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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 1730**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Ms V van Dyk (DA) to ask the Minister of Communications:**

Has the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) placed a moratorium on community radio licences; if not, (a) how many community radio licences have been issued (i) in the 2015-16 financial year and (ii) since 1 April 2016, (b) what are the names of the stations and (c) in which province is each station located; if so, (aa) since which date has the moratorium been in place and (bb) what are the reasons for the moratorium?

**REPLY: MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Yes, ICASA placed a moratorium on community radio licences.

1. i) ICASA issued twenty three (23) community sound broadcasting service licences in the 2015/16 financial year.

ii) Five (5) were issued since April 2016.

b)/c) The names of the stations and the provinces in which they are located:

| **Licences issued in the 2015/16 Financial Year**  |
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| **Name of Station**  | **Province** |
| Abaqulusi Community Radio  | Eastern Cape  |
| Voice of Matat Community Radio  | Eastern Cape |
| Dihlabeng FM  | Free State  |
| Eden Community Radio | Gauteng |
| Abusekho Ubunzima Christian Radio Station  | KwaZulu Natal  |
| Pongola Community Radio  | KwaZulu Natal  |
| Choice FM  | Limpopo  |
| Mutsindo FM | Limpopo  |
| Polokwane Community Radio  | Limpopo  |
| Radio Ysterberg  | Limpopo |
| Radio Wolkberg  | Limpopo  |
| Radio Kransberg | Limpopo  |
| Radio Naboom  | Limpopo |
| Thulamela FM | Limpopo |
| Eyethu Community Radio | Mpumalanga  |
| Radio Dagbreek  | Mpumalanga  |
| Revelation FM | Mpumalanga  |
| Lara FM | Northern Cape  |
| Radio Magalies  | North West  |
| Radio Tafelkop  | North West  |
| Caledon FM | Western Cape |
| Radio Disa | Western Cape  |
| Radio Perron Central  | Western Cape  |

| **Licences issued since 1 April 2016**  |
| --- |
| **Name of Station**  | **Province** |
| Radio Karoo  | Eastern Cape  |
| Sirius FM | Gauteng |
| Jou Radio | Limpopo |
| Hoedspruit Community Radio  | Mpumalanga |
| 7441 FM | Western Cape  |

aa) On 22 September 2015, ICASA issued a moratorium in respect of applications for class community sound broadcasting service licences and applications for radio frequency spectrum for purposes of providing a community broadcasting service.

bb) The moratorium was necessitated by:

1. A scarcity of analogue radio frequency;
2. The review of the licensing processes and procedures regulations to include a provision for ICASA to process registrations from class community broadcasting licences in two intervals per year. This was concluded in March 2016; and
3. ICASA is in the process of developing new regulatory framework for community broadcasting in the 2016/17 financial year.

The moratorium does not however, apply to pending applications received by the Authority before September 2015 and applications for special event licences.

**MR NN MUNZHELELE**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL [ACTING]**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**DATE:**

**MS AF MUTHAMBI (MP)**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**DATE**