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Author: Ms. Lulekwa Makapela
South Africa, lulu@space.gov.za

THE NATIONAL SPACE POLICY: MOVEMENT TOWARDS A MORE CO-ORDINATED
APPROACH OF SPACE ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Abstract

Title: South Africa, as a developing nation is giving prominence to space activities in order to contribute to the country's economic growth and social development. The National Space Policy provides guidance to all the public and private space stakeholders on how they should conduct space with the aim of developing and utilising space capabilities and applications to contribute to economic growth, reduction of poverty and the creation of knowledge.

One of the cornerstones of the South African Space Policy is improved co-ordination in order to maximise the benefits of current and planned space activities, avoid or minimise duplication of resources and efforts, and organise existing initiatives, programmes and institutions into a coherent network for all providers and users of space systems. The public sector of the South African space arena comprises a number of government departments and their agencies, as well as the National Space Agency, all of which have independent administrations with their own policy frameworks for guiding decisions on the pursuit and funding of space-related activities. The country's increasing reliance on space technology and participation in international space-related scientific activities necessitates a more co-ordinated and strategic approach to space activities.

This paper will focus on the co-ordination and co-operative governance approach of the National Space Policy as means towards creating a predictable and rational environment for implementation of space activities by various stakeholders. This paper will also focus on other related legal frameworks and strategies that regulate space activities in South Africa.