

ICTs in SA: the Week Wot Was

An occasional newsletter from *Charley Lewis ICT* - analysis & research in ICT policy & regulation
Please stay home if you can! And sanitise often! For more info: <http://www.sacoronavirus.co.za>.

EP-Commerce chronicles, or is your T-shirt's intention undone?

Widely upbraided for being unfair to online and economically obscurantist, even slapped down by SARS, - flying in the face of global good practice - EP finally did a rethink. Online wine any day soon? Please.

Sunk without track or trace?

Off to a poor start and bad press, rescued by good drafting, and praised as a passable silk purse, the track and trace regs, likely unimplementable, were finally laid to rest. Meanwhile, cellphone data still seems to catch lockdown louts. But, abroad debate's still on, Apple & the NHS square off, while the EU centralises.

SA Disconnected, digital disparities come home to roost

Lockdown leaves far too many in the lurch, sidelined for SASSA, digitally divided from e-learning. Action is urgent - for stakeholders, for learners. The ITU's Speedboat Plan sets useful short & medium term goals.

Coming soon, via an undersea cable near you

Digitally divided we may be, more subsea cables are coming. Not to be outdone by China Telecom's BRICS baby, Facebook will fondly enfold itself 2Africa. Rollout is constrained by Covid, but click to see the future.

Addis enters the wonderland

The last to liberalise its prize market, Ethiopia canvasses licensing, consumer protection and dispute resolution. Plenty a pre-Covid suitor in the wings: Vodacom/Safaricom, MTN, Orange, even Econet. Bets, anyone? Meanwhile, across the sea, Seychelles gets ready to launch the last regulator in Africa.

Coming soon from Palgrave...

My book, *Regulating Telecomms in SA: Universal Access and Service*, will be out soon. Watch this space.

In case you missed it, concentrating on Covid-19...

- Written pre-Covid, the ITU's annual global benchmark look at regulatory trends & collaboration;
- The ITU also looked at how frontier tech can help assess, mitigate & adapt to climate change;
- This key Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression & Access to Information in Africa;
- Meanwhile, the GSMA made recommendations for mobile money measures under Covid-19;
- CIPESA looked at 2019's Internet shut-downs, their impact and their cost, across Africa;
- And the AU's draft Digital Transformation Strategy has been about a bit.



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