

**Commencement of broadcaster trials of digital terrestrial television –  
Statement by the Digital Dzonga Advisory Council**

The Digital Dzonga Advisory Council has been appointed by the Minister of Communications to advise on and oversee the complex process of migrating South Africa’s analogue broadcasting services to a new digital technology known as digital terrestrial television or DTT.

The 12 member Council consists of representatives from every sector including labour and consumer groups.

On 1 November 2008, broadcasters SABC, e-tv and M-Net in association with signal distributors Sentech and Orbicom will commence technical trials of digital terrestrial television. The aim of these trials is to ensure that any technical issues are detected and resolved before DTT services are made available to the public.

Lara Kantor, the Chairperson of the Digital Dzonga Advisory Council considers the trial to be an important first step, “We are excited to be witnessing the start of the broadcaster trials on DTT. We believe the trials will yield important findings to guide us, as we plan for the launch of DTT to the public in mid-2009.”

The members of the Advisory Council applaud the broadcasters and signal distributors for all their efforts in planning and executing this trial.

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