INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES ACT 2001

Act 44/2001

Proclaimed by:

[Proclamation No. 6 of 2002] w.e.f. 11th February 2002 Section 1 and Part VII

[Proclamation No. 27 of 2002] w.e.f. 1st June 2002 Sections 2 and 3, Parts II to VI and Part IX

[Proclamation No. 35 of 2003] w.e.f. 1st December 2003 Part VIII

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An Act

To establish the Information and Communication Technologies Authority, the Information and Communication Technologies Advisory Council, the Information and Communication Technologies Appeal Tribunal and to provide for the regulation and democratisation of information and communication technologies and related matters

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows -

PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001.

2. Interpretation

In this Act -

"access" means access by a person to the facilities and services of a licensee excluding interconnection for the purpose of providing information and communication services.

"access agreements" means an agreement which sets out the terms and conditions pursuant to which a licensee grants access to a person where the services operated by the letter do not require the interconnection of physical networks.

"allocation" means the entry of a given frequency band in the Mauritius Frequency Allocation Table to be used by one or more terrestrial or space radio communication service, or the radio astronomy services;

"authorised officer" means the officer designated as such under section 25;

"Authority" means the ICT Authority established under section 4;

"Board" means the ICT Board established under section 5;

"broadcasting" means the emission or transmission of sounds or images for reception by the public;

"certificate" means a document issued by a certification authority for the purpose of supporting digital signatures which purports to confirm the identity or other significant characteristics of the person who holds a particular key pair;

"certification authority" means a person duly authorised under the Electronic Transaction Act 2000 to issue a certificate;

"charging principles" means the principles which -

 (a) may be prescribed for use in determining the amounts to be charged from or by a licensee under an access agreement and an interconnection agreement; or

(b) may be specified under such determinations, directives and guidelines as the Authority may issue from time to time;

"code of practice" Deleted by [Act No. 13 of 2004]

"Competition Commission" means the Competition Commission established under section 4 of the Competition Act;

Added by [Act No. 38 of 2011]

computer" means any device for storing and processing information whether or not the information is derived from other information by calculation, comparison or otherwise;

"computer service person" – Deleted by [Act No. 1 of 2009]

"computer system" means a device or combination of devices, including input and output support devices, but excluding calculators which are not programmable, and capable of being used in conjunction with external files, which contain computer programmes, electronic instructions, input data and output data that performs logic, arithmetic, data storage and retrieval, communication control and other functions;

"Controller" means the Controller of Certification Authorities referred to in the Electronic Transactions Act;

Amended by [Act No. 7 of 2009]

"Council" means the ICT Advisory Council set up under section 34;

"data" means information recorded in a form in which it can be processed by equipment operating automatically in response to instructions given for that purpose;

"data user" - Deleted by [Act No. 1 of 2009]

"domain name' means a unique alpha-numeric designation used to access a computer on the internet and all domain names located in the .mu name hierarchy;

"dominant operator" means a licensee who, by the terms of his licence or by reason of his share in the market or the availability to him of technological ability, infrastructure or capital, has a substantial degree of power in the market for the supply of an information and telecommunication services including a telecommunication service;

"electronic transaction" means any transaction conducted over a network, using computers, information and communication technologies, including telecommunications;

"essential facility" -

 (a) means a facility which is exclusively or predominantly provided by a single or limited number of public operators; but (b) does not include a facility which can feasibly be economically or technically substituted in order to provide an information and communication service;

"Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the Authority appointed under section 14;

"facility" means -

- (a) any part of the infrastructure of an information and communication network including a telecommunication network; or
- (b) any line, cable, radio, equipment, antenna, tower, mast, tunnel, pit, pole or other structure or thing used, or included for use, in connection with an information and communication network including a telecommunication network;

"financial year" means the period extending from 1 July in any year to 30 June in the next ensuing year;

"frequency band" means a continuous frequency range of spectrum;

"information" means data, text, images, sounds, codes, computer, programmes, software, databases or the like;

"information and communication industry" means any entity -

- (a) carrying on a business; or
- (b) engaged in any commercial activity connected with information and communication technologies;

"information and communication network" means a network for the transmission of messages and includes a telecommunication network;

"information and communication service" means any service involving the use of information and communication technologies including telecommunication services;

"information and communication technologies" means technologies employed in collecting, storing, using or sending out information and include those involving the use of computers or any telecommunication system;

"intercept' means intercept by listening or recording, by any means, a message passing over an information or communication network, including telecommunication network, without the knowledge of the person originating, sending or transmitting the message,

"interconnection" means the linking up of 2 information and communication networks, including telecommunication networks so that users of either network may communicate with users of, or utilise services provided by means of, the other network or any other information and communications network including telecommunication network;

"interconnection agreement" means an agreement made between 2 or more licensees which sets out the terms and conditions -

- (a) for interconnection between the facilities in the information and communication networks, including telecommunication networks of 2 or more licensees; or
- upon which a licensee obtains interconnection to information and communication services, including telecommunication services supplied by another licensee;

"International Mobile Station Equipment Identity" or "IMEI" means a unique number which is allocated to every individual mobile station equipment in the Public Land Mobile Network and which shall unconditionally be implemented by the Mobile Station (MS) manufacturer;

"Internet" means a publicly accessible system of global interconnected computer networks which uses the Internet Protocol as its communication protocol to provide a variety of information and communication facilities;

"Internet Protocol" or "IP" means a standard consisting of a set of rules governing digital

data communication on the Internet;

"licence" means a licence issued under section 24,

"licensed certification authority" means a Certification Authority licensed by the Controller;

"licensee" means the holder of a licence;

"Mauritius Frequency Allocation Table" means the table where the spectrum plan for Mauritius is detailed:

"member" includes a chairperson;

"message" –

- (a) means any form of electronic communication; and
- (b) includes any other communication whether in the form of speech or other sound, data, text message, writings, images, photographs, signs, signals or code, or in any other form or combination of forms;

"Minister" means -

- (a) the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of Information and Communication Technologies Authority is assigned; but
- (b) in relation to sections 12, 34, 35 and 36, the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of information technology and telecommunications is assigned;

"Multiplex Operator" has the same meaning as in the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act;

"network" means a communication transmission system that provides interconnection among a number of local or remote devices;

"personal data" Deleted by [Act No. 13 of 2004]

"public operator" means a licensee who -

- (a) (i) owns or operates a public information and communication network, including a telecommunication network; or
 - (ii) offers an information and communication service, including a telecommunication service to the public; or
- (b) owns or operates a network referred to in paragraph (a)(i), and offers a service referred to in paragraph (a)(ii);

Amended by [Act No. 38 of 2011]

"radio communication" means any transmission, emission, or reception of signs, signals, writings, sounds or intelligence of any nature, of a frequency less than 3000 gigahertz, propagated in space without artificial guide;

"radio spectrum" means the portion of the electromagnetic spectrum which is below 3,000 gigahertz;

"service provider" means any person who provides an information and communication service, including telecommunication;

"significant market power", in relation to a public operator, means the position of the operator who, either individually or jointly with any of its subsidiaries or others, enjoys a position equivalent to dominance in any specific market segment such that its position of economic strength affords it the power to behave to an appreciable extent independently of competitors, customers and ultimately consumers;

Added by [Act No. 38 of 2011]

"SIM" means a detachable, or an embedded, Subscriber Identity Module used in a device connected to a mobile network to access the services of an operator;

"tariff" means the rate, fee, charge or price which a public operator offers to claim for an information and communication service which it supplies on a wholesale or retail basis;

"telecommunication" means a transmission, emission or reception any message or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems whether or not such any message or intelligence have been subjected to rearrangement, computation or other processes by any means in the course of their transmission, emission or reception;

"telecommunication equipment" means an electronic device intended for the purpose of telecommunication;

"telecommunication network" means a system, or a series of systems, operation within such boundaries as may be prescribed, for the transmission or reception of messages by means of guided or unguided electro-magnetic energy or both;

"telecommunication service" -

- (a) means a service for carrying a message by means of guided or unguided electromagnetic energy or both;
- (b) subject to paragraph (c), includes radio-communication;
- (c) does not include public broadcasting;

"Tribunal" means the Information and Communication Technologies Appeal Tribunal established under section 36;

"universal access" means the access to an information and communication service, including a telecommunication service, that the Authority has determined should be made available, accessible and affordable to the public; "universal service' means an information and communication service including a telecommunication service determined by the Authority as being a service of a defined nature and quality, of which the availability, accessibility or affordability to the end-users is not adequate and has to be improved through a designated public operator;

"Universal Service Fund" means the Universal Service Fund established under section 21.

Amended by [Act No. 7 of 2009]; [Act No. 1 of 2009]; [Act No. 38 of 2011]; [Act No. 9 of 2015]; [Act No. 21 of 2016]; [Act No. 14 of 2018]; [Act No. 7 of 2020]; [Act No. 15 of 2021]

3. Application of the Act

(1) Subject to subsection (2), this Act shall bind the State.

(2) The Minister may on such terms and conditions as he may determine, exempt any Government department, statutory corporation, non-governmental organisation, or foreign governmental or foreign non-governmental agency acting pursuant to such international Convention or treaty as may be prescribed and to which both Mauritius and the government of that agency are signatories, from compliance with this Act in the interests of the sovereignty of the State, national security or public order.

Amended by [Act No. 21 of 2016]

Part II - ICT AUTHORITY

4. Establishment of the ICT Authority

 There is established for the purpose of this Act, an Information and Communication Technologies Authority known as the ICT Authority. (2) The Authority shall be a body corporate.

5. ICT Board

(1) There shall be an Information and Communication Technologies Board to be known as the ICT Board.

(2) The ICT Board shall be responsible for the administration and management of the Authority.

- (3) The ICT Board shall consist of -
 - (a) a Chairperson. to be appointed by the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition;
 - (b) the Secretary for Home Affairs or his representative;
 - (c) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of finance;
 - (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of information technology and telecommunications;
 - (e) a representative of the Attorney-General's Office:
 - (f) 4 other members, to be appointed by the Minister.
- (4) The members referred to in subsection (3)(a) and (f) shall -
 - (a) be persons having sufficient knowledge and experience in the field of information and communication technologies, computer science.
 broadcasting and telecommunication law, business and finance, internet or electronic commerce.
 - (b) hold office on such terms and conditions as the Prime Minister may determine.

(5) Any appointment made under the repealed section 5 shall, at the commencement of this section, lapse.

Amended by [Act No. 21 of 2016]

6. Meetings of the Board

- (1) The Board shall meet -
 - (a) at least once every month;
 - (b) whenever so decided by the Chairperson; or
 - (c) upon request of any 3 members.
- (2) Five members shall constitute a quorum.
- (3) The Board may co-opt such person as may be of assistance in relation to any matter before the Board.
- (4) In the absence of the Chairperson at a meeting of the Board, the members present shall elect a member to act as Chairperson for that meeting.
- (5) Any person co-opted under subsection (3) shall have no right to vote on any matter before the Board.
- (6) Every member shall be paid such remuneration and allowances from the General Fund as may be determined by the Minister.

Amended by [Act No. 21 of 2016]

7. Disqualification from membership

- (1) No person shall be eligible to be appointed or to remain a member of the Authority if he -
 - (a) is a shareholder or director or employee of a public operator;

- (b) is an undischarged bankrupt or has made any arrangement with his creditors;
- (c) is incapacitated by physical or mental illness; or
- (d) acts contrary to this Act.
- (2) No member shall be removed except for a reason specified in subsection (1).

Amended by [Act No. 21 of 2016]

8. Disclosure of interest

A member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary or other interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Board shall forthwith, or as soon as is practicable after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge, disclose on record or in writing the nature of his interests to the Board and shall not -

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the Board with respect to that matter; and
- (b) take part in any decision of the Board with respect to that matter.

9. Declaration of assets

- (1) Every member, the Executive Director, and such other employees as the Board may decide, shall not later than 30 days after their appointment or after their vacation of office deposit with the Authority a declaration of assets and liabilities in relation to himself, his spouse and children.
- (2) A declaration under this section shall be made by way of an affidavit, sworn before the Supreme Court in the form specified in the Second Schedule.

10. Delegation of powers

Subject to such instructions and rules of a general nature as it may give or make, the Board may delegate to -

- (a) a committee comprising the Chairperson and 2 other members; or
- (b) the Executive Director,

such of its powers under this Act as may be necessary for the effective management of the Authority, other than the power to borrow money or to grant a licence other than a licence to operate a radiocommunication service subject matter of an allocation.

Amended by [Act No. 7 of 2020]

11. Appointment of committees

The Board may appoint such committees as it thinks fit to advise the Authority on such matters within the purview of this Act.

12. Internet Management Committee

- (1) The Minister shall, after consultation with the Board, appoint an Internet Management Committee.
- (2) The Committee under subsection (1) shall consist of a Chairperson and 10 members.
- (3) The members shall hold office for a period of 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- (4) Members under subsection (2) shall be selected from among representatives from the public sector, private sector, non- government organisation and academia, by

virtue of their qualifications, expertise and experience in information and communication technologies, computer science, broadcasting and telecommunication law, business and finance, internet, electronic commerce and related educational and training services;

(5) Every member shall be paid such fee as may be determined by the Board.

13. Functions of the Internet Management Committee

- (1) The functions of the Internet Management Committee shall be -
 - (a) to advise the Authority on Internet and related policies;
 - (b) to provide a forum for stake-holders to discuss issues relating to the administration of Internet;
 - (c) to administer domain names in the context of the development of the information and communication industry; and
 - (d) to make recommendations to the Board on any matter relating to Internet including the administration and management of domain names.
- (2) The Committee may appoint such working groups as may be necessary in the discharge of its functions under the Act.
- (3) The Committee shall regulate its meeting and proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.

14. The Executive Director

- (1) There shall be a chief executive officer of the Authority who shall-
 - (a) be known as the Executive Director; and

- (b) be appointed by the Board with the approval of the Minister on such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit.
- (2) The Executive Director shall be responsible for the execution of the policy and the control and management of the day-to-day business of the Authority.
- (3) The Executive Director -
 - (a) shall attend every meeting of the Board;
 - (b) may take part in the deliberations of the Board;
 - (c) shall not be entitled to vote on any question before the Board.
- (4) The Executive Director may, with the approval of the Board, delegate any of the functions or powers delegated to him under section 10 to an officer.
- (5) In the exercise of his functions, the Executive Director shall act in accordance with such directions as he may receive from the Board.

15. Employment of staff

- (1) The Authority may employ, on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such officers and other members of staff as may be necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Authority.
- (2) Every employee shall be under the administrative control of the Executive Director.
- (3) Every employee who has an interest in any contract with the authority or acquires an interest of any kind from a licensee shall make a declaration on the prescribed or approved form.

PART III - OBJECTS, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

16. Objects of the Authority

The objects of the Authority shall be -

- (a) to democratise access to information taking into account the quality, diversity and plurality in the choice of services available through the use of information and communication technologies
- (b) to create a level playing field for all operators in the interest of consumers in general;
- (c) to license and regulate the information and communication services;
- (d) to ensure that information and communication services including telecommunication services are reasonably accessible at affordable cost nationwide and are supplied as efficiently and economically as practicable and at performance standards that reasonably meet the social, educational, industrial, commercial and, other needs of Mauritius;
- to encourage the optimum use of information and communication technologies in business, industry and the country at large, the introduction of new technology and the investment in infrastructure and services;
- (f) to promote the efficiency and international competitiveness of Mauritius in the information and communication sector;
- (g) to further the advancement of technology, research and development relating to information and communication technologies through modern and effective infrastructure taking into account the convergence of information technology, media, telecommunications and consumer electronics;
- (h) to advise the Minister on all matters relating to information and communication technologies and on matters relating to the Authority generally.

17. Powers of the Authority

- (1) The Authority, in addition to the powers it has under section 37 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, may -
 - (a) commission expert evaluations, conduct studies, collect data related to the information and communication industry;
 - (b) authorise any person to conduct such technical tests or evaluations relating to information and communication services including telecommunication as it thinks fit.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Authority may require a public operator who holds a licence granted under this Act to provide information on the use, area of coverage and means of access to his service.
- (3) The Authority shall have the power to make such determinations, issue such directives and guidelines grant such authorisation, approval or clearance, and do such acts and things, as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of its objects and the discharge of its functions.

Amended by [Act No. 38 of 2011]; [Act No. 14 of 2019]

18. Functions of the Authority

- (1) The Authority shall -
 - (a) implement the policy of government relating to the information and communication industry;
 - (b) provide economic and technical monitoring of the information and communication industry in accordance with recognized international

standard practices, protocols and having regard to the convergence of technology;

- (c) promote and maintain effective competition, fair and efficient market conduct between entities engaged in the information and communication industry in Mauritius and to ensure that this Act is implemented with due regard to the public interest and so as to prevent any unfair or anti-competitive practices by licensees;
- (d) advise and assist in the formulation of national policies with respect to the regulation of the information and communication industry;
- (e) act internationally as the national regulatory body of Mauritius in respect of information and communication technologies matters;
- (f) exercise licensing and regulatory functions, or grant such authorisation, approval or clearance, in respect of information and communication services in Mauritius including the determination of types and classes of licences and the regulation of tariffs and alterations thereto;
- (g) establish, for public operators, performance standards and linkage standards in relation to the provision of international and local telephone services, and monitor compliance with both of those standards;
- (h) report, in such manner as may be required, to the Minister or to any other person on any matter that lies within its purview, such as the performance of public operators, the quality of consumer service and consumer satisfaction, measured against the best available international standards of practice;
- (i) ensure the fulfilment by public operators of their obligations under any enactment;
- (j) regulate the registration of SIMs;

- (k) establish and monitor the filing of reports, including financial, costing and other related reports, by licensees on the provision of information and communication services, including telecommunication services, in conformity with such guidelines, directives and determinations as the Authority may issue or review from time to time;
- (I) regulate the security of data;

Amended by [Act No. 1 of 2009]

- (m) take steps to regulate or curtail the harmful and illegal content on the Internet and other information and communication services;
- (n) ensure the safety and quality of every information and communication services including telecommunication service and, for that purpose, determine technical standards for telecommunication network, the connection of customer equipment to telecommunication networks;
- (o) entertain complaints from consumers in relation to any information and communication service in Mauritius and, where necessary, refer them to the appropriate authorities;
- (p) allocate frequencies and manage, review, and, where appropriate, reorganise the frequency spectrum;
- (q) determine the numbering system to be used for every information and communication services including telecommunication service, and manage, review, and, where appropriate, reorganise the numbering system;
- (r) set up a radio frequency management unit for the allocation, monitoring, control and regulation of radio frequencies and, with the approval of the Minister, participate in any regional monitoring system;

- (s) monitor every access or interconnection agreement and assist in the resolution of any dispute relating thereto;
- (t) monitor the use of information and communication services on any ship or aircraft;
- (u) control the importation of any equipment capable of being used to intercept a message;
- (v) regulate the conduct of examinations for, and the issue of, certificates of competency to persons wishing to operate any apparatus used for purposes of information and communication services including telecommunication;
- (w) manage the Universal Service Fund set up under section 21;
- determine, whether as conditions of licences or otherwise, the universal service obligations and requirements;
- (y) authorise or regulate the registration, administration and management of domain names for Mauritius;
- (z) be the Controller of Certification Authorities; and
- (aa) determine facilities which are essential facilities.
- (2) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Authority shall allocate and regulate the use of any frequency to any licensed broadcaster in the case of analogue broadcasting and to the Multiplex Operator in the case of digital broadcasting.

(b) Subject to paragraph (c), the broadcaster or the Multiplex Operator shall pay to the Authority such fee as may be prescribed.

(c) The Multiplex Operator shall be exempt from payment of any fee referred

to in paragraph (b) for the broadcast, through transmission stations operated by it, of the proceedings of the National Assembly under any access agreement between the Multiplex Operator and the National Assembly.

- (3) The Authority shall furnish to the Minister -
 - (a) an annual report of its activities; and
 - (b) an annual report on the development of the information and communication industry in the country, as may be prescribed;
 - (c) such reports and other information as may be required.
- (4) The Minister shall at the earliest opportunity lay a copy of a report submitted under subsection 3(a) before the National Assembly.

Amended by [Act No. 7 of 2009]; [Act No. 1 of 2009]; [Act No. 9 of 2015]; [Act No. 21 of 2016]; [Act No. 14 of 2019]; [Act No. 7 of 2020]; [Act No. 15 of 2021]

19. Powers of the Minister

The Minister may give such directions of a general character to the Board, not inconsistent with the objects of the Authority, which fie considers to be necessary in the public interest, and the Board shall comply with those directives.

PART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

20. Establishment of the General Fund

(1) The Authority shall establish a General Fund -

- into which all money, dues, fees and charges received by the Authority shall be paid; and
- (b) out of which -
 - (i) all payments required to be made by the Authority shall be effected;
 - (ii) shall be transferred, not later than 31 October after the end of every financial year, to the Consolidated Fund –
 - (A) 85 per cent of the surplus money not required for the purpose of subparagraph (i); and
 - (B) any balance in excess of 50 million rupees, if any, after the transfer made under sub subparagraph (A).
- (1A) There shall be transferred from the General Fund, not later than 31 October 2017, to the Consolidated Fund, 50 per cent of any balance in respect of the financial year 2016-2017.
- (2) The Authority may, in furtherance of its objects and in accordance with the terms and conditions upon which its funds may have been obtained or derived, charge to the General Fund all remuneration, allowances, salaries, grants, fees, pensions and superannuation fund contributions, gratuities, working expenses and all other charges properly arising, including any necessary capital expenditure.
- (3) The Authority shall derive its income from -
 - (a) any charge or fee that may be prescribed;
 - (b) any sum appropriated from the Consolidated Fund; and
 - (c) such other source as may be approved by the Minister.

- (4) The Authority shall, not later than 3 months before the commencement of every financial year, submit to the Minister for his approval a detailed estimate of its income and expenditure for that year.
- (5) In signifying his approval, the Minister may make comments of a general policy nature regarding the estimate.

Amended by [Act No. 10 of 2017]

21. Establishment of a Universal Service Fund

- (1) The Authority shall establish a Universal Service Fund -
 - (a) into which shall be paid any contribution received from licensees in pursuance of subsection (2);
 - (b) out of which payments may be made to any licensee required by the terms of his licence, or otherwise directed by the Authority, to provide a universal service and universal access in accordance with paragraph (c); and.
 - (c) out of which payments shall be made exclusively towards universal service projects and universal access projects.
- (1A) A public operator designated to implement a universal service project or universal access project shall be exempted from the applicability of section 31 for the provision of the designated universal service and universal access.
- (2) Every public operator shall, in addition to the licence fee payable, pay into the Universal Service Fund, such annual contributions is may be prescribed.
- (3) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, prescribe -
 - (a) the basis and manner of determination of such contributions;

(b) the dates when such contributions shall become payable and the manner and, if he deems it appropriate, the period over which the contributions shall be paid.

Amended by [Act No. 15 of 2021]

22. Donations and exemptions

- (1) Article 910 of the Code Napoleon shall not apply to the Authority.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other enactment, the Authority shall be exempt from payment of all charges, duties, fees, rates or taxes.

PART V – Repealed by [Act No. 21 of 2016]

PART VI - LICENSING AND OTHER PROVISIONS

24. Licensing

- (1) No person shall operate an information and communication network or service including telecommunication network or service unless he holds a licence from the Authority.
- (2) Any person who wishes to obtain, transfer, renew, or vary the terms of, a licence for the operation of an information and communication network or service including a telecommunication network or service specified in the First Schedule shall, either of his own motion or upon invitation, make a written application to the Authority in the appropriate form.
- (2A) Subject to subsection (2), where the Authority invites for applications for licences, it may use such competitive process as it may deem appropriate, including but not limited to auctioning.

- (2B) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (2), for such classes of network or service specified in the First Schedule, the Authority shall grant a class licence to all persons meeting prescribed eligibility criteria.
 - (b) The class licence referred to in paragraph (a) shall not be issued to individual service providers and may be subject to registration.
- (3) Upon receipt of an application referred to in subsection (2), the Authority -
 - (a) shall, in the case of such licences as may be prescribed, forthwith give public notice of the application in 2 daily newspapers and invite any interested person who wishes to object to the application to do so in writing within 14 days;
 - (b) may -
 - (i) require the applicant to furnish any additional information that it considers relevant;
 - (ii) inspect any installation, apparatus or premises relating to the application.
- (4) The Authority shall, after hearing any objection that may be made pursuant to subsection (3) (a), determine whether to issue, transfer, renew, or vary the terms of, a licence.
- (5) The Authority shall, in the exercise of its powers under subsection (4), have regard in particular to -
 - (a) the public interest and any likelihood of unfair practice;
 - (b) any element of national security;

- (c) the technical and electromagnetic compatibility of the application with any other licensed service;
- (d) any agreement between Mauritius or the Authority with any other State, or any national or international organization relating to information and communication technologies including telecommunication.
- (6) Subject to subsection (5)(d), the Authority shall, within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of the complete application, convey its decision to the applicant.
- (7) Where the Authority agrees to issue, transfer, renew, or vary the terms of a licence -
 - (a) it may do so by imposing any term or condition that it thinks fit;
 - (b) it shall give written notice of its decision, and the reasons therefor, to any person objections who has raised an objection pursuant to subsection (3)(a).
- (8) Where the Authority refuses to issue, transfer, renew or vary the terms of a licence, it shall gives written notice of its decision, and the reasons therefore, to the applicant and to any person who has raised an objection pursuant to subsection (3)(a).
- (9) (a) No licence shall be issued or renewed under this section unless the prospective licensee –
 - (i) pays such fee and furnishes such bank guarantee as may be prescribed; and
 - (ii) pays, in case the prospective licensee is the holder of any other licence issued under this section, any outstanding amount due on that licence.

(b) Where fees, in respect of a licence, remain unpaid for a period of one year, the licence shall lapse.

- (10) Every licence shall specify-
 - (a) the name and business address of the licensee;
 - (b) the installation, apparatus and premises to which it relates;
 - (c) the network or service to be provided by the licensee; and
 - (d) any term or condition imposed pursuant to subsection (7)(a).
- (11) Subject to subsection (12), the authority may, of its own motion, forfeit a bank guarantee furnished by the licensee, vary the terms of, or revoke, a licence on the ground that the licensee has -
 - (a) contravened this Act; or
 - (b) acted in breach of any term or condition imposed pursuant to subsection (7)(a).
- (12) Where the Authority proposes to forfeit a bank guarantee furnished by the licensee, or vary the terms of, or revoke, a licence pursuant to subsection (11), it shall have written notice of its intention to the licensee, stating -
 - (a) the reasons for which it proposes to do so; and
 - (b) the time, being not less than 14 days, within which the licensee may make written representation to object to the proposal.

- (13) The Authority shall, after considering any representations made pursuant to subsection (12), communicate its decision in writing, and the reasons therefore to the licensee.
- (14) Where the urgency of the matter so requires, the Authority may forthwith suspend a licence on any ground specified in subsection (11).
- (15) A suspension effected pursuant to subsection (14) shall, unless sooner revoked, lapse after 30 days.

Amended by [Act No. 27 of 2013]; [Act No. 7 of 2020]; [Act No. 15 of 2021]

25. Special powers

- (1) The Board may designate in writing any officer to act as an authorised officer who shall perform (lie duties specified in this section.
- (2) An authorised officer may -
 - (a) require a licensee to produce his licence;
 - (b) at all reasonable times inspect any installation, apparatus or premises relating to a licence.
- (3) Where a Magistrate is satisfied, by information upon oath, that there is reasonable ground to suspect that a person is contravening this Act or any regulations made there under, he may grant a warrant to an authorised officer enabling him to-
 - (a) enter any premises named in the warrant and search those premises or any person found therein;
 - (b) inspect, remove and take copies of any document found which he considers relevant;

- (c) inspect and remove any installation or apparatus found therein which he has reason to suspect is operating in contravention of this Act.
- (4) When a public operator contravenes this Act, the Authority may require the operator to remedy the default within a delay specified by it.
- (5) Where a public operator fails to comply with a decision taken by the Authority under subsection (4), the Authority may -
 - (a) revoke or vary the terms of the licence;
 - (b) suspend the licence for a period not exceeding 30 days; or
 - (c) reduce the period, not exceeding one year, for which the licence was originally granted.
- (6) Where it has come to the knowledge of the Authority that there has occurred a substantial change in the composition of the share capital of the public operator, the Authority may cancel the licence forthwith subject to the public operator being afforded all opportunity to be heard on why the licence should not be cancelled.
- (7) Any matter dating back to more than 3 years shall not be the subject matter of consideration by the Authority unless an inquiry, verification or action has been initiated within that period.
- (8) The Authority shall give reasons for its decision under this section and notify the interested party.
- Notwithstanding subsection (5), where a public operator fails to comply with a decision of the Authority under subsection (4), he commits an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine, the maximum of which shall be 3% of the net turnover of his preceding financial year or 5,000,000 rupees, whichever is the lesser.

26. Obligations of licensees

Every licensee shall -

- (a) comply with every term and condition attached to his licence;
- (b) maintain an installation, apparatus or premises relating to his licence in such condition as to enable him to provide a safe, adequate and efficient service;
- (c) provide access thereto to an authorised officer;
- (d) furnish to the Authority such reports, accounts and other information relating to his operations as the Authority relay require;
- (e) comply with any written direction, including but not limited to guidelines and determinations given to him by the Authority in relation to the exercise of his rights and obligations under a licence.

Amended by [Act No. 15 of 2021]

27. Public operators entering premises

- (1) A public operator shall, subject to subsection (2), have authority to -
 - enter any property for the purpose of exercising any of his powers under his licence;
 - (b) establish any installation or apparatus on, over, under or across any land or road.
- (2) (a) Before entering on any private property pursuant to subsection (1), a public operator shall give not less than 4 days written notice of his intention to the owner or occupier, stating the reasons for which lie proposes to do so.

- (b) Any person who receives a notice issued pursuant to paragraph (a) may apply to the Authority forthwith for a review of the decision specifying the grounds of his objection.
- (c) The Authority shall, after hearing the parties, determine every application under paragraph (b) within a reasonable delay.
- (3) Where any person suffers any prejudice caused to his property or interest in the property through the acts or omissions of a public operator, he may apply for compensation to the Authority.
- (4) The Authority shall, within 30 days, make an award on the claim for compensation and shall, within 7 days of the date of the award, communicate a copy to each of the parties.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall prevent a public operator from entering on any property to do whatever may be required to remove any tree, branch, hedge or any other object that is likely to cause danger to any installation or apparatus relating to services provided by him.
- (6) For the purpose of this section, establishing an information and communication installation or apparatus including telecommunication installation or apparatus shall include the setting up of poles, wires, stays or struts or other similar structure or any work performed either above or under the ground, in connection with the establishment, alteration, disconnection, modification or repair of the installation or apparatus.
- (7) The Authority may, at the request of the owner or occupier of a property over which a public operator has established an information and communication installation including telecommunication installation, require the public operator to alter, modify or divert the installation and the expenses thereby incurred shall be borne by the person making the request.

28. Interconnection agreements

- (1) Every network licensee or public operator shall grant access to his network in accordance with this section.
- (2) (a) A network licensee who intends to have access to the network of another network licensee shall make an application, in writing, to the network licensee.
 - (b) The application referred to in paragraph (a) shall be copied to the Authority.
- (3) (a) Where a network licensee receives an application he shall, unless the Authority otherwise determines, negotiate the terms of an interconnection agreement with the applicant in good faith.
 - (b) Either party to the proposed agreement may request the Authority to depute a representative to attend, and assist in the negotiations.
- (4) (a) Subject to paragraph (b), the rates for interconnection shall be determined in accordance with any charging principles in force.
 - (b) Where an interconnection agreement is negotiated before any charging principles have been prescribed or rates of interconnection have been determined by the Authority, the agreement shall, where appropriate, be amended by the parties to comply with any charging principles or rates of interconnection that may subsequently be prescribed or determined, respectively.
- (5) Where the parties to a proposed interconnection agreement are unable to agree on the terms thereof within 60 clays front the date of an application under subsection (2), either party may request the Authority to act as an arbitrator in the matter.

- (6) An arbitration made by the Authority pursuant to subsection (5) shall be deemed to be made under, and be regulated by the Code de Procedure Civile wherever applicable, subject to this Act.
- (7) The award by the Authority on the dispute shall -
 - (a) be made within 60 days from the date of a request under subsection (5);
 and
 - (b) specify -
 - (i) the facilities and the network covered by the award;
 - (ii) the extent of any network over which one party is required to carry information and communication messages including telecommunications messages to enable another party to supply services;
 - (iii) the points of, and the technical standards for, interconnection
 - (iv) the rates of interconnection
 - (v) the effective date of the award.
- (8) Each party to an interconnection agreement shall supply to the Authority -
 - (a) a copy of the agreement, and of any amendment to it, within 14 days of the execution of the agreement, or amendment, as the case may be;
 - (b) such information relating to the interconnection agreement as the Authority may require.
- (9) For avoidance of doubt, section 31 shall not apply for the determination of the rates of interconnection for information and communication services under this section.

Amended by [Act No. 15 of 2021]

29. Access Agreement

- (1) Any person may make an application to a public operator or network licensee for access to its facilities or services other than its network.
- (2) Where the public operator or network licensee receives an application, he may, after consideration, grant the application, and negotiate the terms and conditions of the access with the applicant in good faith, or refuse the application.
- (2A) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the public operator shall -
 - (i) negotiate the terms and conditions of the access, including the tariffs to be charged under section 31;
 - (ii) not refuse to give access to an essential facility when it is economically and technically feasible to do so.
- (3) Where the application is not granted and the applicant has reasonable around to believe that the operator or network licensee has not acted in good faith, he may refer the matter to the Authority for its decision.
- Where the parties to a proposed access agreement are unable to agree on the terms thereof within 60 days front the date of the application under subsection (2) either party relay request the Authority to act as an Arbitrator in the matter.
- (5) An arbitration made by the Authority pursuant to subsection (4) shall be deemed to be made under, and be regulated by the Code de Procedure Civile wherever applicable, subject to this Act.
- (6) The award of the Authority on the dispute shall be made within 60 days from the date of the application.

(7) Where an essential facility is the subject matter of an arbitration, the Authority may, as part of the award, direct the public operator to provide access to the essential facility on terms reasonably required.

Amended by [Act No. 15 of 2021]

30. Market definition and determination of significant market power

- (1) The Authority shall, at such times as it may determine, hold a public consultation and carry out a market analysis, to enable it to
 - (a) identify information and communication service markets or market segments;
 - (b) designate every information and communication service market and market segment for which tariffs must be approved by the Authority before the service is offered to the public;
 - (c) determine whether any public operator has significant market power in those information and communication service markets or market segments.
- (2) The Authority shall, following the public consultation referred to in subsection (1), designate and give public notification of
 - (a) every information and communication service market and market segment; and
 - (b) every public operator which has a significant market power in an information and communication service market or market segment.
- (3) Following the grant of the appropriate licences, every public operator shall, before the commercial launch of the relevant information and communication service,

disclose to the Authority the relevant market or market segment in which it intends to operate.

- (4) The Authority may, after consultation with the Competition Commission, issue such guidelines as are necessary for the purposes of determining which public operator has significant market power in an information and communication service market or market segment.
- (5) Where a public operator has significant market power in a market or market segment, it may also be considered to have a significant market power in a closely related market or market segment, where the links between the two markets or market segments are such as to allow the market power held in one market or market segment to be leveraged into the other market or market segment, thereby strengthening the market power of the public operator.
- (6) Where a public operator has significant market power in a market or market segment, and wishes to supply promotional offers, including discount practices, he shall submit the relevant cost breakdown for the said service and offers for determination by the Authority.
- (7) Every public operator shall
 - (a) before entering into a new market or market segment, notify the Authority of its intention to do so; and
 - (b) furnish to the Authority such information relating to its operations as the Authority may require under this section.

Amended by [Act No. 38 of 2011]

30A. Significant market power conditions

(1) Where the Authority determines that a public operator has significant market power in a relevant market or market segment, it may impose such conditions as it considers appropriate on the public operator. (2) Every public operator with significant market power shall comply with every condition imposed by the Authority under subsection (1).

Added by [Act No. 38 of 2011]

31. Tariffs

(1) Every public operator shall submit to the Authority, in such form and manner as the Authority may determine, a tariff for every information and communication service which it wishes to supply and every intended alteration to a tariff, at least 15 working days before the proposed implementation of the tariff or the alteration, as the case may be.

(2) Every tariff or alteration submitted to the Authority under subsection
(1) shall –

- (a) be calculated in accordance with such guidelines as the Authority may issue;
- (b) include information relating to -
 - (i) the term during which the tariff or alteration is to apply;
 - (ii) the description of the information and communication service;
 - (iii) the amount of all charges payable for each information and communication service, including the amount of any surcharge that may be imposed as a result of nonpayment of fees or charges and the cost-related computation thereof;
 - (iv) the breakdown of cost and cost elements involved in supplying every information and communication service;
 - (v) the quantity in which the information and communication service is supplied;
 - (vi) the network configuration, including the capacity needed, to

supply the information and communication service;

- (vii) the performance characteristics for the information and communication service supplied; and
- (viii) the terms and conditions on which the information and communication service is or is to be supplied, including the mode of payment.

(3) No public operator shall demand or receive from any person payment of any tariff which –

- (a) has not been submitted to the Authority in accordance with subsections (1) and (2);
- (b) is different from the tariff submitted to the Authority under this section;
 or
- (c) has been disallowed by the Authority.
- (4) Every public operator shall display the tariff or alteration applicable for every information and communication service it offers in a conspicuous place at every point of sale of such service.
- (5) Where the Authority is provided with a tariff or alteration under subsection (1), it may, where the tariff or alteration has been provided by a public operator having a significant market power, require the public operator to provide such additional information as it considers necessary.
- (6) On receipt of a request from the Authority under subsection (5), the public operator shall provide the additional information within 15 days of the date of the request.
- (7) (a) The Authority shall
 - (i) in the case of a public operator having significant market power, within 30 days of the date on which it is provided with

a tariff or alteration under subsection (1), or it receives additional information under subsection (5), whichever is the later; or

 (ii) in the case of a public operator not having significant market power, within 15 days of the date on which it is provided with a tariff or alteration under subsection (1),

determine whether to allow, disallow, or amend the tariff or alteration and shall, by notice in writing, inform the public operator of its decision.

(b) Where the Authority allows or amends a tariff or alteration, it may impose such terms and conditions as it may determine.

(c) Where the Authority disallows or amends a tariff or alteration, it shall communicate, in writing, the reasons for its decision to the public operator.

(d) Where a tariff or an alteration has been allowed or amended by the Authority, the public operator shall forthwith give public notification of the tariff, alteration or amended tariff in 2 newspapers for 3 consecutive days.

(8) (a) Subject to subsection (9), where a public operator does not receive any communication from the Authority within 15 days of the date the public operator has submitted its tariff to the Authority, the tariff shall be deemed to have been allowed by the Authority.

(b) Paragraph (a) shall not apply to a public operator having significant market power.

- (9) The Authority may
 - (a) in the case of an operator not having a significant market power, at any time after the specified period of 15 days referred to in subsection (8)(a); or

(b) in the case of an operator having a significant market power, at any time after its tariff or alteration has been allowed by the Authority,

disallow or amend the tariff or alteration where -

- the information submitted under subsection (2)(b) or (5), as the case may be, is found to be incorrect or misleading in a material particular;
- (ii) the tariff or alteration
 - (A) is not calculated in accordance with such guidelines as the Authority may issue;
 - (B) is not accompanied by information required to be submitted under subsection (2)(b); or
 - (C) is otherwise in contravention of the Act or a directive issued by the Authority.

Amended by [Act No. 38 of 2011]; [Act No. 15 of 2021]

32. Confidentiality

- (1) Every member or officer of the Authority shall -
 - (a) before he begins to perform his duties under this Act, take the oath set out in the Third Schedule;
 - (b) maintain, and aid in maintaining, the secrecy of any matter which comes to his knowledge in the performance, or as a result, of his duties under this Act.
- (2) Any person who, without legal cause or reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1)(b) shall commit an offence.

- (3) Every licensee or his employees or agent shall treat as confidential any message or any information relating to a message which comes to his knowledge in the course of his duties.
- (4) Any person who, otherwise than in the course of his duties, makes use of, or records, a message or any information relating to a message that comes to his knowledge, or to which he has access, by reason of his position is a licensee, or as an employee or agent of a licensee, shall comment an offence.
- (5) (a) Nothing in this Act shall prevent a public operator or any of his employees or agents from intercepting, withholding or otherwise dealing with a message which he has reason to believe is-
 - (i) indecent or abusive;
 - (ii) in contravention of this Act;
 - (iii) of a nature likely to endanger or compromise State's defence, or public safety or public order.
 - (b) Where a message is withheld pursuant to paragraph (a), the operator shall forthwith refer it to the Authority for such written directions as the latter may think fit.
- (6) (a) Nothing in this Act shall prevent a Judge in Chambers, upon an application, whether *ex parte* or otherwise, being made to him, by the Police or the Independent Commission Against Corruption established under the Prevention of Corruption Act, from making an order authorising a public operator, or any of its employees or agents, to intercept or withhold a message, or disclose to the police or the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act a message or any information relating to a message.

- (b) An order under paragraph (a) shall -
 - not be made unless the Judge is satisfied that the message or information relating to the message is material to any criminal proceedings, whether pending or contemplated, in Mauritius;
 - (ii) remain valid for such period, not exceeding 60 days, as the Judge may determine;
 - (iii) specify the place where the interception or withholding shall take place.
- (7) In this section -

"information and communicationmessage" means a message passing over an information and communication network, including telecommunication network;

"message" includes an information and communication message.

Amended by [Act No. 21 of 2016]; [Act No. 13 of 2019]

33. Deleted by [Act No. 13 of 2004]

PART VII - ICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

34. Establishment of the Council

- (1) There is established for the purposes of this Act an information and Communication Technologies Advisory Council known as the ICT Advisory Council.
- (2) The Council consists of -
 - (a) a Chairperson;
 - (b) a representative of the Prime Minister's Office;

- (c) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of Information Technology and Telecommunications;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry of Finance;
- (e) a representative of the Ministry of Economic Development;
- (f) a representative of the private sector;
- (g) a representative of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- (h) 3 other persons representing the interests of consumers, purchasers and other users of information and communication services, including telecommunication services.
- (3) The members of the Council, except the ex-officio members, shall be appointed by the Minister
- (4) The Council may co-opt persons with specialized qualifications and experience to assist the Council at any of its meetings.
- (5) Every member of the Council shall hold office on such terms and conditions as the Minister thinks fit.
- (6) The Council shall meet at least once every month or at such other time as the Chairman may decide.
- (7) Five members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Amended by [Act No. 15 of 2021]

35. Functions of the Council

The Council shall advise the Minister on any matter relating to -

- (a) the promotion of the interests of consumers, purchasers and other users in respect of -
 - the quality and variety of information and communication services including telecommunication services provided;
 - (ii) the information and communication equipment including telecommunication equipment and facilities supplied;
 - (iii) the effect of the tariff Policy adopted by the Authority;
- (b) the promotion of research into, and the development and use of, new information and communication techniques including telecommunication techniques;
- the improvement of information and communication services including telecommunication services;
- (d) information and communication technologies including telecommunications which, in its opinion, should be referred to the Minister;
- (e) information and communication technologies including telecommunications which may be referred to it by the Minister or by the Authority.

PART VIII- ICT APPEAL TRIBUNAL

36. Establishment of the ICT Appeal Tribunal

There is established for the purposes of this Act an Information Technologies
 Appeal Tribunal known as the ICT Appeal Tribunal which

shall consist of -

- (a) a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson, who shall be barristers of not less than 10 years standing, appointed by the Public Service Commission; and
- (b) such other members, not exceeding 4 in number, as may be appointed by the Minister after consultation with the Prime Minister.
- (2) Every member other than the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall hold office on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine.
- (3) The members other than the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Tribunal shall hold office for a term of 3 years and may be eligible for reappointment.
- (4) Where the Minister is of opinion that the state of business at the Tribunal requires that the number of members should be temporarily increased, he may, after consultation with the Prime Minister, appoint such members on an ad hoc basis and for such period as he considers necessary to serve on the Tribunal.
- (5) The members other than the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be paid such fees as the Minister may approve.

37. Staff of the Tribunal

The Tribunal will be provided with such public officers as are necessary for the proper functioning of the Tribunal.

38. Disqualification from membership

No person shall be eligible to remain a member of the Tribunal if -

 (a) he is found guilty of any misconduct or default in the discharge of his duties as a member which renders him unfit to be a member;

- (b) he is convicted of an offence of such nature as renders it desirable that he should be removed from office; or
- (c) he is suffering from such mental or physical infirmity as renders him unfit to discharge his duties as a member.

39. Jurisdiction of the Tribunal

- The Tribunal shall hear and dispose of any appeal against a decision of the Authority regarding information and communication technologies.
- (2) No appeal shall lie against any decision made by the Tribunal following a settlement reached with the consent of the parties or their representatives.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), every appeal under subsection (1) shall be lodged within a period of 21 days from the date of notification of the decision to the aggrieved person and it shall be in such form and be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.
- (4) The Tribunal may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of 21 days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not lodging it within that period.
- (5) The Tribunal may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders as it thinks fit, confirming, varying or setting aside the decision appealed against.
- (6) The Tribunal shall send a copy of every order made by it to the parties to the appeal and to the Authority.
- (7) Any appeal filed before the Tribunal under subsection (1) shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and the Tribunal shall endeavour to dispose of the appeal within 6 months from the date the appeal was lodged.

40. Procedure and powers of the Tribunal

- (1) The Tribunal shall sit at such place and time as the Chairperson of the Tribunal may determine.
- (2) Where the Tribunal adjourns any proceedings, it may resume them at such place and time as the Chairperson of the Tribunal may determine.
- (3) Subject to any regulations made under section 48, all appeals before the Tribunal shall be instituted and conducted -
 - (a) as far as possible in the same manner as proceedings in a civil matter before a District Magistrate;
 - (b) in accordance with the law of evidence in force in Mauritius;
 - (c) in public, except where the Tribunal otherwise orders on the ground of public safety or public order or the privacy of persons concerned.
- (4) The Tribunal may -
 - make such orders for requiring the attendance of persons and the production of articles, documents or other electronic records, as it thinks necessary or expedient;
 - (b) take evidence on oath and may for that purpose administer oaths;
 - (c) on its own motion, call and hear any person as witness; and
 - (d) adopt such procedures as may be necessary for the proper functioning of the Tribunal.

- (5) Any person who -
 - (a) fails to attend Tribunal after having been required to do so under subsection
 (4);
 - (b) refuses to take an oath before the Tribunal or to answer fully and satisfactorily to the best of his knowledge and belief any question lawfully put to him in any proceedings before the Tribunal or to produce any article or document when required to do so by this Tribunal;
 - (c) knowingly gives false evidence or evidence which he knows to be misleading before the Tribunal;
 - (d) at any sitting of the Tribunal -
 - (i) wilfully insults any member thereof;
 - (ii) wilfully interrupts the proceedings, or commits any contempt of the Tribunal,

shall commit an offence.

41. Right to legal representation

The appellant may prosecute his appeal either in person or by a legal practitioner.

42. Determination of the Tribunal

- (1) For the purpose of hearing and determining any cause or matter under this Act, the Tribunal shall be constituted of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson and at least any 2 of its members;
- (2) Where the Tribunal is unable to reach a decision by unanimity, the Tribunal shall proceed to give its determination by a majority.

- (3) A member of the Tribunal who has a direct interest in any cause or matter which is the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal shall not take part in those proceedings.
- (4) Subject to section 43, a decision or finding of the Tribunal on any cause or matter before it shall be final and binding on the parties.
- (5) On hearing an appeal, the Tribunal may confirm, amend, vary or cancel any decision referred to in section 24.
- (6) Where a decision is confirmed or amended, the tribunal shall specify the delay within which it shall be complied with.
- (7) Any person who fails to comply with a decision confirmed or amended by the Tribunal, shall commit an offence.
- (8) (a) The Tribunal may make such order as to costs as may be prescribed.
 - (b) An order made under paragraph (a) shall be enforced in the same manner as an order for costs in proceedings before a Magistrate.
- (9) Proceedings before the Tribunal shall be exempt from registration dues.

43. Appeal to the Supreme Court

- (1) Any party who is dissatisfied with the decision or findings of the Tribunal relating to an appeal as being erroneous in point of law may appeal to the Supreme Court.
- (2) Any party wishing to appeal to the Supreme Court under subsection (1) shall within21 days of the date of the decision of the Tribunal-

- (a) lodge with, or send by registered post to, the Chairperson of the Tribunal a written application requiring the Tribunal to state and sign a case for the opinion of the Supreme Court on the grounds stated therein;
- (b) at the same time, forward a copy of his application by registered post to the other party.
- (3) An appeal under this section shall be prosecuted in the manner provided by rules made by the Supreme Court.

44. Decision not suspended on appeal

No appeal to the Tribunal or the Supreme Court shall have for effect the suspension of any decision of the Authority.

PART IX - MISCELLANEOUS

45. Protection of members and officers

No liability, civil or criminal, shall attach to any member or officer of the Authority, or to the Authority, in respect of any loss arising from the exercise in good faith by a member or an officer or the Authority of his or its functions under this Act.

45A. Execution of documents

No deed or document relating to financial matters shall he executed or signed by or on behalf of the Authority unless it is signed by -

- (a) the Chairperson or, in his absence, any other member designated by the Board; and
- (b) the Executive Director or, in his absence, any other employee designated by the

Executive Director.

Added by [Act 21 of 2016]

46. Offences

- (1) Any person who -
 - (a) by any form of emission, radiation, induction or other electromagnetic effect, harms the functioning of an information and communication service, including telecommunication service;
 - (b) with intent to defraud or to prevent the sending or delivery of a message, takes an information and communication message, including telecommunication message from the employee or agent of a licensee;
 - (c) with intent to defraud, takes a message from a place or vehicle used by a licensee in the performance of his functions;
 - (d) steals, secretes or destroys a message;
 - (e) wilfully or negligently omits or delays the transmission or delivery of a message;
 - (f) forges a message or transmits or otherwise makes use of a message knowing that it has been forged;
 - knowingly sends, transmits or causes to be transmitted a false or fraudulent message;
 - (ga) uses a telecommunication equipment, an information and communication service, a telecommunication serviceor information and communication technologies to send, transmit, transfer, post, publish, deliver, show or otherwise communicates by means of the telecommunication equipment a message which is obscene, indecent,

offensive, abusive, threatening, menacing, false or misleading, which is likely to cause or causes harm to a person;

(h) Repealed by [Act No. 15 of 2021]

- (ha) uses a telecommunication equipment, an information and communication service, a telecommunication service or information and communication technologies to impersonate, or by any other means impersonates, another person which is likely to cause or causes harm to that person;
- dishonestly obtains or makes use of an information and communication service, including telecommunication service with intent to avoid payment of any applicable fee or charge;
- (j) by means of an apparatus or device connected to an installation maintained or operated by a licensee -
 - defrauds the licensee of any fee or charge properly payable for the use of a service;
 - (ii) causes the licensee to provide a service to some other person without payment by such other person of the appropriate fee or charge; or
 - (iii) fraudulently installs or causes to be installed an access to a telecommunication line;
- (k) wilfully damages, interferes with, removes or destroys an information and communication installation or service including telecommunication installation or service maintained or operated by a licensee;
- (ka) wilfully tampers or causes to be tampered the International Mobile Station Equipment (IMEI) of any mobile device;

- establishes, maintains or operates a network or service without a licence or in breach of the terms or conditions of a licence;
- (m) without the prior approval of the Authority, imports any equipment capable of intercepting a message;
- discloses a message or information relating to such a message to any other person otherwise than -
 - (i) in accordance with this Act;
 - (ii) with the consent of each of the sender of the message and each intended recipient of the message;
 - (iii) for the purpose of the administration of justice, or
 - (iv) as authorised by a Judge;
- (na) knowingly provides information which is false or fabricated;
 - (o) except as expressly permitted by this Act or as authorized by a Judge, intercepts, authorises or permits another person to intercept, or does any act or thing that will enable him or another person to intercept, a message passing over a network;
 - (p) in any other manner contravenes this Act or any regulations made under this Act,

shall commit an offence.

- (2) In determining whether harm was caused or was likely to be caused to an alleged victim, the Court may take into account any factor it considers relevant, including –
 - (a) the extremity of the language used;
 - (b) the age and characteristics of the alleged victim;

- (c) whether the message was anonymous;
- (d) whether the message was repeated;
- (e) the extent of circulation of the message;
- (f) the context in which the message appeared;
- (g) whether the message would cause harm or would likely to cause harm to an ordinary reasonable person in the position of the alleged victim.
- (3) In this section –

"harm" includes serious emotional distress.

Amended by [Act No. 21 of 2016]; [Act No. 14 of 2018]; [Act No. 15 of 2021]

47. Penalties

- (1) Any person who commits an offence under this Act, shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 1,000,000 rupees and to penal servitude for a term not exceeding 10 years.
- (2) The Court before which a person is convicted of an offence under this Act may, in addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to subsection (1), order -
 - the forfeiture of any installation or apparatus used in connection with the offence;
 - (b) the cancellation of the licence held by the person convicted;

- (c) that the person convicted shall not be issued with a licence for such period as the Court thinks fit;
- (d) that a service provided to a person convicted of an offence under this Act shall be suspended for such period as the Court thinks fit.
- (3) An offence under this Act shall -
 - (a) be triable by the Intermediate Court;
 - (b) not be triable by a District Court.

Amended by [Act No. 14 of 2018]

48. Regulations

- (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, make such regulations as he thinks fit for the purpose of this Act.
- (2) Any regulation made under subsection (1) may provide -
 - (a) for the levying of fees and taking of charges;
 - (b) for an amendment of the Schedules;
 - (c) for the prescription of charging principles on the recommendation of the Board and such other matters as may be prescribed under this Act;
 - (d) that any person who contravenes them shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Amended by [Act No. 21 of 2016]

49. Repeal

The following enactments are repealed -

- (a) The Telecommunications Act 1998;
- (b) Section 21A of the National Computer Board Act 1988.

50. Consequential amendments

(1) The Central Tender Board Act is amended in the First Schedule, in Part IV, by inserting in its appropriate alphabetical order, the following item -

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

(2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), the Schedule to the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act is amended in Part II by adding the item -

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

- (3) For the purposes of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, the period extending from the commencement of this Act to 30 June next following shall be deemed to be the first financial year of the Authority.
- (4) Section 7(1) of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act shall not apply in relation to the first financial year of the Authority.
- (5) The auditor to be appointed under section 5(1) of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act shall be the Director of Audit.
- (6) The Independent Broadcasting Authority Act 2000 is amended in the First Schedule by inserting therein the following items -

Subscription Television Rebroadcasting Services Licence. Subscription Television Direct to Home Satellite Broadcasting Service Provider Licence"

51. Temporary measures during COVID-19 period

(1) Where, under this Act, a time is imposed on the Authority, the Board or any other person to do or refrain from doing any other act or thing and the time for doing or refraining from doing that other act or thing expires, or falls wholly or partly, during –

- (a) the COVID-19 period, the Authority, Board or person may, notwithstanding the time imposed, do or refrain from doing that other act or thing not later than 30 days after the COVID-19 period lapses or not later than such further period as may be prescribed; or
- (b) a period of 21 days after the COVID-19 period lapses, the person may, notwithstanding the time imposed, do or refrain from doing that other act or thing not later than 30 days after the period of 21 days lapses or not later than such further period as may be prescribed.
- (2) (a) Where, under this Act, a licence expires during
 - the COVID-19 period, the licence shall, notwithstanding the time imposed, be deemed not to have expired and shall remain valid for a period of 30 days after the COVID-19 period lapses or for such further period as may be prescribed; or
 - (ii) a period of 21 days after the COVID-19 period lapses, be deemed not to have expired and shall remain valid for a period of 30 days after the period of 21 days lapses or for such further period as may be prescribed.

(b) In this subsection –
 "licence" includes a permit, an authorisation, an approval, a clearance or a certificate.

(3) Where, under this Act, the time for doing an act or thing expires, or falls wholly or partly, during –

(a) the COVID-19 period, no charge, interest, penalty, surcharge or any other additional fee shall, notwithstanding the time imposed, be charged or payable provided that the act or thing is done not later than 30 days after the COVID-19 period lapses or for such further period as may be prescribed; or (b) a period of 21 days after the COVID-19 period lapses, no charge, interest, penalty, surcharge or any other additional fee shall, notwithstanding the time imposed, be charged or payable provided that the act or thing is done not later than 30 days after the period of 21 days lapses or not later than such further period as may be prescribed.

Repealed and replaced by [Act No. 1 of 2020]

Amended by [Act No. 33 of 2002]; [Act No. 38 of 2011]

52. Commencement

Proclaimed by [Proclamation No. 6 of 2002] w.e.f. 11th February 2002 (Section 1 and Part VII)

> [Proclamation No. 27 of 2002] w.e.f. 1st June 2002 (Sections 2 and 3, PARTS II to VI and PART IX)

[Proclamation No. 35 of 2003] w.e.f. 1st December 2003 Part VIII

SCHEDULE

(regulation 3)

FIRST SCHEDULE

(Section 24)

 providers and not to the public. The facilities shall include earth stations, cables, wireless equipment, towers, posts, ducts, and pits used in conjunction with other communication infrastructure and distribution facilities including facilities for broadcasting distributions, and does not include services such as provision of bandwidth or any other services covered by this Schedule. B Networking Services Provider B.01 Networking Services Provider (National): To provide networking services for national traffic, such as provision of bandwidth to service providers and not to the public. The service providers may either set up the physical infrastructure themselves or take the infrastructure from network infrastructure providers, but 		CATEGORY 1: COMMERCIAL
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they shall not perform any activities covered under types C and D licences C		
C licences		
Network Application Services Provider	С	
		Network Application Services Provider
C.01 GMPCS:	C.01	GMPCS:

To establish and operate Global Mobile Personal Communication System
(GMPCS) by satellite for the public, whereby the network is satellite
based and the satellite coverage extends over the territory of
Mauritius.

C.02	PSTN:
	To establish and operate a Public Switched (fixed) Telephone Network
	(PSTN) and service to the public.
C.03	PLMN:
	To establish and operate a Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) and
	service to the public.
C.04	1LD:
	To establish and operate an International Long Distance (lLD) network
	and service to the public.
C.05	PMRTS:
	To establish and operate a Public Mobile Radio Trunking System (PMRTS)
	and service to the public
C.06	Audiotex Service:
	To operate a kiosk for the hosting of audiotex services whereby these
	services are accessed by the public via a fixed or mobile public
	telecommunication network.
C.07	Data Service:
	To establish and operate data services whereby these services are
	accessed by the public via a fixed or mobile public telecommunication
	network.
C.08	Internet Service:
	To provide Internet services to the public. The service providers may
	either use the public telecommunication network or set up their own
	last mile from their point of presence to the subscriber using any
	appropriate technology after taking the necessary spectrum licence
	where applicable.
C.09	Internet Telephony Service:
	To provide Internet telephony services to the public. The service
	providers shall use the Internet as the medium for voice conversation

	using (i) computers, (ii) a computer to a telephone abroad (iii) a
	telephone in Mauritius to a telephone abroad. No call shall be
	terminated on a PSTN/PLMN telephone in Mauritius or, any media gateway
	be established between the Internet and a PSTN/PLMN network of
	Mauritius.
C.10	Facsimile Service:
	To establish and operate switched or store and forward facsimile
	services accessible by the public via a public telecommunication
	network.
C.11	Radio Paging Service:
	To establish and operate a paging network and service to the public.
C.12	Payphone Service:
	To establish and operate payphone services to be accessed by the
	public.
C.13	UMS :
	To establish and operate a Unified Messaging Service (UMS) system to
	be accessed by the public.
C.14	Alarm Monitoring Service:
	To establish and operate an alarm monitoring network and service for
	the public, based on a public telecommunication network or private
	radio network.
D	Value Added Services:
	To provide value added network application services to the public.
	This would include services such as electronic commerce and tele-
	trading.
E	Dealers' Licence:
	Includes selling, exposing or offering for sale or hire a radio
	communication or telecommunication apparatus or device.

Amended by [GN No. 209 of 2003]

	CATEGORY 2: PRIVATE NETWORK
Туре	Description
PVT	To establish private networks which are used by rganizations or corporate
	entities for their internal use only and which do not have any connectivity to
	a public PSTN or PLMN network. The private networks shall be set up using only
	the telecommunication resources of the network owner.

CATEGORY 3: ENGINEERING

Licenses are issued for spectrum or frequency usage and for the use of radio apparatus or device. Spectrum or radio apparatus or device may be used by the licensed telecommunication network operators or telecommunication service providers or by private users for their private network.

	Station licences
Туре	Description
RA01	Aeronautical Base Station (erp less than 5 W)
RA02	Aeronautical Base Station (erp equal to or more than 5 W but less than
	100 W)
RA03	Aeronautical Base Station (erp equal to or more than 100 W)
RAO4	Aircraft Station (maximum aircraft take off weight equal to or more
	than 14,000 kg)
RAO5	Aircraft Station (maximum aircraft take off weight more than 3,200 but
	less than 14,000 kg)
RA06	Aircraft Station (maximum aircraft take off weight up to 3,200 kg)
RAO7	Coast Station.
RAO8	Port Station
RAO9	VHF Maritime Base Station.
RA10	Ship Station (Full Licence).
RA11	Ship Station (VHF only).
RA12	Private Mobile Radio Base Station
RA13	Private Mobile Radio (Repeater Station) Licence (where the licensee
	has been assigned the shared use of frequencies in a private mobile
	radio network or in a Private Access Mobile Radio Network).
RA14	Inmarsat Mobile Earth Station (Types A, B, C, M and Mini-M).
RA15	Radiolocation/Radiodetermination station.
RA16	Earth Station (in a fixed satellite service).

RA16A	Portable Satellite communication terminal.
RA17	Telemetry, Command and Ranging (TCR) Satellite Earth Station.
RA18	Disaster recovery station.
	Apparatus licences
RA19	Extended Radio-based Private Network device (ELAN/WLAN beyond 1 Km
	<pre>range and/or EIRP > 20 dBm).</pre>
RA20	Radio Paging Transmitter.
RA21	Local Area Private Radio Paging.
RA22	Model Radio Control.
RA23	Radio Amateur Licence (class A).
RA24	Radio Amateur Licence (class B).
RA25	Radio Amateur Visitor's Licence.
RA26	Radio Telemetry System
RA27	Low Power Radio Devices
RA28	Data Terminating Radio Devices operating in the band 2.4 to 3.5 GHz
RA29	Data Terminating Radio Devices operating in the band 4.5 to 5.7 GHz
RA30	Local Multipoint Distribution (LMD) transmitter (eirp equal to or more
	than 5 W operating in the band 2.4 to 3.5 GHz)
RA31	Local Multipoint Distribution (LMD) transmitter(eirp equal to or more
	than 1 W but less than 5 W, operating in the band 2.4 to 3.5 GHz)
RA32	Local Multipoint Distribution (LMD) transmitter (eirp less than 1 W
	operating in the band 2.4 to 3.5 GHz)
RA33	Local Multipoint Distribution (LMD) transmitter (eirp equal to or more
	than 5 W operating in the band 4.5 to 5.7 GHz)
RA34	Local Multipoint Distribution (LMD) transmitter (eirp equal to or more
	than 1 W but less than 5 W, operating in the band 4.5 to 5.7 GHz)
RA35	Local Multipoint Distribution (LMD) transmitter (eirp less than 1 W
	operating in the band 4.5 to 5.7 GHz)

RA36	MF/HF Radio Broadcasting Transmitter.
RA37	VHFFM Radio Broadcasting Transmitter (eirp equal to or more than 1 kW)
RA38	VHFFM Radio Broadcasting Transmitter (eirp equal to or more than 200 W $$
	but less than 1 kW)
RA39	VHF FM Radio Broadcasting Transmitter (eirp less than 200 W)
RA40	Television Broadcasting Transmitter (eirp equal to or more than 1 kW)
RA41	Television Broadcasting Transmitter (eirp equal to or more than 100 W
	but less than 1 kW) .
RA42	Television Broadcasting Transmitter (eirp less than 100 W)
RA43	Private Mobile Radio Apparatus (Mobile/Portable Station)
RA44	VSAT/USAT (C, Ku, Ka band operation)
RA45	Temporary test licence for frequency usage.

	Network Spectrum Licences
Туре	Description
SPL.1	Network Spectrum Licence (operating in the frequency band below I GHz).
SPL.2	Network Spectrum Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or more than 1 GHz but less than 3 GHz).
SPL.3	Network Spectrum Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or more than 3GHz but less than 10 GHz).
SPL.4	Network Spectrum Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or more than 10 GHz).

	Fixed Radio Spectrum Licences
Туре	Description
SPL.10	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band below 1 GHz
	with bandwidth less than 12.5 kHz).
SPL.11	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band below 1 GHz
	with bandwidth equal to or more than 12.5 kHz but less than 25 kHz).
SPL.12	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band below 1 GHz
	with bandwidth equal to or more than 25 kHz but less than 50 kHz).
SPL.13	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band below 1 GHz

	with bandwidth equal to or more than 50 kHz but less than 100 kHz).
SPL.14	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band below 1GHz
	with bandwidth equal to or more than 100 kHz).
SPL.15	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 1 GHz but less than 3 GHz with bandwidth less than I MHz).
SPL.16	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 1 GHz but less than 3 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 1 MHz but less than 7 MHz).
SPL.17	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 1 GHz but less than 3 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 7 MHz but less than 14 MHz).
SPL.18	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 1 GHz but less than 3 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 14 MHz but less than 28 MHz).
SPL.19	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 1 GHz but less than 3 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 28 MHz).
SPL.20	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 3 GHz but less than 5 GHz with bandwidth less than 1 MHz).
SPL.21	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 3 GHz but less than 5 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 1 MHz but less than 7 MHz).
SPL.22	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 3 GHz but less than 5 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 7 MHz but less than 14 MHz).
SPL.23	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 3 GHz but less than 5 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 14 MHz but less than 28 MHz).
SPL.24	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 3 GHz but less than 5 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 28 MHz).
SPL.25	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 5 GHz but less than 8 GHz with bandwidth less than 1 MHz).
SPL.26	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 5 GHz but less than 8 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 1 MHz but less than 7 MHz).
SPL.27	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or

	more than 5 GHz but less than 8 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 7 MHz but less than 14 MHz).
SPL.28	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 5 GHz but less than 8 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 14 MHz but less than 28 MHz).
SPL.29	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
511.25	more than 5 GHz but less than 8 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 28 MHz).
0.07. 20	
SPL.30	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 8 GHz but less than 10 GHz with bandwidth less than 1. MHz).
SPL.31	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 8 GHz but less than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 1. MHz but less than 7 MHz).
SPL.32	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 8 GHz but less than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 7 MHz but less than 14 MHz).
SPL.33	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 8 GHz but less than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 14 MHz but less than 28 MHz).
SPL.34	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 8 GHz but less than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more
	than 28 MHz).
SPL.35	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 10 GHz with bandwidth less than I MHz).
SPL.36	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more than I MHz but less
	than 7 MHz).
SPL.37	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	more than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more than 7 MHz but less
	than 14 MHz).
SPL.38	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
212.50	more than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more than 14 MHz but less
	_
0.007	than 28 MHz).
SPL.39	Radio-Relay Link Licence (operating in the frequency band equal to or
	In9re than 10 GHz with bandwidth equal to or more than 28 MHz).

Amended by [GN No. 96 of 2003]; [GN No. 209 of 2003]

SECOND SCHEDULE

(section 9)

I make oath/solemn affirmation as a and declare that-

2. My assets are as follows:

- (a) landed property
- (b) residential, commercial or industrial building
-
- (c) motor vehicles
- (d) boats
- (e) shares
- (f) interest in partnership or société
- 3. My liabilities are :

4. The assets of my spouse, minor children, are:

(g)	landed property
(h)	residential, commercial or industrial building
(i)	motor vehicles
(j)	boats
(k)	shares
(1)	interest in partnership or société

5. The liabilities of my spouse, minor children, are:

Signature

Sworn/solemnly affirmed by the above-named before me at thisDayDayDay Master & Registrar Supreme Court

THIRD SCHEDULE (section 32)

OATH OF SECRECY

I..... hereby make oath/solemn affirmation as a hereby make declare that in the discharge of my duties under the ICT Authority Act 2001, I will deal with and regard all documents and information relating to the operations of the Authority and to which I have access as SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL and refrain front delivering disclosing any such document and information to any unauthorized person.

Sworn solemnly affirmed by the deponent in Chambers,

This 20

Before me,

District Magistrate for

FOURTH SCHEDULE Deleted by [Act No. 13 of 2004]