie) x 1
- Belt x 1
- Shoulder flash x 1 pair.

Females were issued with:

- Skirt (Tunic) x 1
- Shirt x 3
- Trouser x 3
- Jersey x 1
- Shoes x 1 pair – Boots x 1 pair
- Socks x 3 pairs
- Bunny jacket x 1
- Wool Cap (Beanie) x 1
- Belt x 1
- Shoulder Flash x 1.

2.9 The following were reported as Outstanding Matters from the Contract:

- Contract compliance – DCS is in consultation with DPWI regarding transferring the assets.

- Facilities and infrastructure – Kitchen repairs completed by contractor on 24 June 2026. Regulation 638 application submitted. Awaiting site inspection by the Municipality.
- Vehicles – All 21 vehicles have been delivered. Two (2) busses that are currently being customized will be delivered in August 2026.
- Information technology and infrastructure – New LAN switches are installed. Transceiver modules – Order placed awaiting delivery. Procurement of 150 desktop computers completed. 89 Computers installed. Remaining 61 to be allocated to officials assuming duty 1 August 2026. 22 Telephones for official use have been installed and another 93 are expected on 03 August 2026.

2.10 Progress on uniform for 2 928 offenders was reported as follows:

- 2 pants per offender
- 2 shirts per offender
- 1 set of pyjamas
- Vests (1 per offender) and underwear (2 per offender)
- 1 500 jerseys (fleece)
- Sheets 1 per offender
- Pillowcase 1 per offender
- Towels and Face Cloths including Bath Soap, Toothbrush, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Toilet Rolls.

2.11 Status of infrastructure & buildings was reported as follows:

- Conducting of facility Dilapidation – Conducted in October 2024 and 2025. Dilapidation Survey Report issued in Dec 2024 and 2025

- Review of progress on remedial works identified on Dilapidation Survey Reports – Annual Maintenance Audit report prepared by an Independent Engineer during March 2026 received on 3 June 2026. Bi-weekly progress reports from MCC received and last report dated 26 June 2026. DCS conducts continuous M&E of progress by G4S.

- Integrated Security System – IVR for 12 months approved commenced from 1 July until 30 June 2027. ISS covers the repairs and maintenance of CCTV system, perimeter security system, intercom system, biometric fingerprint readers, security servers, automated security gates, alarm system etc.

- Routine and Preventative Maintenance of Infrastructure – Day to day maintenance to be executed through in-house resources. Specialised Service Maintenance. DPWI appointed DBSA on 30 June 2026 to implement Total Facility Management Contract. On 15 July 2026 DBSA accepted the appointment and a consultation firm DBI was appointed.

- Adoption of municipal and utility services accounts payments – Engagements held on 24 June 2026 and information for transfer/opening of new accounts under DCS submitted to Mangaung Metro, Centlec and Vaal Central.

- Transfer of assets to DPWI in line with GIAMA and valuation of the infrastructure – DCS and DPWI had a meeting on 10 June 2026 regarding maintenance planning, valuation and transfer of the facility to DPWI. Immovable & Equipment Technical Assets Register submitted to DPWI by DCS on the 30 June 2026 for DPWI respective units to proceed with the Immovable assets register process. DCS awaiting valuation teams from DPWI.

- Identified Infrastructure Upgrades – Installation of anticlimbing measures (Deter Roof climbing). Establishment of a permanent main access guardhouse. Extension of existing sally port and controlled access. Reinforcement of the courtyards fencing.

2.12 In terms of Self-Sufficiency & Sustainability, the following was reported:

- Vegetable gardens were used by MCC for poverty alleviation projects and did not form part of offender ration/SSSF.

- As of July 2026, Grootvlei Maximum Correctional Centre will be using the vegetable garden to supplement offender ration in line with the SSSF. Current crops will be harvested end of August 2026.

2.13 The following achievements were highlighted:

- DCS took over the facility 00:01 on 01 July 2026
- All newly appointed officials received DCS uniform
- All offenders issued with offender uniform.

PART II

3 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee took a walk-about in the following areas of the Correctional Centre:

- Kitchen
- Bakery
- Skills programmes (Vocational, Leatherwork, and Upholstery)
- School
- K9
- Hospital
- Segregation Unit
- Unit E
- Unit 3
- Central Control Room.

3.2 **Meeting with former G4S Employees**: The Committee met with some of the former G4S employees (outside the premises of Grootvlei Maximum CC) who have not been employed by DCS to listen to their concerns. Amongst others, they raised the following:

- The delay by DCS in implementing and challenging court judgement regarding Sec 197 of the LRA 66 of 1995

- Some of them have been interviewed for positions in Grootvlei Maximum CC but were not called yet, while those who were interviewed after them have already signed their employment contracts
- Majority of those employed by DCS did not have the experience of working directly with inmates
- They indicated that they were willing to accept the salary package offered by DCS as advertised
- They did not receive any severance packages from G4S.

The Committee has committed to engage with DCS on the concerns raised and how some of these concerns will be addressed through the outstanding recruitment processes. The Committee will also receive a legal opinion from Parliamentary Legal Services on the role it can play in this process.

3.3 **Kitchen**: The Committee noted that all equipment were functioning and only 1 oven still had to be programmed by G4S. The Committee request the Department to submit an update when the oven has been programmed.

3.4 **Vacancies:** The Committee was seriously concerned about the high vacancies (309) in Grootvlei Maximum Centre, especially the fact that the facility houses a huge number of lifers (1 624). This has the potential to put the lives of officials at risk. The Department is urged to ensure that available vacancies are prioritized and filled.

3.5 **Certificate of compliance**: The Committee noted that the kitchen did not have a certificate of compliance. The management of the facility is urged to facilitate the process of acquiring the compliance certificate.

3.6 **Food samples:** The Committee was concerned that the time frame on the storage of food samples was not complied with. Management of the facility is urged to ensure that the SOP regarding food sample storage is strictly complied with.

3.7 **Food tasting**: The Committee also noted that food tasting for breakfast was not done on the day of the visit. The management of the facility is requested to ensure that tasting of food is done for each meal served to inmates.

3.8 **Toiletries and cleaning materials:** The Committee received complaints from some inmates regarding non-availability of toiletries and cleaning materials. The management of the facility is requested to ensure that all inmates are provided with the required basic necessities including toiletries and cleaning materials.

3.9 **Inmate grievances:** A number of inmates indicated that they submitted grievances to the management of the facility and there was a hunger strike with regard to those grievances. The management of the centre is urged to ensure that grievances of inmates are attended to timeously and feedback be provided to inmates.

3.10 **Re-classification**: The Committee also received complaints from some inmates regarding their overstay in a maximum facility before being transferred to medium facility. The management is urged to ensure that all qualifying inmates are reclassified in compliance with relevant prescripts. In addition, conduct information sessions with inmates regarding the reclassification tool.

3.11 **Health Care**: The Committee was concerned about the state of health care services of inmates in the facility. management of the centre is commended for the work done with regard to Self-Sufficiency projects. The Committee noted that there were no professional and clinical nurses appointed and only 1 out of 2 funded operational managers appointed. There were complaints from inmates about not receiving medication or receiving wrong medication. The Committee requests a report on how the status of health care in the facility will be addressed.

3.12 **Accreditation**: The Committee was pleased to see that inmates received accreditation certificates at upholstery training. The Department is requested to ensure that even other skills training programmes are accredited.

3.13 **Infrastructure**: The Committee was pleased to see that infrastructure of the facility was still intact and in good condition. The Department is urged to ensure that planned maintenance is carried out, and the facility remains in this good condition.

Report to be Considered

2. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES OVERSIGHT VISIT TO NETFLIX STUDIOS DATED 14 AUGUST 2026.

A physical oversight visit to the Cape Town Film Studios following an invitation from Netflix to observe the production launch of the third season of "One Piece."

1. Introduction and Context

On 11 March 2026, the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies conducted a physical oversight visit to the Cape Town Film Studio. The visit was at the invitation of Netflix to observe the launch of the third season of "One Piece," described by the Company as its largest production to date filmed on the African continent.

The primary intention of the oversight was to gain a firsthand understanding of the operational footprint of a major international digital content producer in South Africa. The visit aimed to assess the socio-economic impact of such productions, evaluate the collaboration between global streamers and the local industry, and understand the challenges and opportunities facing the South African audio-visual) sector. The engagement provided a platform for Members of Parliament (MPs) to interact directly with the production set and the production value chain as well as the Netflix executives who were present on critical issues affecting the industry's growth and sustainability.

The Committee was exposed to production facilities before receiving a presentation from Netflix.

1.1 Netflix Delegation

Name	Designation
Ben Amadasun	Vice President, Content, MEA
Ziyanda Buthelezi-Ngcobo	Public Policy Lead, SSA
Tomasz Dabrowski	Director, Studio & Production Policy EMEA
Mokgadi Seabi	Senior Manager, Communications, SSA

Nonjabulo Gumede	Consultant, Africa Practice
Pepsi Pokane	Executive Director, Film Afrika
Marisa Sonemann-Turner	Executive Director, Film Afrika

1.2 Attendance by Members of the Committee

Status	Name of Member	Political Party
Present	Ms KLN Sangoni (Chairperson) Mr I Subrathie Mr OM Mathafa	African National Congress (ANC)
	Ms T Bodlani Mr S Singh	Democratic Alliance (DA)
	Mr S Ngubane Mr A Nchabeleng	uMkontho weSizwe
	Mr E Hendricks	Patriotic Alliance (PA)
	Mr A Ngobese	Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)
Apologies		
Ms S Gcilishe	Member of the Committee	Economic Freedom Front (EFF)
Support Staff		
Mr M Maleka	Content Advisor	Parliament
Mr K Xulu	Researcher	Parliament
Mr T Ngoma	Committee Secretary	Parliament
Ms H Salie	Committee Secretary	Parliament

2. Netflix's Presentation and Key Proposals

Representatives from Netflix addressed the Portfolio Committee to reaffirm the company’s deep-rooted commitment to South Africa and to outline its vision for a collaborative and prosperous future for the local audio-visual industry. The presentation was structured to first showcase Netflix’s substantial positive impact on the economy and society, followed by a discussion of the policy and regulatory challenges that threaten to undermine this progress.

2.1 Committee Site Visit

The live-action series *One Piece* is being filmed at Cape Town Film Studios in South Africa. The production has a very large budget, with Season 1 costing approximately R1.4 billion and Season 2 about R1.6 billion. The crew consists of 57 international members, while most of the team are South African citizens.

A key focus of the production is skills transfer and job creation. South African workers are gaining experience in many departments such as acting, construction, costume design, lighting, prosthetics, and technical production. The prosthetics team is particularly recognized as world-class, providing valuable training opportunities for local crew members.

The South African Film Academy also plays an important role by identifying talented students and pairing them with international directors as mentors. This mentorship programme allows students to submit scripts, gain exposure to the industry, and develop their professional skills.

The studio is also working towards sustainable production practices. The facility uses solar power and promotes the use of electric and hybrid vehicles, showing a commitment to renewable energy and environmentally responsible filmmaking.

During the walkabout, the costume department, led by designer Kerrie, showcased their work. For Season 2 alone, approximately 6 500 costumes were created. Local businesses are involved in the process, including two local printing companies that provide fast turnaround services. Costumes are carefully maintained through washing, cleaning, and protective storage to preserve them for filming.

Community-driven programmes are also helping to bring new talent into the industry. Many trainees begin in entry-level roles and are later promoted as their skills improve. The lighting department is a strong example of career development, where workers can progress and upskill without necessarily needing a formal degree.

Overall, the *One-Piece* production is an important contributor to the South African film industry, creating employment, developing local talent, and promoting sustainable filmmaking practices.

During the walk about, the Committee was exposed to the various parts of the value chain related to the ‘One Piece’ movie production. Members were exposed to movie artifacts

including where the main action takes place, as well as the ship and other areas where the scenes are shot.

Among the recruited staff for the set is Mr Donavan Engelbrecht - King of Color. His responsibilities include dying fabric and color to other components of the set according to director's request. He comes from the surrounding locality and has also recruited a young apprentice, Mr Shakier Julies who is learning the unique profession of dye in movie productions.

Another story of Yanga Ngam who started with the Netflix production during Season 1 and 2 as a dimmer operator in the lighting department. He sold his car to raise capital to buy lighting equipment to use in a company he formed called 512. He is now working on Season 3 as a business owner and has onboarded four other people into his team. Season 3 started in November 2025 and will film till June 2026, representing the length of the economic opportunity for all staff.

2.2 Investment and Impact

Netflix is not merely as a foreign streaming service but is an integral part of the South African creative landscape since 2016. The company positioned itself as a "champion of South African stories," dedicated to showcasing local talent and cultures to the world.

In the presentation to the Committee, Netflix officials revealed that it has injected over R4 billion into local content production between 2021 and 2024. This investment creates a powerful ripple effect, stimulating growth in adjacent sectors like construction, hospitality, transport, and fashion.

The centerpiece of this narrative was the production of "One Piece," described as Netflix's largest project on the African continent. The statistics shared were designed to demonstrate the tangible, on-the-ground benefits of such large-scale international productions:

- a total local spend of R1.2 billion (for Season 1 only).
- R721 million flowed directly to local service providers, including 625 SMMEs.
- the creation of 1 000 full-time equivalent jobs and over 10 000 additional economic opportunities.
- a strong focus on transformation and youth employment, with 46% of the workforce under the age of 36.

Beyond the numbers, Netflix highlighted its dedication to skills development through initiatives like the newly launched ScreenCraft Pathways programme. In partnership with the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal film commissions, this programme will provide 30 emerging professionals with paid, hands-on experience, directly addressing critical skills shortages in the industry. The presentation also spotlighted recent productions in KwaZulu-Natal, such as Blood Legacy, which generated over R165 million in spend and showcased the potential for regional economic development through film.

2.2 The Policy Crossroads: Protecting the Momentum

The presentation highlighted key policy and regulatory issues that it believes are critical to sustaining this momentum.

The first and most urgent issue raised was the DTIC Film Incentive. Netflix framed this incentive as a historically "highly effective" tool that has successfully attracted foreign productions, created jobs, and raised South Africa's global profile. Citing independent research, they argued that for every Rand the government invests through the incentive, it generates R5.10 for the broader economy. The clear and underlying message was that the current uncertainty and administrative challenges surrounding this incentive are actively jeopardizing future investment and causing productions to look elsewhere.

Regarding the Draft White Paper, Netflix advocated for a modern, fit-for-purpose regulatory framework. The Company cautioned against imposing legacy broadcasting rules on on-demand services. Instead, Netflix proposed an alternative approach built on three pillars:

1. a light-touch notification regime, like the model used by OFCOM in the United Kingdom;
2. a market-led approach driven by consumer demand and competitive incentives, rather than rigid content quotas; and
3. maintaining the existing regulatory authority of the Film and Publication Board (FPB) to avoid creating a new and duplicative bureaucratic body.

Finally, the presentation addressed the contentious issue of proposed network fees. Netflix pushed back forcefully against the argument that content providers "free-ride" on telecom networks. They argued such fees would constitute "double charging" (as consumers already pay for data), violate net neutrality, and create barriers to entry.

To refute the "free-rider" claim, Netflix highlighted its investment in Open Connect Appliances (OCAs)—servers gifted to local internet service providers and placed within South Africa's Internet exchange points. These devices cache Netflix content locally, reducing strain on networks and improving the viewing experience for all South African users, at no cost to the ISPs.

In conclusion, the presentation painted a picture of a Company deeply invested in South Africa's success, but one that is increasingly concerned about policy decisions that could stifle the very industry it seeks to help grow. The narrative was one of partnership and shared goals, with a clear appeal for a predictable, enabling, and collaborative regulatory environment.

During the engagement, Netflix executives made a series of presentations and submissions to the Committee. The company highlighted its significant investment in the South African economy, having spent over ZAR 4 billion on content production between 2021 and 2024. They specifically showcased the impact of "One Piece" Season 1, which created over 1,316 full-time equivalent jobs (45% youth), supported more than 625 SMMEs, and provided skills development for 33 trainees.

Beyond the showcase, Netflix used the platform to reiterate and expand upon key proposals previously outlined in their submission to the Draft White Paper on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services and Online Safety, 2025. These proposals can be summarized as follows:

a. On Regulatory and Policy Framework:

- Rejection of Rigid Quotas and Levies: Netflix argued against the imposition of rigid local content quotas and mandatory levies, stating these are "unnecessary and detrimental" and deter investment. They emphasized that their business model is driven by consumer demand, which already incentivizes significant local content investment.
- Alternative Investment Benchmark: As an alternative to quotas, Netflix proposed a "verifiable and enforceable investment benchmark." This would be a flexible, multi-year target covering the full production value chain, including development, commissioning, procurement from SMMEs, skills training, and infrastructure investment.
- Opposition to a New Ombudsman: The Company strongly opposed the creation of a new ombudsman for online media, arguing it would create "unnecessary duplication"

with the Film and Publication Board (FPB), increase administrative complexity, and undermine existing co-regulatory systems.

b. On Collaboration and Bottlenecks:

- SABC Partnership: Netflix identified "broken acts" in its partnership with the SABC. Key sticking points include disagreements over Intellectual Property (IP) ownership for remakes and the SABC's refusal to accept Netflix advertising funding due to a perception of competition, which Netflix contests as their business models are fundamentally different (subscription-based vs. ad-funded).
- DTIC Incentive Crisis: Netflix and its partners (like Film Afrika) provided extensive testimony on the critical importance of the DTIC film and TV production incentive. They detailed how its effective suspension since 2024, administrative unpredictability, lack of transparency, and communication breakdowns have led to a dramatic drop in foreign direct investment (FDI)—from approximately R6 billion to under R2 billion. They noted that South Africa has lost at least 12 major international projects to other territories (like Morocco) as a direct result.
- Call for Inter-Departmental Collaboration: Netflix called for better collaboration between government departments (DCDT, DTIC, DSAC, Home Affairs) to create a coherent and enabling environment for the AV sector.

c. On Enablers and Opportunities:

- Copyright and Piracy: Netflix commended the DCDT's recognition of piracy as a threat and reiterated its call for the implementation of a "site-blocking mechanism" in South Africa to protect the value of creative content and secure investor returns.
- Tourism Impact: They highlighted the phenomenon of "screen tourism," citing data showing that viewers of South African content are significantly more likely to consider the country a top travel destination. This presents a major opportunity for cross-sectoral economic growth.
- Home Affairs as an Enabler: Netflix acknowledged the positive impact of the Department of Home Affairs' improvements to the film visa process, which has made it easier to bring international talent and productions into the country.

3. Observations

The Committee noted:

- and commended Netflix for its inter-generational mix of staff, noting the value of young people sharing experiences with seasoned professionals;
- the closure of "TrollMax" (Showmax) and asked what Netflix's plan was to potentially absorb talent and increase its market share, emphasizing that the goal is industry growth, not destruction;
- skeptically about rigid local content quotas, arguing that audience demand should drive content investment;
- with concern about declining investment levels and the shrinking value of the DTIC film incentive;
- that the economic benefit of a global production employing South Africans is more important than meeting an arbitrary percentage;
- with concern that the drop in production spend from R6 billion to under R2 billion was a direct result of the incentive's programme failure;
- that lack of tax incentives means that South Africa become less attractive to international movie productions;
- with concern that the industry has lost 12 major international productions to other markets (e.g., Morocco, Jordan, Qatar) due to policy uncertainty and delays;
- the production "One Piece" was filmed in Cape Town, Western Cape and partly attributed to the ease of doing business in the province, which has helped attract the production and the associated jobs;
- that fragmentation between departments makes it hard for them to collaborate with international companies such as Netflix;
- that Netflix is a major investor in the South African economy, creating thousands of jobs (especially for youth), supporting hundreds of SMMEs, and contributing to skills development. The "One Piece" production is a clear example of these benefits;
- that the suspension and dysfunction of the DTIC film incentive is the single most critical threat to the growth of the AV sector. It has demonstrably led to a sharp decline in FDI and the loss of major productions to other countries;

- that there is a clear lack of coordination between government departments (DCDT, DTIC, DSAC, Home Affairs), creating a fragmented and uncertain policy environment that hampers investment;
- that the relationship between Netflix and the SABC is not operating at its potential, hindered by mutual misunderstandings regarding competition and IP, representing a missed opportunity for the local industry; and
- that while Netflix supports the government's policy aspirations, it views proposed regulations like rigid quotas, new levies, and a new ombudsman as counterproductive and rather advocate for a flexible, investment-focused framework over a rigid, compliance-based one.

4. Recommendations

The delegation of the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies recommended that the Minister of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) should:

- urgently facilitate an inter-departmental dialogue, between the DCDT, DTIC, and National Treasury, to address the crisis surrounding the DTIC film incentive, with an objective to understand the blockages and advocate for its immediate reinstatement and efficient administration; and report back to the Committee during 3rd Term of Parliament;
- ensure that the Department takes a leading role in creating a formal, structured mechanism for cooperation between all government departments whose mandates impact the AV sector, to ensure a cohesive and investment-friendly national approach;
- ensure the Department reviews local content regulatory frameworks, ensuring:
    - to support competitiveness,
    - an agile sector contributing to economic growth; and
    - a balance of cultural objectives with audience behavior.
- ensure the Department convenes a stakeholder roundtable including OTT platforms, broadcasters, independent producers, ICASA and FPB to shape future local content policy;
- encourage high-level negotiations between the SABC and Netflix to clarify business models, and unlock the potential for collaboration on content, advertising, and IP; and
- encourage DHA to maintain and expand the film visa reforms nationally.

To Netflix, consider:

- to provide a comparative competitiveness study between South Africa and Morocco;
- to strengthen partnerships between Netflix and government Entities through:
  - annual joint programmes on online safety; and
  - expansion of co-funding models with NFVF and film commissions.

The Committee will:

- endeavor to convene a full-day workshop with key industry stakeholders, including Netflix, the Independent Producers Organisation (IPO), and relevant government departments (DCDT, DTIC, DSAC, Home Affairs, FPB), with an aim to develop a shared understanding of challenges and co-create a "package of issues" and solutions to support the legislative framework of the Committee;
- formally engage the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition and to the Minister of Finance, regarding the DTIC film incentive and its role in job creation, economic growth, and attracting FDI; and
- schedule a formal workshop session with Netflix, SABC, DTIC (Incentives Division), NFVF, Industry associations (IPO, SASP, Animation SA, Film Africa) with the output of a consolidated policy action plan for 2027–2029.

End.

3. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO LIMPOPO PROVINCE DATED 18 AUGUST 2026.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Delegate	Political Party
Hon. Khusela Sangoni (Chairperson and Leader of Delegation)	ANC
Hon. Imraan Subrathie	ANC
Hon. Oscar Mathafa	ANC
Hon. Mzoleli Mrara	ANC
Hon. Tsholofelo Bodlani	DA
Hon. Singh	DA
Hon. Alco Ngobese	IFP
Hon. Adli Nchabeleng (Crown Prince)	MKP
Hon. E. Hendricks	PA

MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE (LIMPOPO)

Hon. HP Ngobeni (Chair of Chairs)

SUPPORT STAFF

Names	Designation
Mr Thembinkosi Ngoma	Committee Secretary and Project Manager
Ms Hajiera Salie	Committee Secretary
Dr Jacob Medupe	Content Advisor
Mr Khanyisile Xulu	Researcher
Mr William Legodi	Committee Assistant
Mr Justice Molafo	Principal Communications Officer
Mr Zwelethemba Kostile	Official Photographer

OVERSIGHT VISIT LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Department of Communications and Digital Technologies Delegation		
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 28 to 30 April 2026, the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies undertook an oversight visit across Limpopo's Waterberg, Capricorn and Vhembe Districts to evaluate the implementation and on-the-ground impact of programmes within the mandate of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) and its entities. The visit focused on broadband rollout and universal access, including SA Connect, broadcast digital migration, digital skills development, community media sustainability, and the condition of postal and digital access services in largely rural and peri-urban communities. The visit was also informed by serious concerns that digital transformation initiatives in Limpopo, including connectivity, digital access, skills development, communications, and digital technology infrastructure, are in a state of systemic distress, with reported failures across DCDT programmes and related entities, requiring stronger parliamentary oversight, accountability, and corrective action.

The oversight reaffirmed Limpopo as a high-priority province for digital inclusion. The Committee found that, despite multiple initiatives and substantial public investment, persistent last-mile connectivity gaps, infrastructure vandalism and maintenance weaknesses, uneven affordability and service quality, and the limited reach of digital skills interventions continue to constrain socio-economic impact, especially in deep rural

areas. A central concern is fragmented planning and accountability across spheres of government and between entities, which contributes to duplication of effort, underutilised assets and inconsistent outcomes. Where services are stable and supported (notably selected SA Connect and Broadcast Digital Migration (BDM) installations), communities experience clear benefits, demonstrating that reliability, measurable performance standards and coordinated delivery are critical to achieving universal access.

The Committee is concerned that these shortcomings are not isolated operational weaknesses, but reflect broader deficiencies in planning, implementation discipline, expenditure oversight and measurable outcome tracking. The Committee therefore emphasises the need to verify whether public funds allocated to digital infrastructure and access programmes have been translated into functional services, particularly for rural communities that should benefit most from improved connectivity and digital public services.

Several concerns were raised:

- Delivery impact is being compromised by weak intergovernmental coordination, unclear accountability and overlapping mandates across entities and spheres.
- Last-mile gaps, service quality and affordability remain the binding constraints for deep-rural communities, even where backhaul infrastructure exists.
- Sustainability risks, vandalism, power instability, weak maintenance and limited local technical capacity are driving downtime and eroding value for money.
- Digital skills programmes are valued but do not reach demand at scale; stronger pathways into employment, entrepreneurship and accredited learning are needed.
- Few of the functional community Wi-Fi and BDM interventions show immediate household benefits, underscoring the need for service verification, uptime targets and enforceable SLAs.

CROSS-CUTTING FINDINGS

Across Waterberg, Capricorn and Vhembe, the Committee identified a consistent set of systemic constraints that are weakening the developmental return on public investment in communications and digital technologies. While multiple programmes are active, outcomes remain uneven because planning, budgeting, implementation and operations are not sufficiently integrated across spheres of government and between implementing entities. This fragmentation is compounded by limited baseline data and weak

independent verification of connectivity performance (coverage, speeds, uptime and fault resolution), resulting in a persistent gap between reported progress and the lived experience of communities.

The Committee further observed that where services are stable, maintained, and actively supported, particularly at selected SA Connect community Wi-Fi sites and Broadcast Digital Migration (BDM) household installations, communities realise immediate benefits in education, job-seeking, access to information, and household savings. These positive cases demonstrate that reliability, enforceable service standards and clear accountability are decisive for impact.

The Committee further notes that failures in connectivity, digital access, skills development, broadcasting migration, cybersecurity awareness and public digital infrastructure must be assessed as a connected portfolio-wide risk, rather than as separate project-level shortcomings. This requires consolidated reporting across DCDT, ICASA, NEMISA, Broadband Infraco, Sentech, SAPO, USAASA, SITA, Limpopo Connexion and other relevant entities, with clear responsibility for expenditure, delivery status, service performance and remedial action.

The number of concerns raised:

- **Governance and coordination gaps:** Digital programmes are not consistently anchored in a single, accountable coordination mechanism at the district/provincial level, leading to duplicated initiatives, delayed decisions (e.g., wayleaves, land allocation, site access) and blurred responsibility for outcomes.
- **Planning is not evidence-led:** The absence of a consolidated and verified broadband footprint and site-level baselines undermines prioritisation, creates avoidable build duplication, and weakens Parliament's ability to track value for money.
- **Last-mile quality and affordability are binding constraints:** Deep-rural communities remain dependent on low-quality or expensive connectivity, limiting use for education, e-health, e-government and SMME activity even where backhaul exists.
- **Operational sustainability is fragile:** Vandalism, theft, power instability, weak maintenance arrangements and limited local technical capacity are driving downtime and shortening the life of public assets; responsibilities for security and maintenance are often unclear between municipalities, service providers and communities.

- **Underutilised public infrastructure:** Significant investments (notably fibre and data-centre capacity) are not being optimally utilised and often lack clear commercialisation, sustainability and failover strategies, increasing the risk of stranded assets.
- **Community media governance risks**: Governance instability, compliance weaknesses and financial control gaps in some community media entities threaten continuity of service and compromise the protection of public funds, requiring earlier, coordinated intervention by oversight and funding bodies.
- **Digital skills are not yet at scale:** Skills programmes are valued and demonstrate strong potential where partnerships exist, but reach remains limited relative to demand and requires stronger outcome tracking and clearer pathways into accredited learning, employment, internships and entrepreneurship.
- **SAPO as a digital access point is at risk:** Operational instability, ageing infrastructure and connectivity failures at rural branches weaken SAPO's role as a community access platform, reducing residents' ability to access basic services and future digital-inclusion interventions.
- **What work should be standardised:** Successful SA Connect and BDM examples show that verified service delivery, uptime targets, transparent fault-escalation channels and enforceable SLAs should be treated as minimum standards across programmes.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies (the Committee) conducted an oversight visit to Limpopo Province from 28 to 30 April 2026, covering the Waterberg, Capricorn and Vhembe Districts, to assess the implementation and impact of government communications and digital transformation programmes in predominantly rural and semi-urban contexts.

The oversight visit was undertaken in terms of section 55(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and the Rules of the National Assembly, which empower Parliament to maintain oversight of the exercise of national executive authority, including the implementation of legislation, policy and expenditure.

The Committee exercises oversight over the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) and selected entities within its portfolio, including Broadband Infraco (BBI), Sentech, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), the

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA), the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) and the South African Post Office (SAPO). The visit therefore focused on broadband rollout and universal access initiatives (including SA Connect), broadcast transmission and digital migration, digital skills development, community media sustainability, and the state of postal and digital access services in rural areas.

The purpose of the oversight visit was to assess the implementation of government programmes, evaluate service delivery outcomes, identify challenges affecting the communications and digital technologies sector, and engage directly with stakeholders and beneficiaries.

2. CONTEXT AND OVERSIGHT RATIONALE

Limpopo's oversight context is characterised by:

- A predominantly rural population with dispersed settlements;
- Persistent connectivity gaps in schools, clinics, Thusong Centres and community facilities;
- High youth unemployment alongside limited access to structured digital skills pathways;
- Continued reliance on community media and South African Post Office (SAPO) branches for access to information and government services; and
- Ongoing challenges related to infrastructure vandalism, coordination failures, and long-term sustainability.

The inclusion of the Waterberg, Capricorn, and Vhembe Districts enabled the Committee to assess both peri-urban and deep-rural environments, ensuring a balanced oversight approach that reflects the province's socio-economic and geographic diversity.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The objectives of the oversight visit were to:

- Assess progress with broadband rollout and SA Connect implementation in targeted districts;
- Monitor the status and impact of BDM, including coverage and household readiness;
- Evaluate the operational capacity, infrastructure condition and relevance of SAPO branches, particularly in rural areas;

- Engage community media on governance, sustainability, signal distribution and regulatory compliance;
- Examine the reach and effectiveness of digital skills development initiatives and pathways into employment and entrepreneurship; and
- Identify challenges affecting SMME participation, infrastructure sustainability, security and intergovernmental coordination.

4. KEY OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

4.1 Governance and Intergovernmental Coordination

Despite multiple national policies and strategies, implementation at the provincial and municipal levels remains poorly coordinated. This has resulted in duplication of initiatives, inefficient use of public resources, unclear accountability, and weak alignment between planning and execution.

Under the District Development Model, there is no clearly designated institutional authority responsible for digital transformation, leading to fragmented decision-making and inconsistent outcomes.

4.2 Broadband Infrastructure and SA Connect

The province lacks a consolidated and verified broadband footprint, which undermines effective planning, implementation, and oversight. Without clear visibility into existing infrastructure, new investments risk duplication rather than expanding coverage.

SA Connect targets were found to be misaligned with available funding, institutional capacity, and the realities of rural connectivity. While SMME-driven connectivity initiatives demonstrate innovation and local economic potential, they remain limited in scale and insufficiently integrated into national broadband programmes.

4.3 Role of State-Owned and Provincial Entities

The oversight identified significant overlaps and tensions between the mandates of SITA, USAASA, Broadband Infraco, provincial broadband initiatives such as Limpopo Connexion, and municipal ICT projects. These overlaps have created regulatory bottlenecks, procurement delays, and operational inefficiencies.

Concerns were also raised about substantial public infrastructure investments, including data centres and fibre assets, that remain underutilised and lack clear commercialisation, sustainability, or failover strategies.

As a case in point, the scale of reported investment in Limpopo Connexion and related provincial infrastructure requires a stronger, independently verifiable audit trail that links expenditure to contracted deliverables, asset deployment, utilisation levels, revenue generation, maintenance obligations, public benefit, and measurable service outcomes. This is necessary for Parliament to determine whether the infrastructure is delivering the intended developmental return, whether underutilised assets are being effectively commercialised or repurposed, and whether any gaps in expenditure control, implementation performance or accountability require corrective action.

4.4 Digital Migration and Broadcasting

BDM continues to experience implementation delays and uneven delivery, with insufficient clarity on provincial readiness, site-by-site progress, and the practical implications of the analogue switch-off for households in deep rural areas. The Committee noted persistent gaps in public communication and beneficiary support, including limited community awareness of migration timelines, eligibility criteria, installation processes and fault-reporting channels. These weaknesses contribute to confusion, low uptake in some areas, and a growing risk that vulnerable households will be left without access to free-to-air broadcasting when analogue services are withdrawn.

The Committee further observed that reporting on BDM progress is not consistently supported by independently verifiable evidence at the provincial and district levels. In several engagements, stakeholders referred to coverage or completion rates without providing a consolidated readiness assessment that confirms, at a minimum, (i) household installation status and quality checks, (ii) functional signal reception in targeted settlements, (iii) call-centre responsiveness and turnaround times, and (iv) the availability of spares, maintenance capacity and escalation arrangements for post-installation support. The absence of this minimum verification framework weakens oversight, increases the risk of disputed delivery claims, and undermines value for money.

Broadcast transmission challenges remain a material constraint in rural and traditional communities. The Committee received recurring reports of weak signal strength, reception gaps and limited responsiveness to fault reporting in remote settlements. These challenges point to the need for an area-based approach to transmission remediation that aligns network planning, maintenance scheduling, and community communication, with clearly assigned accountability among the relevant role-players (including transmission

service providers, the public broadcaster, and local authorities responsible for site access and enabling infrastructure).

Community broadcasters face compounded sustainability pressures that threaten the continuity of local information services. The Committee noted that high signal distribution costs, limited and volatile local advertising markets, and constrained fundraising capacity continue to erode financial viability. These pressures are intensified by governance and compliance capacity limitations in some stations, including weaknesses in internal controls, board-management role clarity, record-keeping and timely statutory reporting. Without targeted support and coordinated oversight interventions, these vulnerabilities increase the risk of service disruption, regulatory non-compliance, and the ineffective use of public funding support mechanisms.

To strengthen delivery credibility and protect household access, the Committee emphasised the need for clear and time-bound provincial BDM implementation controls. At minimum, this should include: a province-specific readiness and risk register; a publicly accessible communication plan (including community radio, Thusong Centres and ward-based channels); standardised installation quality assurance; defined uptime and fault-restoration targets; a single, well-publicised reporting channel per area; and an escalation protocol with named responsible entities. These elements should be monitored through routine reporting that enables Parliament to track progress against measurable service outcomes rather than activity-based outputs.

4.5 South African Post Office

SAPO remains a critical access point for government and communication services in rural communities. However, branch functionality, service quality, and financial stability vary significantly, limiting its effectiveness as a digital inclusion platform.

5. STRATEGIC RISKS IDENTIFIED

The Committee identified several systemic risks, including:

- Persistent fragmentation of broadband investments with limited developmental impact;
- Public frustration arising from discrepancies between reported connectivity coverage and lived community experience;
- Declining trust in state-led digital initiatives due to underutilised infrastructure;

- Missed opportunities to integrate broadband deployment with municipal infrastructure rollout, such as roads, electricity and water services.

6. DAY 1: WATERBERG DISTRICT

Government Coordination, Connectivity and Digital Migration

6.1 Stakeholder Engagements

On Day 1 of the oversight visit, the Committee engaged with the Waterberg District Municipality, the local municipalities within the district, and the Provincial Department responsible for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to assess the state of digital connectivity, broadband rollout, and the implementation of digital services in the Waterberg District.

The engagements revealed that, although strategies, policies, and implementation plans exist at both provincial and municipal levels, they are not translating into measurable, tangible outcomes on the ground. Members expressed concern about weak coordination across government spheres, limited alignment between provincial initiatives and national programmes such as SA Connect, and fragmented implementation that undermines the effectiveness of digital connectivity interventions.

The Committee further noted the absence of clear performance indicators, baselines, and impact measures to demonstrate progress or assess the real impact of broadband investments. This gap contributed to a disconnect between reported broadband coverage figures and the lived realities of communities.

Concern was raised about the continued digital exclusion of rural and remote communities, including limited or unreliable connectivity in schools, clinics, municipal offices, and areas under traditional authority. Members emphasised that many communities remain reliant on low-speed, unstable mobile services, casting doubt on the accuracy and credibility of reported connectivity improvements.

The Committee concluded that without strengthened intergovernmental coordination, clearer accountability mechanisms, improved alignment with national programmes, and a deliberate focus on last-mile and rural connectivity, digital inclusion efforts in the Waterberg District will remain largely aspirational and fail to deliver meaningful socio-economic impact.

Engagements with national entities, including GCIS, Broadband Infraco, and DCDT on Broadcast Digital Migration, as well as presentations from SMMEs, highlighted systemic implementation challenges. SMMEs outlined the high costs of rural deployment, long travel distances, power instability, infrastructure vandalism, and security risks, all of which undermine business sustainability. Although some improvements in payment timelines were acknowledged, cash flow pressures remain a significant constraint. Members further expressed concern about the limited participation of women-owned enterprises, the transparency of procurement and work allocation processes, and the adequacy of current implementation models in supporting SMMEs operating in non-viable and high-cost areas.

The visit to the Modimolle Post Office exposed severe operational and institutional failures. The Committee observed deplorable infrastructure conditions, including the absence of fibre connectivity, inadequate security, vandalism, and unsafe working environments, compounded by staff shortages. Manual processes, system downtime, long customer waiting times, and declining public trust were evident. Staff expressed frustration with limited communication regarding the Business Rescue Plan and highlighted the emotional toll of unsafe working conditions. The Committee viewed the situation as a critical service delivery failure requiring urgent intervention rather than routine follow-up.

In contrast, the visit to the SA Connect community Wi-Fi hotspot in Modimolle Extension 12 demonstrated a positive, albeit limited, example of community-level impact. The hotspot provided affordable, reliable connectivity, primarily for education, job searching, and communication. While community feedback was overwhelmingly positive, Members noted that such initiatives remain isolated and insufficiently integrated into a broader, government-led connectivity framework, with limited oversight over ISP placement and service standards.

The household visit under the BDM programme in Jaster Township reflected a successful intervention at the beneficiary level. Connected households reported significant financial savings from discontinuing paid television services and expressed high satisfaction with the quality, channel range, and access to information. The Committee regarded this programme as one of the clearer examples of direct impact on household welfare.

The engagement with Mokopane FM Community Radio Station highlighted the critical role of community media in disseminating information, fostering local economic participation, and supporting youth development. While the station has achieved relative sustainability and maintains strong relationships with GCIS, it continues to face structural challenges, particularly the high cost of rental and delays by the local municipality in allocating land for permanent infrastructure. The Committee noted that without municipal cooperation and access to affordable infrastructure, the long-term viability of such community broadcasters remains at risk.

6.2 Committee Observations

The Committee observed that:

- coordination between national, provincial and municipal ICT programmes remains inadequate;
- public investment in broadband infrastructure has not resulted in equitable connectivity outcomes, particularly in rural areas;
- municipalities lack clear performance indicators and impact-assessment mechanisms for ICT initiatives;
- communities remain largely reliant on mobile data connectivity, with limited access to fibre or high-speed fixed broadband;
- SA Connect and BDM have delivered tangible household-level benefits, but rollout remains uneven;
- SMMEs face financial and operational pressures that threaten the sustainability of government programmes;
- there are insufficient baseline data and independent verification of coverage, uptime and service quality at connected sites, contributing to disputes over whether services are functional and fit for purpose;
- weak maintenance arrangements, limited local technical capacity and the absence of clear fault-reporting and escalation channels undermine the sustainability of SA Connect, community Wi-Fi hotspots and BDM installations;
- infrastructure vandalism, theft and power instability are materially increasing operating costs and downtime, with security responsibilities often unclear between municipalities, service providers and communities;

- SAPO branch deterioration in Modimolle illustrates the risk of losing a key community access point for basic services and future digital-inclusion interventions where branch infrastructure is not stabilised;
- delays in municipal cooperation on land allocation, approvals and supporting infrastructure (including for community radio and fibre deployment) have a direct impact on service continuity and the cost of infrastructure rollout; and
- the cumulative failures observed in Waterberg point to a need for a documented accountability matrix identifying responsible national and provincial departments, entities, service providers and municipalities for each stalled, underperforming or failed digital intervention.

6.3 Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Minister:

- ensure that the DCDT strengthens intergovernmental coordination to align ICT planning, budgeting and implementation across all spheres of government, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that Broadband Infraco, provincial ICT department and relevant municipalities submit a consolidated, verified report on Limpopo's broadband footprint, investments, utilisation levels and socio-economic impact (including measures to prevent duplication of builds), and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that municipalities develop clear and measurable connectivity targets linked to service delivery outcomes for schools, clinics and government facilities, supported by baselines and impact indicators, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the DCDT strengthens support measures for SMMEs and women-owned enterprises (including security arrangements, transparent work allocation and predictable payment cycles), and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the DCDT, in collaboration with ICASA and relevant implementing partners, develop an independent service-verification mechanism for SA Connect and community Wi-Fi sites (including baseline audits, uptime targets, speed testing and publicly available fault-resolution timeframes), and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;

- ensure that SA Connect implementing Agencies and contracted service providers establish clear local maintenance and fault-escalation arrangements (including a single reporting channel per site, response and restoration SLAs, and community awareness of reporting processes), and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the DCDT, municipalities and implementing entities develop a coordinated infrastructure-protection plan for rural digital assets (including community-based safeguarding, minimum security standards, and integration with municipal safety plans), and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that SAPO submits an urgent service-stabilisation and safety remediation plan for the Modimolle Post Office (infrastructure repairs, connectivity restoration, minimum staffing and security measures), and report back to the Committee within 2 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the Waterberg District and relevant local municipalities implement time-bound processes for land allocation, site access and approvals that affect community broadcasters and broadband rollout (including designated municipal focal points and escalation routes), and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report; and
- ensure that the DCDT submits a Waterberg accountability and expenditure schedule covering SA Connect, BDM, community Wi-Fi, SAPO digital access and related broadband interventions, including project status, amounts spent, contracted deliverables, responsible parties, reasons for delays or failures and corrective action plans, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report.

7. DAY 2: CAPRICORN DISTRICT

Digital Infrastructure, Skills Development and Public Broadcasting

7.1 Stakeholder Engagements

On Day 2 of the oversight visit, the Committee engaged with several key stakeholders across the digital infrastructure, broadcasting, and digital skills development sectors in Limpopo Province. These engagements aimed to assess progress toward universal access,

evaluate the efficient use of public resources, and determine the socio-economic impact of digital transformation initiatives.

The Committee visited Limpopo Connexion, including the Knox Centre Data Centre and associated 4IR facilities. The engagement provided insight into the entity's broadband rollout, innovation initiatives, and training activities. Demonstrations of 3D scanning, 3D printing, and artificial intelligence applications highlighted the potential of provincial digital infrastructure to support innovation and skills development.

The Portfolio Committee was briefed that Limpopo Connexion has invested over R585 million in provincial ICT and broadband infrastructure, including a state-of-the-art data centre, a Network Operations and Call Centre, an office and training facility, and an extensive fibre network comprising 142 km of self-build fibre integrated with 550 km of leased backhaul fibre across eight municipalities, connecting 56 sites with capacity to serve thousands of clients. Guided by the Spatial Rational Report, the entity has developed a high-level expansion plan to extend connectivity to the rest of the province, prioritising densely populated areas.

The Committee was further informed of progress on the Limpopo Science and Technology Park in Polokwane, where 218 hectares of land have been secured, and all major planning, feasibility, environmental and techno-economic studies have been completed, with township establishment already approved. Together, the broadband rollout and the Science and Technology Park were presented as catalytic initiatives with the potential to significantly transform Limpopo's technological capability and economic growth trajectory.

The Committee also visited the SABC Limpopo Regional Office, where it held engagements with management and staff. Discussions focused on digital migration, broadcast coverage challenges, infrastructure limitations, staff working conditions, funding sustainability, and challenges related to TV licence collections.

In its engagement with SABC Limpopo staff, the Committee acknowledged the Association for Comms and Technology (ACT) as an important industry stakeholder and located the discussion within the constitutional imperative to protect freedom of expression and the right to impart and receive information. The Committee commended employees for the institution's improved governance and leadership, and for their

resilience in maintaining services despite ageing infrastructure and constrained working conditions. Key matters raised included the SABC's ongoing financial sustainability challenges, the escalating debt to Sentech and the knock-on risks to broadcasting services, the underfunding of the public mandate and the failure of the TV licence model, and the need to finalise an alternative funding approach through the proposed funding model, which will need to be incorporated into the draft SABC Bill.

The Committee further noted the importance of a managed analogue switch-off and audience migration, welcomed innovations such as SABC+ and urged the Corporation to translate digital growth into revenue and partnerships, including strengthening provincial storytelling. Finally, ahead of upcoming local government elections, the Committee emphasised the SABC's duty to provide balanced, rules-based coverage that informs, educates and entertains, and invited staff to raise operational issues requiring parliamentary attention.

The Committee further engaged with NEMISA at the University of Limpopo Co-Lab, including visits to the AI Centre and the Samsung Digital Innovation Lab. These engagements focused on digital skills development programmes, inclusivity, curriculum relevance, post-training support mechanisms, and pathways into employment and entrepreneurship.

The engagement at the University of Limpopo provided the Committee with an overview of the impact of government-supported digital skills interventions delivered through partnerships with NEMISA, the University, and private-sector collaborators. The Committee received briefings on programmes aimed at improving digital literacy, online safety, and access to e-services for communities across Limpopo, and undertook walkabouts of training and innovation facilities that support technical skills development (including device repairs, graphic design, and broader digital competencies), as well as youth-focused innovation initiatives. Emphasis was placed on pathways into employment and entrepreneurship for unemployed youth, including practical projects that enable learners to apply their skills in real-world environments and contribute to the digitisation of community-facing services.

The Committee also visited SA Connect Phase 2 household sites and a BDM-connected site, where beneficiaries demonstrated how connectivity supports education, small

business development, and access to information. While these interventions were acknowledged as impactful, questions were raised regarding long-term sustainability, technology choices, reliance on interim service providers, and the need for stronger integration with provincial broadband initiatives such as those led by Limpopo Connexion.

7.2 Committee Observations

The Committee observed that:

- Limpopo Connexion and related provincial broadband, data-centre and 4IR infrastructure reflect significant public investment, but utilisation, commercialisation and sustainability strategies require clearer evidence and implementation. The duplication of resources was quite prevalent between the infrastructure SOE and the mandate of Limpopo Connexion;
- the scale of reported investment in Limpopo Connexion requires a verifiable audit trail linking expenditure, asset deployment, utilisation, revenue, public benefit and service outcomes, so that Parliament can assess the developmental return;
- government-led initiatives in digital infrastructure and skills development demonstrate huge progress; however, weak coordination and fragmented implementation continue to limit overall impact;
- policy and regulatory constraints hinder infrastructure sharing and collaboration among state-owned entities, resulting in unnecessary dependence on private service providers.
- digital access in rural and underserved communities remains inadequate, undermining efforts to promote digital inclusion and equitable service delivery;
- digital skills programmes are valued and show strong potential, but their reach, outcome measurement, inclusivity, articulation pathways and post-training support require strengthening, especially in deep-rural communities;
- the SABC Limpopo Regional Office operates under obsolete infrastructure, funding, and human resource constraints, threatening its ability to fulfil its public broadcasting mandate effectively;
- partnership-based training and innovation hubs (including the University of Limpopo Co-Lab, STEM Centre such as Samsung Innovation facilities) demonstrate strong potential to translate public and private investment into practical skills but require clearer outcome tracking and reporting on learner progression;

- there is growing demand for community-facing digital literacy support, including assistance with online applications, access to e-government services and improved online safety, particularly among rural residents and first-time users;
- technical training offerings that include device repairs, digital design and applied ICT skills are well aligned to local self-employment opportunities, but require stronger linkages to incubation, mentorship and market access support;
- SABC Staff commitment remains strong despite difficult operational conditions; and
- connectivity initiatives such as SA Connect show positive household-level impact, but concerns remain regarding sustainability, technology appropriateness, and long-term maintenance**.**

7.3 Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Minister:

- ensure that the DCDT engages Limpopo Connexion, SITA Sentech, Broadband Infraco and other relevant entities to align mandates, reduce duplication and implement infrastructure-sharing arrangements, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- Limpopo Connexion, via DCDT and the Provincial Government, must submit and implement a plan for its data centre, 4IR facilities, and broadband infrastructure. The plan should include a verifiable audit trail linking expenditure, asset deployment, utilisation, revenue, public benefit, and service outcomes; measures to eliminate duplication with infrastructure SOEs; corrective actions for underutilised assets; and report to the Committee within 6 months of this report's adoption;
- ensure that the DCDT, in collaboration with the National Treasury, reviews and addresses policy and regulatory constraints that limit infrastructure sharing among state entities, and reports back to the Committee within 12 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that NEMISA expands access to digital skills programmes across all districts (including deep-rural communities), strengthens post-training support and articulation with accredited qualifications (NQF/TVET/university pathways), and reports back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that NEMISA, together with the University of Limpopo and private-sector partners, implements a standardised monitoring and evaluation framework for Co-Lab and associated training hubs that tracks enrolment, completion and

placement/enterprise outcomes, and reports back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;

- ensure that the DCDT and relevant entities strengthen pathways for trainees into employment, internships, artisan development, SMME incubation and public-sector digital projects (including opportunities linked to the digitisation of community-facing services), and report back to the Committee within 9 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the SABC presents and implements a plan to upgrade regional infrastructure and improve staff working conditions in Limpopo, and report back to the Committee within 12 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the DCDT expedites the development and implementation of a sustainable public broadcasting funding model, acknowledging the limitations of the current TV licence system, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report; and
- ensure that the DCDT and Broadband Infraco implement SA Connect Phase 2 with an explicit sustainability and maintenance approach, appropriate technology choices, and integration with provincial broadband initiatives, and report back to the Committee within 9 months after the adoption of this report.

8. DAY 3: VHEMBE DISTRICT

Community Media, Postal Services and Digital Access

8.1 Stakeholder Engagements

On Day 3, the Committee engaged with the Vhembe District Municipality, during which challenges relating to ICT planning, limited connectivity, weak alignment with Integrated Development Plans, and capacity constraints were outlined.

The Portfolio Committee's visit to Vhembe District Municipality forms part of Parliament’s broader oversight responsibility to assess the implementation, impact, and alignment of publicly funded media and digital development initiatives at the local government level. The visit is particularly focused on institutions and projects supported by the MDDA and their contributions to local development priorities.

The visit seeks to understand the extent to which district and local municipalities have integrated digital transformation into their planning frameworks, including ICT strategies, service delivery models, and community engagement mechanisms. Of particular interest is whether municipal digital initiatives align with national digital transformation objectives and support inclusive access to information, skills development, and local economic participation.

In addition, the Committee aims to assess coordination and alignment across spheres of government, national, provincial, district, and local, recognising that effective digital transformation and media development cannot occur in silos. Engagement with municipal leadership provides an opportunity to identify policy gaps, implementation challenges, capacity constraints, and areas requiring additional support or intervention.

The Committee visited Vhembe FM and Ngoho News, engaging in management, board representatives and staff. The engagements highlighted prolonged governance disputes and leadership instability, including contested decision-making authority, unclear roles between boards and management, and inadequate internal controls.

Concerns were raised regarding regulatory non-compliance, inconsistent reporting and record-keeping, and limited capacity to meet licence conditions and public-interest obligations. Financial accountability challenges were evident, including weaknesses in procurement controls, budgeting discipline and documentation supporting expenditure, which elevate the risk of irregular expenditure and undermine confidence in public funding.

The Committee further engaged with MDDA, GCIS and ICASA on their respective oversight, funding and regulatory responsibilities, and noted the need for stronger coordination, earlier intervention and clear remedial actions to stabilise governance, restore compliance and protect continuity of community information services.

The Committee also visited the Sibasa Post Office, where ageing equipment, intermittent connectivity, inadequate ICT infrastructure and limited access to modern service platforms were reported to be causing queues, service interruptions and reduced product offerings. The Committee noted that these weaknesses undermine SAPO’s potential to serve as a rural digital access point for e-government services, identity and registration support, community Wi-Fi, and digital literacy referrals.

Additional engagements included a meeting with traditional leadership at Ha-Manavhela Village on broadcast signal challenges and internet connectivity issues, during which community representatives reported persistent reception gaps, poor signal quality, and limited responsiveness to fault reporting in remote settlements. The Committee also visited one of the beneficiary households with digital television installations, noting that, where services are functional, they provide immediate benefits for communication, access to information, and educational use.

However, the Committee further noted recurring vulnerabilities in maintenance arrangements, uptime monitoring, user support, and community awareness of reporting channels when services fail. These engagements reinforced the need for coordinated, area-based technical interventions, clear accountability for fault resolution and sustained community communication to ensure that connectivity and migration interventions remain reliable and deliver lasting value in rural and traditional communities.

8.2 Committee Observations

The Committee observed that:

- there are significant connectivity disparities between urban centres and rural villages within Vhembe District. Rural areas continue to experience weak or unreliable connectivity, which entrenches the digital divide;
- digital infrastructure deployment is not adequately integrated with other bulk infrastructure projects, such as water, sewer, and road construction. This results in missed opportunities to install fibre at a lower cost when trenches are already open;
- the municipality lacks a clear revenue-sharing or open-access fibre framework, limiting its ability to leverage municipal assets and ensure long-term sustainability of digital infrastructure investments;
- there are clear and continued failures to leverage existing public fibre/backhaul infrastructure and state corridors, resulting in avoidable delays, duplication and higher rollout costs;
- wayleave approvals, fibre access constraints and inconsistent municipal practices are materially obstructing deployment and must be standardised, time-bound and enforced;
- impact is not being quantified or reported with sufficient rigour; programmes must demonstrate measurable outcomes on livelihoods, SMMEs and job creation, supported by credible evidence.

- there is inadequate proof that initiatives are aligned to IDPs and the District Development Model (DDM), and measurable indicators are largely absent, undermining accountability and effective oversight.
- community media institutions are facing acute governance breakdowns and sustainability risks that require urgent corrective intervention to protect public investment and continuity of service.
- ICT governance structures remain ill-defined, with unclear steering and risk oversight, weak reporting mechanisms and blurred accountability, conditions that must be rectified without delay.
- mediation and early-intervention mechanisms are demonstrably inadequate and must be strengthened to prevent disputes from escalating into operational paralysis and service failure.
- visited SAPO branches are operating with ageing infrastructure and insufficient digital capability, which is eroding service standards aVisitnd undermining their role as access points for government services;
- broadcast signal and transmission deficiencies remain unacceptable in rural and traditional communities and require a targeted, time-bound remedial plan with responsible entities; and
- the governance, compliance and financial-control weaknesses observed in community media, together with connectivity failures and SAPO deterioration, indicate a heightened risk of service collapse in rural communities unless remedial action is coordinated, time-bound and independently monitored.

8.3 Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Minister:

- ensure that MDDA, ICASA and GCIS implement a joint turnaround programme for Vhembe community media (governance mediation, compliance support, financial controls and recordkeeping) with clear milestones, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that MDDA, in consultation with the boards and management of Vhembe FM, appoints independent governance and financial management support to assist with role clarification, policy implementation and procurement compliance for a minimum period of 6 months, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;

- ensure that ICASA conducts a compliance support and enforcement engagement with Vhembe FM, issues a written compliance directive with corrective actions, timelines and consequences for non-compliance, and reports back to the Committee within 2 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that GCIS and MDDA establish a rapid mediation protocol for community media governance disputes in Limpopo, with clear triggers, timeframes and minimum governance standards, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that DCDT convenes a quarterly Vhembe Last-Mile Connectivity Forum (District Municipality, Province, ICASA, Sentech, Broadband Infraco and USAASA), submits minutes and an action tracker quarterly, and reports back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the Vhembe District Municipality establishes a dedicated ICT and connectivity contract-management function (supported where necessary by SITA or national departments) to enforce SLAs, verify performance and escalate underperformance, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that DCDT and the Vhembe District Municipality unblock wayleave and rapid-deployment delays by setting turnaround times, escalation routes and infrastructure-sharing rules, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the District Municipality works with traditional leaders to unlock land access, improve community understanding and accelerate infrastructure rollout in rural villages, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the District Municipality introduces open-access and revenue-sharing fibre models that encourage competition, improve service quality and lower costs, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that Vhembe community media adopt and implement governance and accountability measures (role clarity, procurement and financial controls and dispute resolution) and submit evidence of compliance, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;

- ensure that SAPO implements a service-restoration and digital-hub plan for Sibasa Post Office, including ICT upgrades, connectivity uptime targets, queue-management measures, preventive maintenance and a plan to reposition the branch as a rural digital service hub, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report.
- ensure that SAPO improves customer communication and escalation channels at Sibasa Post Office by displaying service standards, outage reporting contacts and complaint mechanisms, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report; and
- ensure that DCDT, Sentech and the SABC develop and implement an area-based plan to resolve broadcast signal and transmission gaps in Vhembe (with timelines and accountable parties), and report back to the Committee within 12 months after the adoption of this report.

9. OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ensure that a provincial broadband audit is undertaken to establish a consolidated and verified baseline of Limpopo's broadband infrastructure footprint (public and private fibre, towers, Wi-Fi sites, connected facilities, utilisation and uptime) for planning and oversight, including an open, site-level inventory and an identified single custodian for updates, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the government designates a clear institutional authority to drive provincial digital transformation under the DDM, supported by a multi-stakeholder steering committee (Province, District and Local Municipalities, DCDT, ICASA and relevant entities), with signed terms of reference, decision rights and reporting cadence, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that SA Connect targets and implementation plans are recalibrated to align with available funding, institutional capacity, rural backhaul realities and SMME capability, including: (i) prioritised facility lists (schools, clinics, Thusong Centres and municipal service points); (ii) verified minimum service standards (speed, uptime, contention and restoration times); (iii) clear maintenance and security responsibilities; and (iv) an updated provincial rollout schedule, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;

- ensure that rapid deployment regulations are enforced consistently, particularly for wayleaves and municipal approvals, through standard turnaround times, escalation routes and a compliance dashboard per municipality, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that entities with existing fibre and data-centre infrastructure present and implement clear utilisation, sustainability and commercialisation strategies (including open-access principles, pricing where applicable, utilisation targets, partnership pipelines, redundancy/failover plans and governance arrangements), and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that a coordinated intervention is implemented to reposition SAPO branches and Thusong Centres as functional digital service hubs, including (as feasible) stable connectivity, assisted e-government services, basic device and digital-literacy support/referral, visible service standards and escalation contacts, and that pilot sites in each district are identified with an implementation plan and resourcing model, and report back to the Committee within 9 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that a province-specific Broadcast Digital Migration readiness assessment and public communication plan for analogue switch-off is developed and implemented, including a district risk register, beneficiary outreach plan (ward-based and community media channels), installation quality assurance, a single fault-reporting channel per area, and defined restoration targets, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that an integrated provincial implementation tracker is established for all recommendations arising from this oversight (with responsible entity, deliverable, milestone dates and evidence requirements), and that consolidated progress is submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis, starting within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the Minister tables a consolidated accountability report on Limpopo digital transformation projects across DCDT and portfolio entities, including project objectives, budgets, expenditure to date, procurement status, implementation progress, measurable outcomes, failed or stalled projects, responsible officials or entities, and remedial steps, and report back to the Committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;

- ensure that the effect of the sunsetting of legacy mobile networks on subscribers in the province is assessed before further decommissioning proceeds, including the proportion of subscribers still dependent on legacy devices, the affordability measures available to them and the arrangements for the reassignment of released spectrum to improve rural coverage, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that publicly funded connectivity sites in the province are paired with digital skills and user support delivered through existing skills institutions, further education colleges and community structures, so that connectivity investment is measured by use and not by availability alone, and report back to the Committee within 9 months after the adoption of this report; and
- ensure that community media outlets in the province are incorporated into public communication and digital migration outreach arrangements, and that support for their transition to digital distribution is coordinated with the relevant funding agency and reported on jointly, and report back to the Committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report.

10. CONCLUSION

The oversight visits to Limpopo Province have reaffirmed that, notwithstanding measurable progress in expanding access to communications and digital technologies, the overall impact of interventions remains constrained by systemic weaknesses in coordination, governance, infrastructure utilisation, and service delivery execution.

The Committee is particularly concerned that significant public investments are not consistently translating into equitable, reliable, and sustainable digital access for rural and underserved communities. Persistent fragmentation across institutions, weak alignment between planning and implementation, and limited accountability mechanisms continue to undermine the effectiveness of the State’s digital transformation agenda.

The findings of this oversight underscore the urgency of transitioning from policy intent and infrastructure rollout to measurable developmental outcomes, with a clear focus on last-mile connectivity, institutional accountability, and community-level impact. In this regard, the Committee emphasises that digital infrastructure must be treated as a critical enabler of socio-economic development and requires the same level of coordination,

protection, and integration as other essential public services, such as water, electricity, and transport.

The Committee further stresses that the success of government interventions will depend on:

- the establishment of a clearly defined and empowered coordinating framework;
- the enforcement of planning alignment across all spheres of government;
- the effective utilisation and commercial sustainability of existing infrastructure; and
- the strengthening of implementation capacity, particularly in rural and high-cost environments.

Equally, the sustainability of community media, the revitalisation of SAPO as a digital access platform, and the expansion of digital skills pathways must be prioritised as integral components of an inclusive digital ecosystem, rather than treated as standalone interventions.

The Committee will therefore adopt a more rigorous, outcomes-based oversight approach, including structured follow-up engagements, time-bound reporting requirements, and escalation mechanisms when commitments are not met. Entities and departments will be required not only to report on activities, but to demonstrate verifiable impact on access, affordability, service quality, and economic participation.

Ultimately, the Committee reiterates that bridging the digital divide in Limpopo is not merely a technical or infrastructure challenge, but a developmental imperative. Failure to address these systemic issues risks deepening inequality and excluding vulnerable communities from the opportunities of a digital economy. Conversely, decisive and coordinated action can unlock inclusive growth, enhance service delivery, and restore public confidence in the State’s digital transformation agenda.

The Committee further records that allegations or evidence of mismanagement, irregular expenditure, non-performance or failure to deliver measurable outcomes must be escalated through appropriate parliamentary and executive accountability mechanisms.

Corrective action should include expenditure verification, contract review, consequence management where warranted, and transparent communication to affected communities.

The Committee will closely monitor progress following the adoption of this report and will not hesitate to recommend further interventions where implementation falls short.

Report to be considered

4. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ON ITS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SOS SUMMIT ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC INTEREST TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN SOUTH AFRICA DATED 18 AUGUST 2026.

Members and Support Staff in attendance

Members in Attendance	Political Party
Mr Subrathie, SI – Acting Chairperson	ANC
Ms Chauke-Adonis, TM	ANC
Mr Nchabeleng, A	MKP
Mr Ngobese, AK	IFP
Dr Jacob Medupe – Content Advisor	Support Staff
Mr William Legodi – Committee Assistant	Support Staff

1. Executive Summary

The SOS Summit on the future of public-interest television broadcasting in South Africa took place on 8 July 2026 and brought together multiple stakeholders to consider the implications of technological convergence, changing audience behaviour, digital migration, universal access reform, platform accountability, and the sustainability of public-interest television broadcasting.

In attendance were four Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies Members and support staff, comprising four Members of Parliament and two support staff representatives, as well as the broader summit participants drawn from broadcasters, regulators, civil society organisations, researchers, academics, industry representatives, and public-interest media stakeholders.

The Summit took place against the backdrop of a prolonged Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy development process, including the White Paper on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS) and Online Safety, a continuing policy vacuum, implementation challenges in broadcasting and digital migration, uneven broadband access, data affordability constraints, rising transmission costs, changing audience habits, and growing pressure on the public broadcasting mandate. These issues were framed around a central proposition: the future of broadcasting is not only a technological question, but also a

democratic, developmental and inclusion question requiring all people, regardless of income, geography, language, disability, age, device or platform, to access credible, educational, informative, locally grounded and culturally relevant public-interest content.

The Summit noted that public-interest broadcasting, specifically free-to-air radio and television, remains central to democratic participation, access to information, cultural expression, language diversity and social cohesion. The submissions and discussions underscored that broadcasting policy can no longer be treated solely as a technical matter but must be approached as a constitutional, developmental, and public-interest question. Regarding the Broadcasting Digital Migration (BDM) policy, concerns were raised that premature analogue switch-offs, unreliable household migration data, malfunctioning set-top boxes, unaffordable transition costs, electricity constraints, weak network coverage, and limited internet access could undermine universal access, especially for poor, rural, elderly, disabled, and financially vulnerable households. Some proposals were raised about the need to amend the BDM policy.

The Summit further noted that a comprehensive and modernised broadcasting policy framework is required, rather than narrow technical fixes. The policy response must address the full public-interest media value chain, including policy, licensing, spectrum management, signal distribution, content production, platform access, audience measurement, funding, competition and protection of vulnerable audiences. It must also recognise that public-interest broadcasting now forms part of a wider public communication ecosystem in which audiences access news, education, emergency information, cultural programming and democratic content through television, radio, satellite, broadband, mobile devices, social media, streaming services, podcasts, messaging applications and AI-mediated discovery systems.

This report records the key discussions arising from the Summit and presents consolidated observations and recommendations for Parliament, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), public and commercial broadcasters, community media stakeholders and civil society. It incorporates summit evidence on missed migration deadlines, repeated court challenges, inadequate consultation, the unresolved “missing middle”, post office closures affecting registration channels, risks to community television, platform gatekeeping and the broader broadcasting policy vacuum. The report is guided by equity, public interest, and integrity, and requires a digital transition to reduce inequality, ensure that public-interest

content follows audiences across platforms, and protect trusted information, editorial independence, diversity, and accountability.

2. Introduction and Context of the Report

The SOS Summit formed part of a broader national conversation on the future of communications and digital technologies. The discussions were informed by the rapid evolution of the broadcasting environment, the continuing migration from analogue to digital broadcasting, the growth of over-the-top and streaming services, and the changing ways in which citizens access news, information, education and cultural content.

The Committee attended the Summit at the invitation of SOS: Support Public Broadcasting Coalition, which convened and facilitated engagement on the future of public-interest television broadcasting. Members emphasised that the report must accurately reflect both the Committee's participation and the Summit's broader stakeholder-driven nature.

The Summit discussions took place against a backdrop of a long-standing policy vacuum and implementation challenges in the broadcasting sector. Policy uncertainty has affected the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), commercial broadcasters and community media, while more than 50 per cent of advertising revenue has shifted to global technology platforms. Stakeholders raised concerns about delays in digital migration, the future distribution model for free-to-air public-interest broadcasting, regulatory asymmetry between licensed broadcasters and global platforms, and the need to redefine universal access in a converged communications environment.

The Summit highlighted that broadcasting reform has been adversely affected for more than 2 decades, despite successive ICT review processes, policy colloquia, green papers, discussion papers, white papers, and consultations. Delay has therefore become a policy risk, constraining investment, weakening institutional trust and leaving public-interest obligations housed in frameworks designed for an analogue era.

The Summit recognised that decisions regarding spectrum utilisation, signal distribution, broadband access, local content, public service media, and platform regulation will have long-term implications for media diversity, democratic accountability, and inclusive development. The report is therefore structured to present the key issues in narrative form, followed by consolidated observations and recommendations.

The Summit further noted the need to move the sector beyond diagnosis towards coordinated action. Stakeholders emphasised that regulators, broadcasters, civil society, academia, industry and policymakers have too often worked in silos. At the same time, the scale of technological change requires a shared framework for defining universal access, public-interest content, funding, regulation and platform accountability over the coming year.

3. Matters Arising from the Engagement

3.1 Digital Migration and the Future Distribution Model

The Summit strongly highlighted that the digital migration of broadcasting remains an unresolved national policy with a number of implementation challenges. Although the process has been underway for more than two decades, stakeholders indicated that it continues to be affected by delays, shifting ministerial priorities, litigation, implementation uncertainty and contested evidence on household readiness.

The stakeholders during the Summit cited significant audience disruption, including reported audience and advertising losses by the SABC following analogue switch-offs in some areas, and warned that any further switch-off must be preceded by reliable data, verified household migration and clear mitigation measures for affected viewers. The Summit emphasised that analogue switch-off must not be treated as a narrow technical migration but must be measured against whether it expands access or leaves vulnerable households behind.

Stakeholders further raised the need for a clear and evidence-based position on the future signal distribution model for free-to-air television in South Africa, including whether the country should continue to prioritise Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), shift towards satellite-based Direct-to-Home (DTH) solutions, or adopt a hybrid model that combines terrestrial broadcasting, satellite and broadband technologies.

The Summit highlighted that DTT uptake has been constrained by low household adoption and set-top box distribution, compounded by policy failure and changing market realities. Satellite and internet-based distribution are becoming increasingly important as distribution platforms. Any future model must therefore be assessed against affordability, reach, reliability, public-interest obligations, spectrum efficiency and the needs of poor, rural and “missing middle” households.

The Summit noted proposals for a dedicated technical and financial modelling process to compare the costs, coverage, consumer implications and public-interest outcomes of a DTT-

only, satellite-led and hybrid migration pathway. Such modelling should include receiver affordability, installation and maintenance costs, transponder and signal distribution costs, geographic coverage, long-term spectrum planning and safeguards to prevent any household from losing access to essential news, educational programming and public service announcements.

The Summit further noted evidence from community engagements that the migration programme is not experienced uniformly across the country. Outreach in townships, rural communities, and underserved districts revealed barriers related to electricity, network coverage, internet access, affordability, lack of awareness, registration difficulties, delayed confirmations, non-delivery of devices, and installed decoders that do not always translate into functioning television access. These experiences reinforce the need for household-level verification and community-based implementation before any further switch-off decisions are taken.

The Summit discussion clarified that stakeholders were not opposed to analogue switch-off as a policy objective. The concerns raised related primarily to the timing of implementation, household and community readiness, consultation with affected stakeholders, public awareness of digital migration, access to functioning set-top boxes, and the risk that vulnerable communities may lose access to free-to-air public-interest television before adequate support is in place.

The Summit emphasised that digital migration should not be framed as a false choice between DTT and DTH. The appropriate policy question is how terrestrial broadcasting, satellite, broadband-enabled distribution, mobile networks and emerging technologies can complement one another to serve universal access, spectrum efficiency, public value, emergency communication capability and long-term fiscal sustainability. A future distribution model must protect prior public investments while ensuring that households affected by analogue switch-off or changes in reception are not excluded from public-interest services.

The Summit considered and discussed draft Summit Declarations. The declaration discussion emphasised a rights-focused approach, proposing that switch-off should occur only when at least 90 per cent of analogue-dependent households have successfully transitioned to DTT, DTH, or other approved free-access platforms. This transition would be supported by independent audits, reliable reception, and ongoing free-to-air access. The final declarations

will be shared with the rest of the Stakeholders for further discussion and consideration, with clear implementation timelines.

3.2 Universal Access in a Converged Environment

The engagement emphasised that universal access can no longer be understood solely in terms of traditional broadcasting infrastructure or signal coverage. Citizens increasingly access content through mobile devices, internet-enabled services, streaming platforms, satellite services and social media. The Summit thus noted that universal access to public-interest content must be reframed to include affordability, device access, data access, broadband availability, disability inclusion, language diversity, discoverability of trusted content and accessible local programming across platforms.

The Summit further noted proposals to democratise the production and distribution of public-interest content by widening participation beyond the national public broadcaster to include community, commercial, civil society and independent public-interest content producers. This approach would support plurality, diversity and resilience against disinformation, while ensuring that public-interest content is distributed across the platforms where citizens increasingly access information.

Universal access in the digital era should therefore include meaningful online access, affordable or subsidised devices, zero-rated access to defined public-interest content, digital literacy from school age onwards, and the development of digital public infrastructure that carries public services in the same way that roads enable access for all users. The Summit noted that public-interest content should not depend solely on commercial platforms. It should also be supported through alternative digital distribution platforms, must-carry arrangements and clear governance rules for digital public services.

The Summit emphasised that the policy objective should be that every person in South Africa, regardless of income, geography, language, age, disability, device or platform, can access credible, local and culturally relevant public-interest programming and services. Universal access should therefore be measured not only by infrastructure coverage but also by whether people can meaningfully access, afford, find, and use trusted public-interest content. For this purpose, public-interest content should be defined broadly to include news, educational programming, local language content, children’s programming, election information,

emergency information, cultural programming, community television content, locally produced public-value entertainment and verified civic information, before zero-rating, must-carry, platform prominence or funding mechanisms are implemented.

3.3 Changes in Audience Behaviour

Stakeholders noted that audience behaviour has fundamentally changed. Viewers are increasingly shifting from scheduled television viewing to on-demand consumption, often via smartphones, social platforms, and multiple screens. The Summit noted that social media platforms now function as discovery engines through algorithmic recommendations. At the same time, younger audiences increasingly follow personalities as well as institutions, participate in content circulation, and expect content that is accessible, shareable and available across devices. These changes require broadcasters, regulators and policymakers to reconsider operating models, funding arrangements, content strategies, audience measurement and public service obligations to meet the changing needs of citizens.

The Summit also noted that trust and credibility have become strategic assets in a media environment shaped by misinformation, disinformation, AI-generated content and unregulated content creation. Public-interest broadcasters therefore need to innovate digitally while preserving editorial independence, information integrity, trusted journalism, local storytelling, language diversity and universal access.

The Summit further noted that gatekeeping in the digital environment is increasingly exercised through search engines, social media platforms, video-sharing services, aggregation tools, advertising technology and generative AI systems. These intermediaries influence what content is visible, recommended, monetised and easily found. Production of public-interest content is therefore insufficient on its own; public reach also depends on discoverability, prominence, affordability, recommendation systems, language accessibility and the ability of local public-interest content to compete for visibility on digital platforms.

The Summit further noted that policy must address platform prominence, fair monetisation, access to audience data, local-content visibility, language diversity, election-period information duties, protection against misinformation and the treatment of public-interest content by search, social, video-sharing and AI systems. Without these safeguards, trusted public-interest content

may exist but remain invisible, commercially disadvantaged or inaccessible to the citizens it is intended to serve.

3.4 Sustainability of Public Interest Broadcasting

The Summit heard that traditional broadcasters face increasing financial pressure as advertising revenues decline and technology platforms, especially search, expand their share of audience attention and revenue. Stakeholders expressed concern that licensed broadcasters continue to carry public service obligations, local content requirements, licence and spectrum fees, and employment equity responsibilities while global digital and streaming platforms operate in a largely unregulated environment. The Summit noted that this regulatory asymmetry affects all broadcasters but may especially weaken public-interest broadcasting unless it is addressed through a balanced and forward-looking policy framework.

The Summit also heard that the sustainability debate must include a serious funding settlement for public-interest media. Stakeholders cautioned that public broadcasters cannot simply migrate to digital platforms without adequate public funding, digital distribution capacity and policy certainty. Fragmented audience attention, declining traditional advertising revenue, and the growth of platform-controlled advertising markets all weaken public-interest broadcasters' ability to meet their obligations for local content, language, news, education, and election periods without a revised funding model.

The Summit noted that the SABC remains central to national public-interest objectives, including service to all official languages, national events coverage, rural and urban reach, local content support and democratic information needs. However, the current funding model has not kept pace with technology, audience behaviour, weak television licence compliance, shifting advertising markets to global technology platforms and the cost of digital transformation. The Summit therefore recognised the need for a credible, transparent and evidence-based funding mechanism that protects editorial independence, recognises the real cost of the public mandate and supports the SABC’s repositioning as a digital public service media institution. The Summit further highlighted that the public mandate carries real and measurable costs, and that when those costs are not adequately funded, commercial revenue that should support innovation, technology, content creation and competitiveness is redirected to subsidise public-service obligations.

The Summit further noted that a hybrid funding approach should be considered, combining appropriate public funding, improved commercial performance, regulatory reform, stronger

collection mechanisms, digital transformation, cost management and local content support. Any funding model should be assessed against universal access, affordability for citizens, adequacy for the public mandate, protection of editorial independence, governance accountability and the ability to support a modern digital public media service.

The Summit took note that the South African Broadcasting Corporation SOC Ltd Bill must be considered as part of the broader effort to reposition the SABC as a public service media institution in the digital era. The legislative process should clarify the relationship between the public-service mandate and commercial activities, strengthen governance and accountability, and provide a credible basis for a future funding model to be developed by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, in consultation with the Minister of Finance. This alignment should determine if the funding model will be integrated into the SABC Bill, aligned with the AVMS policy process, or presented separately with its implementation mechanisms.

The Summit further noted that community television must not be treated as a marginal consideration in the migration debate. Community television provides local democratic value, neighbourhood-level information, language diversity, local production opportunities and community accountability. However, small DTT audiences, limited decoder penetration, weak advertising markets and uncertain carriage arrangements threaten its sustainability. Any future migration roadmap must therefore include explicit protection for community television and other community media services.

3.5 Stakeholder Trust, Data Integrity and Oversight

The Summit noted serious concerns about the level of trust among government, regulators, broadcasters, and civil society. Stakeholders attributed the trust deficit to inconsistent consultation, policy uncertainty, fragmented governance, closed or segmented engagement processes and poor communication on implementation programmes. There were also concerns about the reliability and consistency of data on migrated households, functioning set-top boxes, household registration, geographic coverage, and audience reach.

It was emphasised that effective oversight depends on credible, verifiable, and regularly updated information, and that government reporting should distinguish among registered households, installed devices, functioning devices, households with signal availability, and all households that remain dependent on analogue or other free-to-air access mechanisms. Community evidence further suggests that official statistics must be tested against lived experience through spot checks, follow-up surveys and direct household verification. The

Summit further emphasised that policy and implementation processes must be credible, transparent at the appropriate stages, and evidence-based, to provide affordable, equitable and universally available public-interest broadcasting aligned with the public interest.

The Summit noted that regulatory reform must respond to the convergence among broadcasting, telecommunications, broadband, and online content. The separation between legacy broadcasting regulation and digital platform regulation is increasingly insufficient where audiences access public-interest content through search, social media, streaming, messaging and mobile services. Reform should therefore address platform accountability, online harms, children's protection, fair competition, local content prominence, media freedom, regulatory parity and the discoverability of trusted public-interest content.

The Summit further noted that effective oversight requires reliable, independent and inclusive audience measurement. Future measurement systems should capture consumption across television, radio, online platforms, social media, podcasts and emerging digital services, while ensuring that rural audiences, township audiences, language communities, persons with disabilities, young people and low-income households are not rendered invisible in the data. Improved audience evidence will assist policymakers and stakeholders in assessing whether public funding, regulatory privileges and spectrum allocations are producing measurable public value.

The Summit also noted the need to clarify institutional responsibilities across the Department, ICASA, Sentech, the SABC, commercial broadcasters, community broadcasters, signal distributors and digital platform providers. Clear lines of responsibility are necessary so that implementation duties are measurable, progress can be publicly reported, and stakeholders can monitor delays, bottlenecks, funding decisions, access outcomes and policy commitments.

4. Observations: The Summit noted that:

- South Africa requires a comprehensive and modernised broadcasting policy framework that addresses the full public-interest media value chain, including policy, licensing, spectrum, signal distribution, content production, platform access, audience measurement, funding, competition and protection of vulnerable audiences;
- the broadcasting sector is affected by a structural policy vacuum, delayed reform, outdated law, weak strategic coordination and unresolved institutional accountability;
- broadcasting digital migration remains incomplete and requires verified household-level evidence before any further analogue switch-off decisions are taken;

- any future analogue switch-off must be rights-based, independently verified and supported by transparent readiness data, including thresholds, functioning reception, affordability and sustainable free-to-air access;
- future distribution policy should assess how terrestrial, satellite, broadband, mobile and emerging technologies can complement one another in advancing universal access, spectrum efficiency and public value;
- community-level evidence points to unresolved gaps in electricity supply, network coverage, internet access, affordability, registration, distribution, installation, maintenance and decoder functionality;
- the "missing middle" remains inadequately protected because many households fall outside indigent support criteria while still being unable to afford digital televisions, decoders, satellite equipment, connectivity or sustained subscription-based access;
- premature or poorly managed analogue switch-offs risk audience loss, revenue decline and weakened constitutional access to information;
- universal access must include broadcasting, broadband, affordability, device access, data access, disability inclusion, language diversity, zero-rated public-interest content, digital literacy and discoverability across platforms;
- public-interest content requires a clear and broad definition that includes news, education, emergency information, election information, children's programming, community media, local language content, cultural expression and locally produced public-value programming;
- platform gatekeeping affects public access through discoverability, prominence, recommendation logic, monetisation, audience data and algorithmic visibility;
- the SABC requires a credible, transparent and evidence-based funding model that recognises the real cost of the public mandate, supports digital transformation and protects editorial independence;
- the SABC Bill, SABC funding model and AVMS policy process must be aligned so that the public-service mandate, commercial activities, governance obligations and funding responsibilities are clear;
- community television and community media require explicit protection in migration, funding and platform-access reforms because they provide local democratic value but face severe sustainability risks;
- reliable, independent and inclusive audience measurement is essential to assess whether public funding, spectrum allocations and regulatory privileges produce measurable public value; and

- meaningful, transparent and inclusive stakeholder consultation, including direct engagement with affected communities and sustained cross-sector coordination, is necessary to rebuild trust and support future reforms in the sector.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Recommendations to the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies that the Minister should:

- ensure that a comprehensive status report on broadcasting digital migration is submitted to Parliament within 90 days, including migrated households, remaining analogue-dependent households, registered households, installed and functioning set-top boxes, signal availability, geographic DTT coverage, programme expenditure, outstanding risks and a revised implementation roadmap, and report back to the committee within 3 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that an independent technical and financial audit is conducted on the digital migration programme, including household access statistics, set-top box functionality, installation quality, maintenance failures, distribution infrastructure, expenditure and the reliability of data used for decision-making, and report back to the committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that a revised analogue switch-off readiness framework is tabled, setting out thresholds, measurement methodology, independent audit arrangements, treatment of faulty or inactive installations, and safeguards for households dependent on intermittent subscription television, and report back to the committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that community verification is implemented through spot checks, follow-up surveys and household-level confirmation to determine whether registered and installed households have working reception and continued free-to-air public-interest television access, and report back to the committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that subsidy thresholds and qualification criteria are reviewed to address the “missing middle”, inflation, household affordability, device and installation costs, and the effect of post office closures on registration and support channels, and report back to the committee within 12 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that a universal digital public access framework is developed, including affordable broadband, subsidised or sponsored devices, zero-rated public-interest content, digital literacy, disability inclusion, language diversity, discoverability and must-carry arrangements on designated digital public infrastructure, and report back to the committee within 12 months after the adoption of this report;

- ensure that a working definition of public-interest content is developed in consultation with broadcasters, community media, civil society, ICASA, Sentech, the MDDA, academia and digital platform experts to guide zero-rating, platform prominence, must-carry, funding and regulatory obligations, and report back to the committee within 12 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the final SABC funding model is presented, consultation with the Minister of Finance is confirmed, and a transparent, evidence-based and affordable funding mechanism is developed to recognise the cost of the public mandate, protect editorial independence and support digital transformation, and report back to the committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report;
- ensure that the DCDT, GCIS ICASA and the MDDA develop a sustainability framework for community broadcasting, including infrastructure support, skills development, digital transition assistance, audience data, local content support and sustainable funding mechanisms, and report back to the committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report; and
- ensure that there is a well-coordinated analogue switch-off based on verified household readiness, meaningful community consultation and continued affordable access to free-to-air public-interest television services, and report back to the committee within 6 months after the adoption of this report.

5.2 Recommendations to Parliament:

- ensure that the Committee provides stringent oversight of a broadcasting policy overhaul steering mechanism with clear terms of reference, transparent participation and defined outputs to rebuild trust, consolidate expert input, identify quick wins and prepare the foundation for comprehensive reform;
- ensure that the broadcasting policy overhaul steering mechanism is outcome-driven, publicly accountable and inclusive of key public, industry, regulatory, civil society, expert and affected community stakeholders;
- ensure that the Committee considers convening an urgent colloquium on the broadcasting policy framework, with particular attention to digital migration, the BDM Policy, DTT, free-to-air satellite, broadband-enabled distribution and terrestrial television for public-interest broadcasting;
- ensure that the Committee sanctions a comparative options assessment of DTT, DTH/satellite, broadband-enabled distribution, mobile networks, emerging technologies and hybrid models, including cost, coverage, affordability, reliability, energy needs, maintenance, emergency

communication capability, spectrum implications, institutional capacity, local content carriage, competition and long-term fiscal sustainability;

- ensure that the comparative options assessment includes community television, free satellite access, dual-illumination costs, DTT under-adoption, receiver affordability, repairs and maintenance, and the long-term implications of reliance on foreign-owned satellite or digital platform infrastructure;
- ensure that any proposed SABC funding model is assessed against affordability for citizens, adequacy for the public mandate, governance accountability, editorial independence, sustainability and the ability to deliver local content, language diversity, news, education and national public-interest programming across platforms;
- ensure that the South African Broadcasting Corporation SOC Ltd Bill is processed in a manner that clarifies the separation between public-service and commercial activities, strengthens governance, supports accountability and does not leave the public mandate unfunded;
- ensure that a formal Executive position is sought on how the SABC funding model, the SABC Bill and the AVMS reform process will be aligned, including fiscal implications and the respective roles of the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies and the Minister of Finance;
- ensure that a national multi-stakeholder process on the future of public-interest broadcasting is facilitated, involving the Departments, ICASA, Sentech, broadcasters, signal distributors, community media, civil society, academia, audience measurement bodies, digital platform experts and relevant industry stakeholders, with clear terms of reference and public reporting obligations;
- ensure that review of the communications (ECA Amendment Bill) and broadcasting legislative framework (SABC Bill) is expedited to determine whether it remains fit for purpose in a converged digital environment and whether targeted short-term amendments are required while broader reform proceeds;
- ensure that the Committee provides oversight of regulatory reform relating to platform accountability, consumer protection, online harms, children's protection, fair competition, local content prominence, media freedom, regulatory parity, election information duties, fair monetisation, audience data and discoverability of trusted public-interest content;
- ensure that ICASA and the Department are requested to report on the regulatory implications of search engines, social media platforms, video-sharing services, streaming services, advertising technology systems and AI recommendation tools that influence visibility, monetisation and access to public-interest content;

- ensure that Parliament provides oversight on an improved audience measurement framework that captures television, radio, online platforms, social media, podcasts and emerging digital services, while representing rural audiences, township audiences, language communities, persons with disabilities, young people and low-income households;
- ensure that Parliament monitors the government's investigation of a comprehensive public-interest media framework covering public service broadcasting, community media, local content, digital distribution, media diversity, media literacy, platform accountability, discoverability, prominence, algorithmic recommendation systems and AI-driven content discovery; and
- ensure that the summit declaration document is engaged and that a full position statement is provided after consideration by the Committee.

6. Conclusion

The Summit concluded that South Africa's broadcasting sector requires urgent, coordinated and evidence-based policy action. The Summit strongly emphasised that public-interest broadcasting remains a democratic investment in the future, and that the transition must ensure that citizens are more informed, more represented, and more connected to public life, not less.

The future of public-interest broadcasting must be secured through inclusive access, sustainable funding, credible data, effective regulation, editorial independence, media literacy, and meaningful collaboration among Parliament, government, regulators, broadcasters, civil society, affected communities, and the public. Failure to act decisively risks deepening exclusion, weakening free-to-air broadcasting, undermining community media, reducing local content production, accelerating the loss of advertising revenue to global platforms and leaving citizens dependent on commercial intermediaries for trusted public information.

The Summit further concluded that the task is not simply to complete digital migration, but to build a modern communications and broadcasting framework that advances inclusion, strengthens democracy, protects access to trusted information, supports sustainable public-interest media and ensures that public-interest content remains accessible, discoverable and relevant in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

The Summit called for firm, constructive follow-up on digital migration, SABC funding reform, regulatory modernisation, relevant legislation, the development of a comprehensive policy framework and the implementation of summit-related resolutions. Guided by equity, public

interest and integrity, the insights from the Summit should shape a policy and regulatory agenda that responds to citizens' needs today and is resilient enough to meet the challenges of the future. The Summit also took note of the declaration and emphasised the importance of further engagement once it is finalised.

Report to be considered

5. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ON THE P20 YOUTH PARLIAMENT 13 JUNE 2025: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE FINANCIAL AND FISCAL COMMISSION DATED 18 AUGUST 2026.

1. BACKGROUND

On 3 December 2025, the National Assembly adopted the Report on the P20 Youth Parliament held on 13 June 2025. The report contained various recommendations which were referred to several Portfolio Committees (including the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies) for consideration and report.

The Speaker of the National Assembly addressed a letter to the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Hon. Mr M S Malatsi, MP, drawing attention to the recommendation that **"the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies must conduct a national audit on youth access to digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and informal areas."**

The Speaker directed the Minister to forward a report on the implementation of the relevant recommendations to the Speaker for formal tabling and referral to the Committee, within 45 working days from the date of receipt of the letter.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS IMPACTING THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE

The following recommendations from the P20 Youth Parliament report fall within the mandate of the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies:

Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity

- National audit on youth access to digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and informal areas.
- Develop digital infrastructure with particular focus on townships and schools.

- Provide learning devices and connectivity to all learners for equitable access to digital education platforms.

Data Costs and Digital Access

- Revise the National Data Policy or related regulations to eliminate high mobile data pricing practices.
- Reduce data costs to ensure equitable access to the digital economy.

Report to be considered