THE SOUTH AFRICAN MOBILE DEVICES DISTRIBUTORS AND REPAIRERS ASSOCIATION (SAMDDRA)

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAMDDRA Welcomes and Supports ICASA's Proposed Amendments To South Africa's Numbering Plan Regulations

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Johannesburg, 29 October 2026 — The South African Mobile Device Distributors and Repairers Association (SAMDDRA) welcomes and expresses its support for the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) following the publication of the Draft Numbering Plan Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2026, for public comment.

Published under General Notice 4217 of 2026 in Government Gazette No. 55631, dated 28 October 2026, the proposed amendments seek to strengthen subscriber identity verification, combat SIM-related fraud, and improve accountability in the management of mobile numbers in South Africa.

SAMDDRA supports these objectives, recognising the importance of protecting consumers, preventing identity theft, and promoting a safer and more transparent telecommunications environment.

The proposed amendments include biometric identity verification for mobile number activation and SIM swaps, as well as a proposed limit on the number of mobile numbers assigned to an individual subscriber by a network operator.

SAMDDRA acknowledges that the proposed amendments remain subject to public consultation and that the final regulations have not yet been determined. We welcome the opportunity for interested and affected stakeholders to submit their views before ICASA reaches its final decision.

As an association representing stakeholders in the mobile device distribution and repair industry, SAMDDRA encourages meaningful engagement with distributors, repairers, retailers, mobile network operators, and other affected parties. Their input will be important in ensuring that the final regulations are practical, proportionate, and responsive to the realities of the industry.

We further believe that the potential impact on businesses and consumers, including implementation costs, operational requirements, data protection, consumer access, and appropriate transition periods, should be carefully considered during the consultation process.

SAMDDRA encourages its members and the broader industry to familiarise themselves with the draft regulations and participate constructively in the public consultation process.

We commend ICASA for providing an opportunity for public participation and remain committed to engaging with the Authority and relevant stakeholders to support the development of a fair, secure, and workable regulatory framework.

SAMDDRA supports the objectives of ICASA's proposed amendments and looks forward to contributing constructively to the consultation process in the interests of consumers, legitimate businesses, and South Africa's telecommunications industry.

Issued by:

South African Mobile Device Distributors and Repairers Association (SAMDDRA)

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