



**MINISTRY: COMMUNICATIONS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Mr. JL Mahlangu, MP  
Chairperson  
Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications and Postal Services  
National Assembly  
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa  
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Dear Chairperson

**BRIEFING OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND  
POSTAL SERVICES ON 12 FEBRUARY 2019**

Your letter dated 01 February 2019 in the above-mentioned regard, refers.

The Ministry has noted the report of the Portfolio Committee on the Electronic Communications Amendment Bill, 2018. Importantly we have taken note of the indication that Parliament is unlikely to finalise the Bill during the current period before the 2019 National and Provincial Elections.

The report of the Portfolio Committee has also identified issues that require further deliberations between the department and the industry. Thus far, the Ministry has already done preliminary engagements with some of the stakeholders and will continue with the required consultations.

In light of these issues, I hereby withdraw the Bill for further consultations. As part of this process we will also assess the policy and regulatory requirements needed to support the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution and Digital Economy. The Electronic Communications Amendment Bill will also have to evolve to support our drive to create a digital society and should contribute to strengthening and enabling the regulatory environment going forward.



I wish to thank the Committee for its efforts in considering the Bill and conducting public hearings for this purpose.

Yours sincerely



**MS. STELLA NDABENI-ABRAHAMS, MP**  
**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**DATE: 11/02/2019**

