



NEWS

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FCC CHAIRMAN KENNARD SIGNS WORK PROGRAMME WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Today William E. Kennard, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), began implementation of his International Development Initiative by signing a work programme with his counterpart at the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA).

The Chairman's Development Initiative is a commitment to work with developing nations to achieve universal communications services through implementation of the goals of the World Telecommunications Organization's Basic Telecom Services Agreement: promoting competition, liberalizing markets and adopting transparent, pro-competitive regulatory policies.

Attached are Chairman Kennard's remarks (as prepared for delivery) and the work programme.

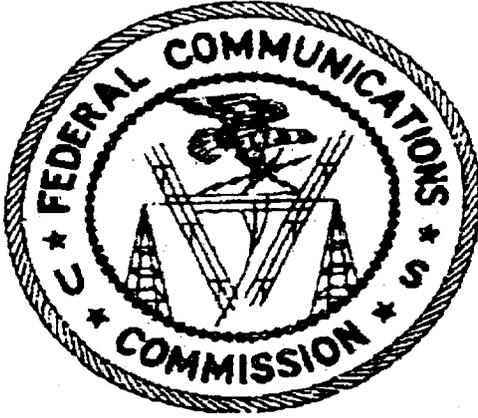
William E. Kennard

Remarks
for the
Signing Ceremony
of the
Work Program
Between
The U.S. Federal Communications Commission and
The South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

Johannesburg, South Africa
August 17, 1999

- Good Afternoon. I would also like to welcome you to the signing ceremony for the FCC/SATRA work program. (*Nape speaks first*)
- Our two organizations have been friends for a long time; today we solidify our commitment to working together to enhance universal access in this great country.
- This is a significant day for me as Chairman of the FCC because it is the second major step we have taken to execute the development initiative I announced at AFCOM 99 in June of this year.
- Our first milestone was to release this publication (*hold up*) titled “Connecting the Globe.” This document is available on the Internet and highlights the major issues telecom regulators face in our time.
- My development initiative intends to include key countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe. We released this book first because it was the most concise and effective way of responding to the deluge of requests we receive every year to provide information and guidance on these issues.
- I hope it will be a prime resource for those around the globe who are grappling with these difficult decisions for years to come.
- I am proud to be the first FCC Chairman to travel to Africa – the first destination of my development initiative.
- I chose Africa to begin this initiative for the simple reason that the challenge to achieve universal access in Africa is most urgent.
- And because courageously implementing the right regulatory procedures here stands to transform the lives of a greater number of people.

- A people who risk losing their place in the global information society if these challenges are not met.
- And as the first African American Chairman of the FCC, I cannot stand idly by and do nothing to advance the African Information Infrastructure.
- As I have said previously, there can be no Global Information Infrastructure without an African Information Infrastructure.
- The work program we sign today covers a one year period. It outlines the major issues the FCC and SATRA will collaborate on: regulatory process, universal access, competition, interconnection, licensing, spectrum management and general training.
- We will begin workshops on some of these topics as early as tomorrow. I look forward to a lively and earnest discussion with SATRA and its staff.
- We also anticipate that my initiative will complement President Clinton's Internet for Economic Development Initiative in the area of policy reform. This initiative targets several countries in Africa and elsewhere, notably South Africa, Ghana and Uganda, three of the ones I will work with.
- Today begins a new chapter in FCC/SATRA relations. May our partnership be fruitful; may we advance in tangible ways our commitment to universal access.
- May both organizations manage to learn from one another, and at the end of the day, may we be able to say that we responded to the unique challenge of our time with courage and tenacity, and that we succeeded in doing our part to make telecommunications services accessible to the largest number of people.
- Thank you.



**UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA
REGULATOR CONSULTATIONS
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**WORK PROGRAMME
FOR AUG 99 TO AUG 2000**

17 AUGUST 1999



UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA
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WORK PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST 99 - AUGUST 2000

1. Introduction

The United States of America Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA), recognizing the significant efforts that are required of SATRA during its formative stages, have discussed mutual co-operative activities aimed at helping SATRA to fulfill its mandate. To this end, the two organizations have developed the following Work Programme to be accomplished during the 1999-2000 period.

2. Work Programme

2.1 Rulemaking Procedures and the Public Process

The 1999-2000 fiscal year will see SATRA becoming fully engaged in a public process in the making of various regulations. This is an extremely important process, and the FCC has much experience in this area. SATRA wishes to benefit from this experience as the public process unfolds.

The FCC will assist SATRA on numerous aspects of the administrative process throughout this period, including internal agency structure, the rulemaking process, the proper role of SATRA staff, issues relating to the processing of applications, delegation of authority issues and conflict of interest management. As an initial matter in August, the Chairman of the FCC and representatives of the FCC's International Bureau will present a one-day seminar at SATRA Headquarters in South Africa that will include training on rulemaking, procedural transparency and the public, consultation and comment process. The Work Plan envisions continuous contact throughout the year between FCC and SATRA staff. These contacts will include continuous consultations on these and other related issues

The contact person for the seminar and on-going consultations is Roderick K. Porter of the FCC's International Bureau (202-418-0423). The SATRA contact on this subject is Chairman Nape Maepa, Tel No. +27-11 321-8202.

2.2 Universal Access

Throughout the year, the FCC will be available to provide SATRA with policy and technical advice, as requested, regarding the expansion of universal access to telecommunications throughout South Africa, focusing on strategies to attract investment, foster competition and choice for the public, ensure open access to the network, and provide for appropriate and

flexible regulation. The two agencies will discuss applications to education, health, the environment, and the interconnection of libraries through telecommunications.

Roxanne McElvane of the FCC's International Bureau (202-418-1489) is the primary FCC contact on these issues. SATRA's primary contact is Thabo Makhakhe of the Telecommunications Licensing Division, Tel No. +27-11 321-8342.

2.3 Competition and Interconnection

Throughout the year the FCC will be available to provide advice to SATRA, as requested, on methods of promoting competition and choice for the public through interconnection regulatory policy, numbering plans and other regulatory structures and processes. These discussions will include consultations on specific SATRA proposals related to these topics.

Roxanne McElvane of the International Bureau (202-418-1489) is the primary FCC contact on these issues. SATRA's primary contact on these issues will be Thabo Makhakhe.

2.4 Telecommunications Licensing

In pursuit of government policy to introduce in the telecommunications sector greater choice to the South African public, SATRA has embarked on a program to provide for additional telecommunications licensing. The FCC and SATRA will engage in ongoing consultation in this area. Gerald P. Vaughn of the FCC's Wireless Bureau will be the primary FCC contact for this part of the work programme (202-418-0799). Thabo Makhakhe will be the primary contact for SATRA.

2.5 Spectrum Management and Monitoring

The use of spectrum is increasing exponentially as South Africa begins the process of delivering on her promise of fostering telephony for the vast majority of her population who have no access to telecommunications. The users of the spectrum will need unencumbered, interference-free use of the spectrum. SATRA has initiated a project to determine the status of its preparedness to serve the public interest in this regard, and to supplement its resources, both human and infrastructure. The long record of experience that the FCC has in these matters will be used to assist SATRA in this effort in the form of ongoing advice and consultations during the course of the Work Programme period.

The primary FCC contact person for ongoing spectrum management and monitoring and management advice and consultations during the programme year will be Arlan K. Van Doorn of the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau (202-418-1105). The primary SATRA contact person for such advice and consultation will be Mothibi Ramusi of Frequency Planning, Tel No. +27-11 321-8245.

2.6 Information Technology Infrastructure Development

When SATRA was formed in 1997, staff from the Department of Communications working in regulatory capacities were transferred to SATRA. Because none of the staff from the information technology (IT) area transferred, SATRA outsourced its entire IT requirements to the private sector. The sensitivity and confidentiality of certain of the various databases, information and other data necessary for the proper functioning of an independent regulatory agency cannot be over emphasized. Accordingly, SATRA wishes to take advantage of the advanced expertise available within the FCC with respect to its handling of sensitive data and information.

Thomas Sullivan, Assistant Bureau Chief for Management in the FCC's International Bureau, will be the primary contact person for consultations on Information Technology Infrastructure Development. SATRA's primary contact in this area will be Nicky Maredi, Support Services Division, Tel No. +27-11 321-8236.

2.7 Telecommunications Training

The transfer of staff associated with the formation of SATRA resulted in the loss of certain key staff, primarily in the technical areas. The FCC has certain staff training capabilities from which SATRA can benefit. Therefore, during the period for the Work Programme SATRA and the FCC will co-operate on training in telecommunications topics, particularly, and as a first stage, concerning measurements, standardization and certification, signal analysis and propagation measurement techniques.

The primary FCC contact will be Dale Hatfield of the Office of Engineering and Technology, (202-418-2470). Papi Mekwa, Human Resources Division, Tel No. +27-11 321 8260 will be the primary SATRA contact in this area.

2.8 Other Exchanges

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

This work programme is subject to the resources constraints of both organisations and may be modified as necessary by mutual agreement.

Roderick K. Porter, FCC International Bureau Deputy Chief is the FCC representative responsible for overall implementation of this work programme. Chairman Nape Maepa is the SATRA representative responsible for such implementation.


William E. Kennard
Chairman, FCC
August 17, 1999


Nape Maepa
Chairman, SATRA
August 17, 1999