



A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE ON INTERNATIONAL MOBILE ROAMING

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By Christian Mhlanga
Independent Communications
Authority of South Africa



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CRASA MANDATE

- CRASA, formerly TRASA, is a forum of Communications Regulators in Southern Africa and incorporates all other ICT Stakeholders.
- Established in 1997 under the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.
- Pursues its goals and objectives to deepen SADC integration agenda to:
 - *Attain regional integration and development goals;*
 - *Achieve economic growth;*
 - *Accelerate poverty reduction; and*
 - *Achieve sustainable development.*



CRASA MANDATE & PROGRAMS

CRASA draws its membership from 13 SADC countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It has four associate members, namely Nokia Siemens Network, the Vodacom Group, Angola Telecoms and Ericsson.

Its objectives include:

- Promoting capacity building of the members and Associate Members, broaden participation in the ICT sector and enhance lobbying activities with ICT policy makers at national and regional level
- Acting as an effective and common voice of the SADC region on ICT policy and regulatory matters
- Acting as an effective administration structure and mobilise necessary resources to pursue goals of the Association and long-term sustainability

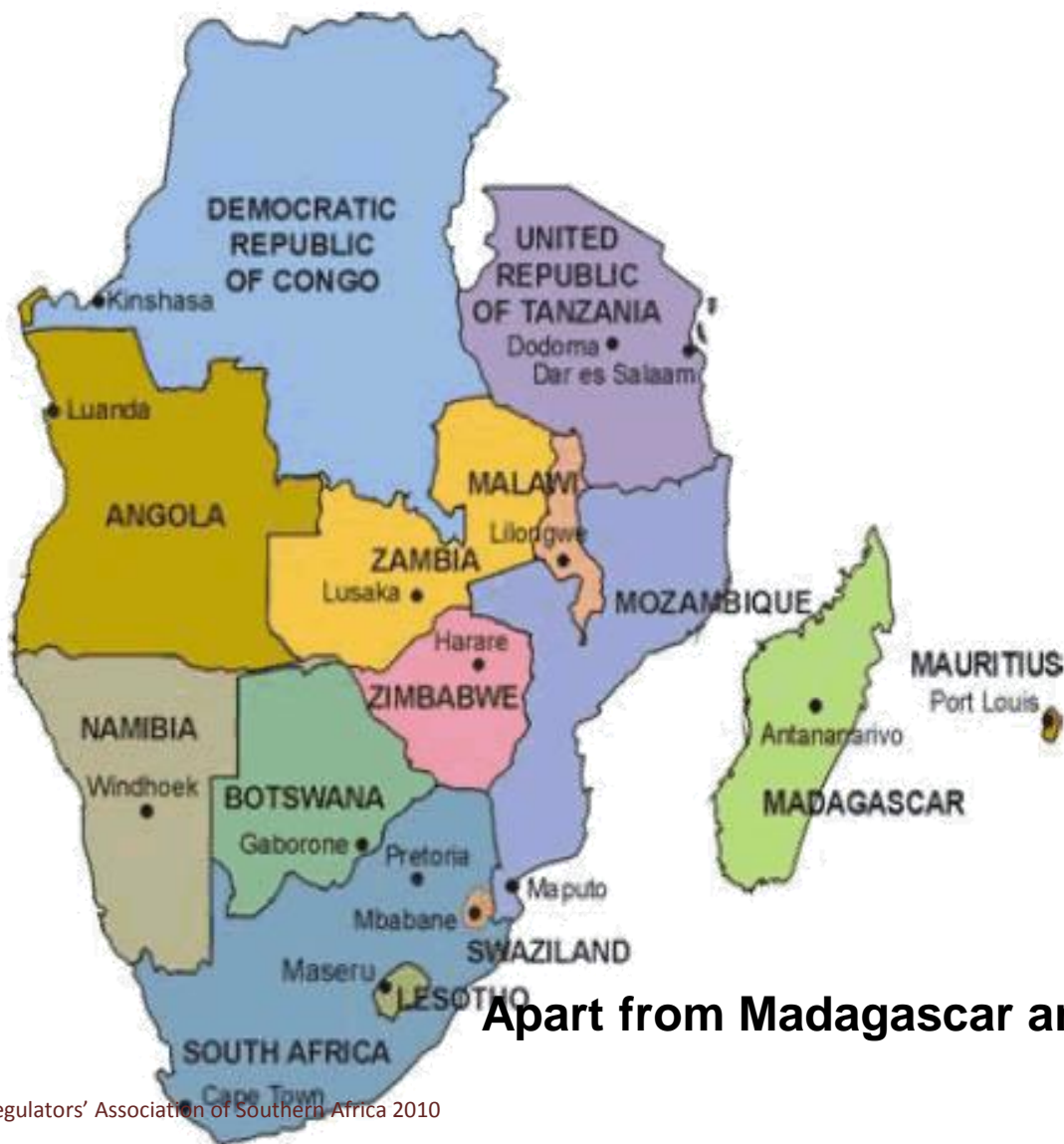


CRASA'S OBJECTIVES

- Enhance regulation and promote regulatory harmonisation in SADC
 - Promote investment in the sector
 - Promote regional integration (Merge the small national ICT markets to relatively larger ones and enable firms to exploit the achieved economies of scale)
 - Promote universal network development and universal access to ICT services;
- Promote the adoption of best practices, exchange of ideas and information and expertise
- Act as a common voice on international arena (credibility, visibility and better negotiating outcomes at the international fora)



CRASA COVERAGE



Apart from Madagascar and Seychelles



CRASA'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

– Guidelines Development

- ICT Consumer Protection
- Frequency Band Plan
- Mutual Recognition of Type Approval
- Human Resource Development
- Gender Equality and Empowerment of Disadvantaged People
- Interconnection & tariffs
- Universal service
- Licensing
- Fair competition and wholesale Pricing
- Wireless Technologies
- Wholesale Pricing
- Numbering And Standards

–Launched the Network for Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange in the field of ICT Policy and Regulation



OVERVIEW OF HOME & AWAY PROJECT

RIA 1

- Regional Alliance Task Team (RATT) set up to investigate ways of reducing high cost of IMR
- RIA 1 completed in 2010: Outcomes were:
 - i. SMS sent by home network (operator initiated) providing tariffs for calls to and calls received from networks of the operators of the relevant country;
 - ii. Provision of roaming retail tariff information to customers through the operators' websites;
 - iii. Provision of comparable information on roaming retail tariff by NRAs websites regarding their respective operators; and
 - iv. Submission of roaming retail tariff information by NRAs to CRASA Secretariat to allow for CRASA to publish the information on its website.
 - v. Setting of bill limits and notifications



OVERVIEW OF HOME & AWAY PROJECT RIA 2

RIA 2 in Progress in all CRASA Member States

RATT Commissioned work on for RIA 2 on:

- The underlying costs of SADC regional roaming services and;
- The possible development of a harmonisation policy framework for the SADC Home and Away Project.

The resulting framework is to consider:

- The potential legal or regulatory framework necessary to harmonise ICT services which may include:
 - Roaming
 - Spectrum
 - Type approval



REFLECTIONS ON IMR

- International roaming and interconnect are not directly related
- Reference paper provides a standard framework for establishing an interconnect regime
- View international roaming as a retail pricing issue while interconnection is a wholesale issue
- Can the WTO be used to regulate IMR?
- No clarity regarding jurisdiction
- Some may view IMR as a commercial arrangement and would argue against WTO regulation.
- We may need debate around the legalities of this position.



SADC/CRASA POSITION

- Regional cooperation among regulators likely to be an effective route to take
- Seek to encourage cost-oriented IMR prices
- Promote economic efficiency and encourage competition in the IMR market and allow market forces to come into play
- Where regulators do set ceiling prices for IMR, then this should be done in the least intrusive manner



A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

- International Mobile Roaming should be negotiated and agreed upon at national/regional level first
- Collective regional recommendation may then be extended to the ITU for consideration
- Should SADC/CRASA utilise the WTO or the ITU?
- Should there be joint jurisdiction in the regulation of IMR?
- This relates to the earlier discussion raised above.



CONCLUSION



- All price reduction initiatives must be sensitive to national considerations and regional peculiarities
- One size fits all approach not the most effective: Case of Mauritius and the Seychelles.
- Both the country and the operators rely on roaming as a source of foreign currency.
- Fundamentals affecting postpaid & prepaid subscribers are different and need to be taken account of. (SADC more prepaid than postpaid)
- Case study of Zain's One-Network concept. Drove down IMR prices down drastically
- Case for emulation by other regions BUT constrained by lack of a similar sized transnational footprint



CONCLUSION



THANK YOU