

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE FILM AND PUBLICATION BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A REGULATORS ROUNDTABLE ON REGULATING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY - A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS REGULATION**

**02 August 2023, Centurion.** The Film and Publication Board (FPB) will on Friday, 04 August host a Regulators Roundtable on the regulatory challenges and opportunities brought by the digital world. The purpose of the roundtable is to reflect on the South African digital environment from a regulatory perspective and look at ways to foster a better collaboration amongst regulators. Joined by the international regulators from UK and Australia and major industry players in the industry, Information Regulator, .ZADNA, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, the National Consumer Commission and the Financial Sector Conduct Authority.

This Roundtable will allow the various regulators to share experiences, reflecting on the impact and regulatory changes brought by the rapid technological development on their respective mandates. The objective is to identify areas of overlap and duplication, while also identifying areas of potential synergies to create a more efficient and effective regulatory ecosystem. These South African regulatory bodies will be joined by their counterparts in Australia and the United Kingdom, who will share their insights, gained from several years of working within a collective of regulators in their own jurisdictions.

As the internet becomes increasingly ubiquitous, it is not surprising that is increasingly being used to deliberately spread misinformation, disrupt electoral process, or recruit terrorists. It is also no surprise that internet platforms are facing unprecedented pressure to comply with laws to regulate content.

“The rapid technological innovations in the Information and Technological Communications space continue to defy traditional definitions and blur regulatory boundaries. As such, a closer coordination is inevitably required across the regulatory landscape to foster collaboration between regulators in an effort to enhance the overall effectiveness of regulatory interventions”, says Dr Mashilo Boloka, FPB’s Chief Executive Officer.

He further says, “Developments in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) space have necessitated a relook at regulation, as traditional boundaries between various sectors and services have shifted and blurred given that these are increasingly being offered on digital platforms. This has led to developments globally, wherein efforts are underway to foster collaborations by establishing joint regulatory forums. Same is required for the South African context, where boundaries between the consumption of films, video games, financial services, information rights amongst others are increasingly posing a challenge to the regulatory ecosystem in the country.”

Members of the media are invited to attend the roundtable summit as follows:

**Date:** 04 August 2023  
**Venue:** Protea Hotel Balalaika  
Sandton  
**Time:** 09:00 – 13:00  
**RSVP:** [manala.botolo@fpb.org.za](mailto:manala.botolo@fpb.org.za)

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**ENDS**

### Notes to the editor

The objective of the Act of 1996 is to regulate the creation, production, possession and distribution of films, games and certain publications, and more recently certain online content. This is done to provide consumer advice to enable adults to make informed viewing, reading, and gaming choices for themselves and children in their care; to protect children from exposure to disturbing and harmful material and from premature exposure to adult experiences, and to make the use of children, and the exposure of children to pornography, punishable.

Paramount to the mandate of the FPB is the protection of children. Protecting children under the Act is a proportional balancing of the rights afforded in the South African Constitution against the right of the child. Children have the right to be protected from physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, or moral harm and to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, or degradation.

It further ensures that children's best interest is of paramount importance in every matter concerning a child.