



**PROJECT
ISIZWE**
Free WiFi for
South Africa

Free WiFi for Africa NPC, trading as Project Isizwe
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This response is for

Dudu Mkhwanazi,

CEO of Project Isizwe,

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Written Input for the Draft IMT Roadmap

Project Isizwe agree hereby request ICASA to issue any further spectrum allocation to existing large mobile network operators with extreme caution.

Current Situation

Affluent citizens of South Africa can financially qualify for post-paid data contracts from mobile network providers. They can buy 80 GB a month for R500 a month on a 24 month contract.

Cost of data to more affluent citizens of South Africa: R6.25 per GB post paid

However, South Africa has a population of about 25 million people who live in low income urban areas. These areas are within the data coverage of mobile networks, but they do not have fibre or copper infrastructure. Therefore, the only access for these citizens to the internet is via cell phone data networks. Citizens of these areas don't generally qualify for post paid contracts. They can save up R10 and buy a 20 MB pre-paid data voucher from MTN.

Cost of data to low income citizens: R500 per GB pre paid. These citizens pay nearly 80 times more for data. (see graph below)

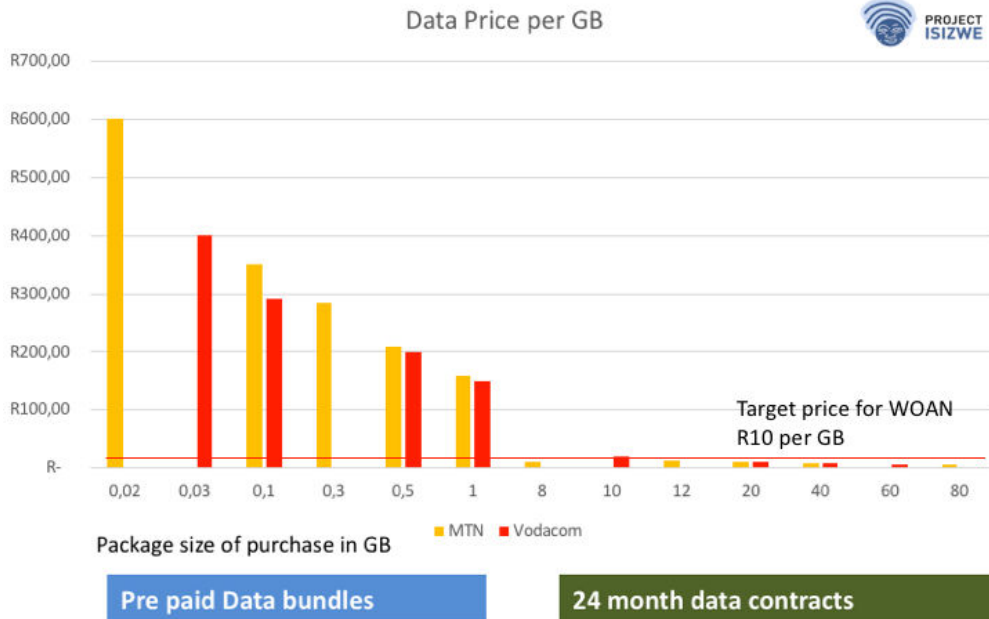
As data is now the raw material for education this data inequality will have dramatic negative impact on the already high inequality index of South Africa.

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Why is issuing more data to these providers a risk?

The existing incumbents have been operating for the last 25 years and are responsible for the current situation of exploiting and profiteering from the low income who cannot gain contracts.

Who should be allocated spectrum?

We appeal for you to prioritise spectrum resources to SME network operators giving preference to those that are majority black owned. Then true empowerment and market competition will be achieved to bring down the cost of data for low income citizens

Your Sincerely

Dudu Mkhwanazi

CEO Project Isizwe

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