



## **MEDIA STATEMENT: USAASA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TO DRIVE STRATEGIC RENEWAL**

**For Immediate release**

**11 March 2025**

The Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA) is pleased to announce the appointment of three permanent executives to strengthen its leadership team. This marks a significant milestone in restoring stability and advancing the Agency's mandate to deliver universal access to Information Communication Technology (ICT) services for all South Africans.

### **New Appointments:**

- **Ms. Nakisani Matamela** has been appointed as the **Chief Financial Officer**, effective **3 February 2025**.
- **Ms. Lerato Petlele** joins as **Executive Manager: Corporate Services**, and **Mr. Thabiso Thukane** as **Executive Manager: Research, Strategy, and Performance Monitoring**, both effective **1 March 2025**.

These appointments follow a prolonged period during which USAASA operated without permanent executives due to challenges linked to its Disestablishment process, which created uncertainty and hindered operational continuity. The Agency acknowledges the resilience of its staff and stakeholders during this transitional phase.

The changes among others in the Agency, follows interventions by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, **Mr. Solly Malatsi**, who appointed additional Board members in **September 2024** to accelerate governance reforms and realign USAASA with its core mandate.

The appointments form part of USAASA's renewed commitment to accountability, transparency, and service delivery. A stable leadership team is critical to driving the Agency's strategic priorities, including bridging the digital gap, enhancing operational efficiency, and ensuring measurable outcomes for the communities it serves.

"Leadership stability is the cornerstone of organizational success. With these appointments, we are confident in our ability to execute our mandate effectively, improve performance, and deliver on our promise of universal access. This marks the start of a key strategic transformative chapter for USAASA." said the USAASA Acting CEO, Mr Luyanda Ndlovu.

The Agency reiterates its dedication to collaborating with government, industry, and civil society to advance digital inclusion and equitable access to communication services. Further updates on strategic initiatives will be shared in due course.

**ENDS**

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