

TO: Media Houses, The Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies)

FROM: DearSouthAfrica.co.za

DATE: 14 December 2025

SUBJECT: **32,500 SOUTH AFRICANS TO PARLIAMENT: “DON’T BLOCK STARLINK – THE PUBLIC MANDATE IS CLEAR”**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DearSouthAfrica.co.za has noted the recent media statement by Ms. Khusela Diko, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies, calling for Minister Solly Malatsi to withdraw the policy direction regarding “Equity Equivalence” that would facilitate Starlink’s entry into South Africa.

While the Committee argues that the Minister’s directive circumvents B-BBEE processes, the data collected from the public participation campaign on this very issue suggests a profound disconnect between the Committee’s position and the will of the South African electorate.

DearSouthAfrica.co.za facilitated a public participation campaign on the ***Draft Policy Direction on B-BBEE (Starlink Entry)***. The campaign attracted **32,500 individual submissions** from across the country. The results constitute an undeniable mandate from the public to clear the regulatory hurdles preventing satellite internet access.

Key Findings from the Public Participation Process:

1. **Overwhelming Support: 77%** of participants explicitly supported the Policy Direction to allow Equity Equivalence (aligning with the ICT Sector Code) rather than enforcing a rigid 30% ownership quota.
 2. **The “No” Vote is a “Hard Yes”:** Of the **21%** who voted “Do Not Support,” a qualitative analysis reveals that the majority did not oppose Starlink. On the contrary, they opposed the Policy Direction because they believe **B-BBEE requirements should be scrapped entirely** to allow unrestricted foreign investment. When combined, over **95%** of participants support the immediate entry of Starlink, regardless of local ownership structures.
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3. Economic Desperation: Our data shows that **81.5% of Business Owners** and **81.3% of Self-Employed** participants support the Minister's directive. These are the engines of our economy, pleading for a solution to infrastructure collapse (cable theft and load shedding) that terrestrial networks cannot solve.

Responding to the Committee's Concerns:

Chairperson Diko stated that the directive may "undermine the transformation agenda." However, the public submissions overwhelmingly argue that **connectivity is the ultimate form of empowerment.**

Participants from rural and under-served areas argued that "Digital Apartheid" is being reinforced not by foreign companies, but by local regulations that keep South Africa disconnected while our neighbours (Zambia, Eswatini, Mozambique) advance.

A recurring theme in the comments was summarized by one participant: *"The greatest empowerment you can give a rural child is access to the world's information. Blocking Starlink to find a 30% investment partner hurts the very people B-BBEE claims to help."*

Conclusion:

The Portfolio Committee suggests that the Minister has not consulted adequately. We respectfully submit that **32,500 South Africans have just been consulted.** Their message is clear: They view the rigid application of ownership quotas on global satellite infrastructure as an obsolete barrier to economic survival.

We urge the Portfolio Committee to review the actual public submissions before blocking a directive that has the overwhelming support of the public, the business sector, and rural communities.

****ENDS****

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