


## LICENSING IN A CONVERGED ENVIRONMENT



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## Outline of the presentation

- History of the ICT market
- Areas of convergence
- What challenges does this pose to licensing
- What are some of the options available in dealing with these challenges

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## History of the players ICT market

- Differentiated markets
  - **Broadcasting (radio & TV), Telecommunications, Computing/IT, Postal**
- Common characteristics (except IT)
  - **One government owned company**
  - **Providing initially one type of service (in some cases, postal and telecom)**
  - **Industry opened to other providing other sector services (*mobile, Internet, courier, FM*)**

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## History of the oversight of ICT market

- Different oversight (regulatory and policy makers)
  - **Ministry/Department of Information, Ministry responsible for Communications**
  - **Regulation - initially performed by incumbent or department in ministry then different regulators for the different markets (broadcasting, telecommunications, postal, computing)**
  - **Licensing vertically in terms conduit/technical (infrastructure with service) and content**

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## Areas of convergence

AREA	PREVIOUSLY	NOW
IT and telecom	LANs, WANs,	Internet
Fixed and mobile	Provided using different networks	Available from the same switch
Voice, data and video	Voice, internet, data, video uniquely identified	Anything over IP, Triple play
Fixed, mobile and nomadic	Discretely identifiable	Difference? (home zone billing, quad play)

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## Challenges to licensing (1)

- Appropriate licensing regime
- Types of licences (converged, unified etc)
- Necessity to make changes in existing policies, laws and regulations
- Appropriate licensing fees
- Resources allocation (spectrum, numbers): e.g. basis of allocation

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## Challenges to licensing (2)

- Enforceability of licence provisions/regulations across different providers
- Rights and obligations (level playing field).
- Addressing national interests (sovereignty, jurisdiction, universal access, affordability)

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## Challenges to licensing (3)

- Interconnection
- Regulatory oversight: who is in charge of what? E.g. Internet
- Standards while industry looks at business (QoS)
- Competition across different technologies
- Consumer awareness and protection
- Policies of other government organs (e.g. taxation)

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## Addressing the challenges

- What is the basis of licensing? Why do we licence?
  - **Consumers?**
  - **Fair competition?**
  - **Government Policy implementation?**
  - **Protection of national resources?**
  - **Management of scarce resources?**

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## Addressing the challenges

- Full merger of the various regulatory bodies having oversight of the component markets
- Don't fight it. Embrace it.
- Explore alternatives to achieving national goals and protecting national interests e.g. PPPs
- Holistic planning taking into consideration international trends
- Peer and stakeholder networking

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