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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 431**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: FEBRUARY 2016**

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

Who will build the Independent Communications Authority of SA’s (ICASA) third Digital Terrestrial Transmission radio frequency network, Multiplex (MUX) 3, and (b) who will operate MUX 3, since it will be shared by new free-to-air television licensees and Pay TV operators? NW444E

**REPLY: MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS**

(a)   Multiplex 3 network does not belong to ICASA. ICASA regulates and facilitates the deployment of Multiplex 3 network as prescribed in the approved digital terrestrial television (DTT) Regulations and Terrestrial Broadcasting Frequency Plan of 2013.

(b)  The capacity of Mux 3 is earmarked for a new subscription television licensees and a new Free-To-Air (FTA) licensee with an allocation capacity of 45% and 55%, respectively. Licensing processes in respect of 45% capacity for subscription broadcasting service is currently underway. The licensee will select a signal distributor build the Mux 3 network. The selected signal distributor is expected to also distribute the 55% Mux 3 capacity that would be assigned by the Authority pursuant to finalisation of a process to license additional FTA licensee through a commercial arrangement and without prejudice.

**MR NN MUNZHELELE**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL [ACTING]**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**DATE:**

**MS AF MUTHAMBI (MP)**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**DATE**