



PBICT WELCOMES AND COMMENDS THE RECONFIGURATION OF THE B-BBEE ICT SECTOR COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Progressive Blacks in ICT (PBICT) welcomes and commends the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Hon. Solly Malatsi, MP, for the decisive intervention to reconfigure the leadership of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment ICT Sector Council.

The Minister's decision to reconfigure the leadership is aimed at providing stable leadership to the Council while the Department completes its work on its longer-term composition.

PBICT regards this intervention as an important and necessary step towards restoring the credibility, functionality and effectiveness of an institution that carries an enormous responsibility for advancing transformation within South Africa's ICT sector.

PBICT has consistently maintained that the country requires a B-BBEE ICT Sector Council with teeth, one that is able to bite where transformation commitments are ignored, delayed or deliberately frustrated.

The Council cannot exist merely as an administrative or advisory structure. It must be an active instrument for transformation, capable of monitoring the sector, interrogating transformation performance, identifying areas of non-compliance and ensuring that the commitments contained in the B-BBEE ICT Sector Code translate into meaningful economic participation.

The ICT sector is at the centre of South Africa's economic future. Questions of ownership, procurement, infrastructure, spectrum, skills development, enterprise development and access to emerging technologies will increasingly determine who participates in and benefits from the digital economy.

It is therefore unacceptable for transformation to remain impressive on paper while the lived experience of many black ICT professionals, entrepreneurs and SMMEs remains characterised by barriers to markets, capital, infrastructure and meaningful economic opportunities.

PBICT particularly welcomes the mandate given to the interim leadership to stabilise the Council and restore its capacity to function, including establishing proper governance structures, reconstituting sub-committees and developing a strategy and operational plan containing clear objectives, deliverables, indicators, targets and timelines.

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We further welcome the Minister's emphasis on restoring financial controls and addressing outstanding reporting obligations, including the outstanding Annual Monitoring Report on transformation in the ICT sector.

These interventions are critical. Transformation cannot be managed without credible institutions, reliable data, measurable targets and clear accountability.

THE ICT SECTOR COUNCIL MUST HAVE TEETH

PBICT believes that the reconfiguration must ultimately produce a Council that commands the respect of the sector and has the institutional capacity to fulfil its mandate without fear, favour or prejudice.

The Council must be capable of confronting difficult transformation questions across the ICT value chain. It must be able to engage telecommunications operators, multinational technology companies, state-owned entities, government institutions and other major industry participants on their contribution towards transformation.

A transformed ICT sector cannot simply mean changing employment demographics while ownership, infrastructure, intellectual property, procurement and access to markets remain concentrated.

Transformation must result in black-owned companies becoming sustainable industry players; black professionals occupying positions of real authority; women and young people participating meaningfully in the digital economy; and township and rural enterprises gaining access to opportunities throughout the ICT value chain.

South Africa therefore does not need a Sector Council that merely records the pace of transformation. We need a Council that drives it, monitors it, defends it and holds the sector accountable for it.

PBICT CONGRATULATES NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON WILLIAM LEDWABA

PBICT congratulates its National Chairperson, Mr William Ledwaba, on his appointment by the Minister as Interim Deputy Chairperson of the B-BBEE ICT Sector Council, effective from 14 August 2026 for a period of six months.

The Minister has further appointed Mr Loyiso Tyira as Interim Chairperson and Mr Alfred Mmoto as the Department's representative to the Council, providing a formal channel between the Council and the Department during the interim period.

PBICT regards the appointment of our National Chairperson as a significant responsibility. We have confidence that Mr Ledwaba will contribute towards rebuilding a credible,



functional and assertive Sector Council and will continue to champion the transformation objectives that are fundamental to building an inclusive ICT economy.

TRANSFORMATION MUST MOVE FROM COMMITMENT TO CONSEQUENCE

PBICT believes that this intervention must signal a new era of urgency and accountability in ICT sector transformation.

For too long, the transformation debate has been dominated by commitments, targets and policies. The next phase must be characterised by implementation, monitoring, enforcement and consequence.

The transformation of South Africa's ICT sector cannot be postponed.

PBICT will continue to engage constructively with the Minister, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, the B-BBEE ICT Sector Council, regulators, state institutions and industry stakeholders in advancing a transformed, inclusive and competitive ICT sector.

We remain resolute that black South Africans must not merely be consumers and employees in the digital economy. We must be owners, innovators, industrialists, entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

PBICT once again commends Minister Malatsi for taking this important step and wishes the interim leadership well as it undertakes the critical work of stabilising and rebuilding the B-BBEE ICT Sector Council.

The ICT sector needs a transformation Council with teeth. A Council that does not merely measure transformation, but has the courage and capacity to drive it.

ENDS

ISSUED BY THE PROGRESSIVE BLACKS IN ICT (PBICT)

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