

**MINUTES OF THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT CONSULTATION WITH WAPA HELD AS FOLLOWS:**

**DATE: 18 JULY 2018**

**TIME: 10H00**

**VENUE: BLUECRANE BOARDROOM – DTPS**

**CHAIRPERSON: LINDEN PETZER (DTPS)**

**SCRIBE: JACKIE SETSHEDI (DTPS)**

**ATTENDANCE - The following officials attended the meeting:**

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| **NO.** | **NAME** | **ORGANISATION** |
| 1. | Juanita Clark | FTTX Council |
| 2. | Tim Genders | WAPA |
| 3. | Estelanie Kennedy | WAPA |
| 4. | Sydney Ramutla | WAPA |
| 5. | Linden Petzer | DTPS |
| 6. | Jackie Setshedi | DTPS |
| 7. | Vusi Mthembu | DTPS |

**APOLOGIES:** An apology was received from Cynthia Lesufi (DTPS).

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| ITEM NO | AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION |
| 1. | Opening and Welcome | The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.  He explained that the DTPS invited WAPA to the meeting to listen to their challenges with respect to ICT infrastructure deployment. |
| 2. | Introductions | Participants introduced themselves. |
| 3. | Attendance and Apologies | An attendance register was circulated and attendance and apologies are indicated above. |
| 4. | Adoption of the Agenda | The agenda was adopted without changes. |
| 5. | Presentation: Rapid Deployment Policy | Mr. Linden Petzer made a presentation on Rapid Deployment and highlighted the objective of the Rapid Deployment Policy, amendments to the Electronic Communications Act and the establishment of the RDCC and its functions. |
| **ITEM NO** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** |
| 6. | Industry Challenges with Infrastructure Deployment | While there is some improvement, the lengthy and incoherent permit and authorisation processes and procedures remain a challenge,.  In Johannesburg, approvals are generally obtained within 1 week  Bloemfontein is a challenge  CAA Approvals can take up to 6 weeks  In smaller towns, landowners act in an exclusionary manner with respect to pricing  The 30-day notice that could be given to a landowner after which a licensee can proceed to deploy, is also not very helpful as it comes with negative implications of damage to existing infrastructure and/or injury; which would further exacerbate relations between landowner and licensee.  WAPA members are experiencing corruption at municipalities in terms of being granted permission.  Business Forums are also a challenge. They insist on the use of labour of their members, even though they are not on the roll of municipal-approved service providers. This problem is getting worse, especially in Pretoria.  Local investors experience a lot of red-tape, as opposed to foreign investors. There is a difference in treatment between local and foreign investors. Foreign investors are taken seriously and receive preferential treatment.  In the event that there is a change of ownership of land or a building, the new land or building owner often asks for a higher rental fee for high sites.  There is a proliferation of masts on buildings, which have prompted some Body Corporates to not allow antennas on their buildings, or to take down those that have already been put-up. |
| 7. | Proposed Solutions to the challenges | A new legislation is proposed with regard to fair pricing, e.g. WAPA proposes a charge of R200-300 per antenna for rented mast space. |
| Consider legislation which compels Body Corporates and owners to allow masts on their building tops for the sake of service delivery and the good of the country. |
| Wireless service providers should be given permission to use existing infrastructure such as poles owned by Eskom, municipality etc. This would assist in reducing the cost of rolling out in communities. However, the issue of maintenance of the poles should be addressed if the pole is used by multiple stakeholders. There should be minimum standards for deploying on poles and other complications that go with this type of infrastructure use; such as 24 hour use of the poles. |
| Designated areas for rapid deployment should be identified, e.g. squatter camps. |
| Buildings and property belonging to government could be used for rapid deployment and information on that infrastructure be made available. |
| In terms of corruption in municipalities; there should be a dedicated person (a champion), who will assist with applications without soliciting bribes. |
| Pre and post-paid prices for data should be the same. |
| There is a huge need for people to get connected, and communities do not know whom to approach with regard to telecom challenges except for MNO’s; who ignore them in most cases. The RDCC could intervene and redirect issues of the communities to WAPA. |
| 8. | WAPA Census | WAPA will share with the DTPS information that shows where their members are doing work and the kind of work they are doing. |
| 9. | Training and Skills Transfer | WAPA enquired on DTPS training programs. DPTS explained that Ikamva National eSkills Institute (iNeSI), a government institute working with universities, is dealing with e-skilling the nation and capacitating lecturers. |
| 10. | Coverage Gap | People who reside in rural areas depend on mobile data, which is very expensive, while they receive relatively low income. A net flow of investment in rural, peri-urban and dense urban areas is needed. |
| 11. | Fibre Deployment Costs in remote areas | Some service providers, e.g. Open Serve, charge different prices for the cities and rural/remote areas. The poor (in rural areas) are charged almost a hundred times more than those who can actually afford. |
| 12. | Action Plan (Way Forward) | DTPS to share presentation made in the meeting (Item no.5) with WAPA. |
| 13 | Closure | The meeting concluded at 12h00. |