



MINISTRY
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X860, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: +27 12 427 8270
Private Bag X 9151, Cape Town, 8000 Tel: +27 21 469 5223 <http://www.dcdt.gov.za>

Honourable Khusela Sangoni

Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
P.O Box 15
CAPE TOWN
8000

5 July 2026

Dear Chairperson

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Thank you for your letter dated 01 July 2026.

At the outset it is essential to point out that provision for the recognition of equity equivalent investment programmes in the ICT sector is contained in both the Democratic Alliance's 2024 manifesto and the Government of National Unity's own Medium Term Development Policy (MTDP).

It is thus both part of the electoral mandate that guides me, and an agreed position of the Government of National Unity.

The work on my Ministry's policy reform contributions to the MTDP began between July and August 2024.

As I am sure you would agree, it is impossible to be unduly influenced to do something one is already doing.

I would also point out that, to date, I have met with MzansiSat, Amazon Leo, China Satellite Network Company (CSNC), Spacesail, Space24, Starlink and other stakeholders advocating for Low Earth Orbit Satellites (LEOs).

None of these meetings discussed individual license applications. Such meetings are always about understanding each entity's capabilities and sharing insights about the country's current regulatory dispensation.

Of course, part of enriching my grasp of all matters affecting the portfolio requires engagements with relevant stakeholders, and I do so across the scope of the portfolio. As Ministers we are constantly approached by stakeholders on different matters. Sometimes stakeholders do so directly or through

third parties, often companies offering services in public affairs and stakeholder engagements. There are also occasions in which Members of Parliament approach me with suggestions to meet stakeholders.

All of this is a normal, and indeed essential, part of being in government. As captured in the Policy Colloquium Feedback Report from December 2025, which has been shared with the Portfolio Committee, I have always held a firm belief that a collaborative relationship between the private sector and government is necessary for us to bridge the digital divide. My leadership style is to have an open-door policy for the sector.

Engagements with stakeholders may broaden my perspective on issues, but they do not dictate my decision making. I always make decisions without fear or favour, guided by the constitution, the law and the mandate I have from the voters.

Resolve Communications

It is important to clarify that the media interview on which you relied for the basis of your letter alleges neither that I met with Resolve Communications nor that it facilitated any meeting with Starlink.

Resolve Communications has approached my office on two separate occasions to bring my attention to matters affecting some stakeholders in the digital communications space.

The first approach was on Friday, 01 November 2024. This culminated in a meeting with Premiums Ideas SA (PISA), a South African company specializing in sim-card packaging and logistics. The meeting took place on 18 November 2024.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear and understand PISA's concerns regarding RICA non-compliance, particularly in the mass distribution of improperly registered sim-cards that undermines law enforcement efforts and financial security. The meeting took place at their offices and was attended by one of their executives Mohammed Hassim and the Stakeholder Manager in my office.

The second approach was in June 2025 with a request regarding Hot 102.7 FM's license amendment application to ICASA. Initially, a meeting was scheduled for July 2025 but subsequently cancelled by my office after referring the matter to ICASA.

I have also interacted with Resolve's CEO, Paul Boughey, at least twice telephonically since my appointment. The first was regarding the PISA matter shared above and the second was in relation to his query about accessing the published copy of the Government Gazette that contained the policy directive.

Mr. Boughey's query was one of many from a broad range of stakeholders, and it was mundane, considering the widespread interest in the matter.

Starlink

I have met once with a representative of SpaceX, Starlink's parent company, Ryan Goodnight. The meeting took place in September 2024. I was joined by my Chief of Staff. The meeting was facilitated directly between my office and Robert Appelbaum.

I have been transparent about having met with Starlink, including openly speaking about it in an interview with Mybroadband which can be viewed here:

<https://mybroadband.co.za/news/broadband/562245-south-african-communications-minister-meets-with-starlink.html>)

This was an introductory meeting as part of my broader and ongoing effort to understand the impact of LEOs in accelerating access to broadband connectivity, and, as mentioned previously, I have also met with a great number of other players in this space.

You will know of course that the President has himself met with Elon Musk and when queried about this meeting and whether the issue of Starlink's license will be discussed, the spokesperson to the President responded that "Certainly, the issue will be discussed."

(<https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/south-africas-ramaphosa-aims-mend-us-ties-with-musk-business-push-2025-05-19/>).

I hope this response enables you and the committee to gather the facts you sought to establish.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Solly Malatsi, MP
Minister of Communications & Digital Technologies