**Selected Lectures Series**

**Telecommunications Policy,**

**Regulation and Management**

**2020)**

**TPRM**

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**Portfolio Committee on Communications**

**Select Committee on Publi**

**c Enterprises and Communication**

**Various Portfolio Committees by invitation**

**Monthly Focus**

**Session**

**Institutions, policy, law and regulation**

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**building**

**the digital services ecosyste**

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**Tuesday**

**27**

**October**

**2020**

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**Modules 2**

**and**

**3**

**Global trends in ICT governance**

**for African cyber space**

**–**

**Trends, Organisations and Developments**

**Policy, law and regulation**

**for the electronic communications and digital**

**services ecosystem**

**Convenor:**

**Luci Abrahams**

**, LINK Centre**



Parliamentary discussion session: Institutions, policy, law and regulation for the SADC digital economy

**Content overview: Institutions, policy, law and regulation for the SADC digital economy** The deliberations in the second and third modules of the lecture series (September and October) focused on the policy and regulatory activities/actions required to build the digital economy, where telecoms and other digital technologies provide the foundational infrastructure and where the digital services that utilise this infrastructure can benefit economy and society. It is apparent that, in order for each country to benefit from the evolution of the digital economy, the SADC region will require greater regional economic integration and regional regulatory collaboration. It is also apparent that the pace of digital evolution requires a more rapid pace of policy and regulatory action.

Thus, for this monthly focus session, we will consider the following topics, all related to evolution of the

1. Broad policy and regulatory agenda (5Gpolicy futures; additive manufacturing; digital government; digital media; digital pedagogy and online learning; fintech; digital health service; data protection; digital skills)
2. Pace of policy adoption and regulation
3. Legislation, model laws (SADC Parliamentary Forum, powers and functions of institutions

Building a strong policy and regulatory ecosystem to support the evolution of a regional digital economy requires synergies between the work of many Portfolio and Select Committees of Parliament, noting the strong trends towards collaborative digital evolution.

# Broader lecture series objectives relevant to the Parliamentary oversight function

 To explore the constantly evolving challenges facing policymakers, legislators, regulators and regulatory practitioners in South Africa’s dynamic electronic/digital communications environment;

 To assess the implications of emerging digital technologies and market development for policy and regulation;

 To consider the capacities required to work on policy and regulatory challenges arising in the context of the digital economy.

# Facilitator

**Luci Abrahams** (PhD) is Director of the LINK Centre at Wits University, building research on digital innovation and digital transformation in Africa’s economies, including telecoms, broadcast and postal services, and digital economy transitions. Studies include: digital skills gap analysis (DCDT), digital government strategy (GITOC), scaling up innovation in tech hubs (Open AIR African innovation research partnership); health e-services improvement (Egypt-South Africa research partnership); the SADC communications environment (SADC Secretariat); e-government monitoring and evaluation framework (Gauteng Provincial Government). She convenes the MA and PhD programmes in Interdisciplinary Digital Knowledge Economy Studies. Luci has served as Council Member of the National Advisory Council on Innovation, as Board Member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, on the boards of the State Information Technology Agency and the National Research Foundation, and on the Council on Higher Education. She was a member of the Ministerial Review Panel on the Science Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape (2015-2017). Luci is Corresponding Editor for *The African Journal of Information and Communication*.

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