



# The Changing .ZA Domain Name Regulatory Landscape

## The impact of the new ICT Policy

ac.za co.za edu.za gov.za law.za net.za org.za school.za web.za

# “Traditional ZADNA mandate: ECT Act



- Manage and administer .ZA domain
- License .ZA registries and registrars
- Compliance with international best practice
- Publish relevant policy guidelines
- Public awareness re economic & commercial benefits
- Research & surveys
- Advise Minister of Telecoms on related policy issues

# Enter the ICT Policy Review 2013-2015



- No significant, holistic ICT policy review since 1996
- Current ICT laws not talking to each other well
- ICT regulation spread across different regulators
  - ZADNA for domain names
  - ICASA for broadcasting, spectrum, networks, etc
  - USAASA for universal access (ICT hubs, digital migration, etc)
  - Film & Publications Board for content regulation
- Gaps remained in certain areas e.g. Internet research, technical development, Internet Governance

# Enter the ICT Policy Review 2013-2015



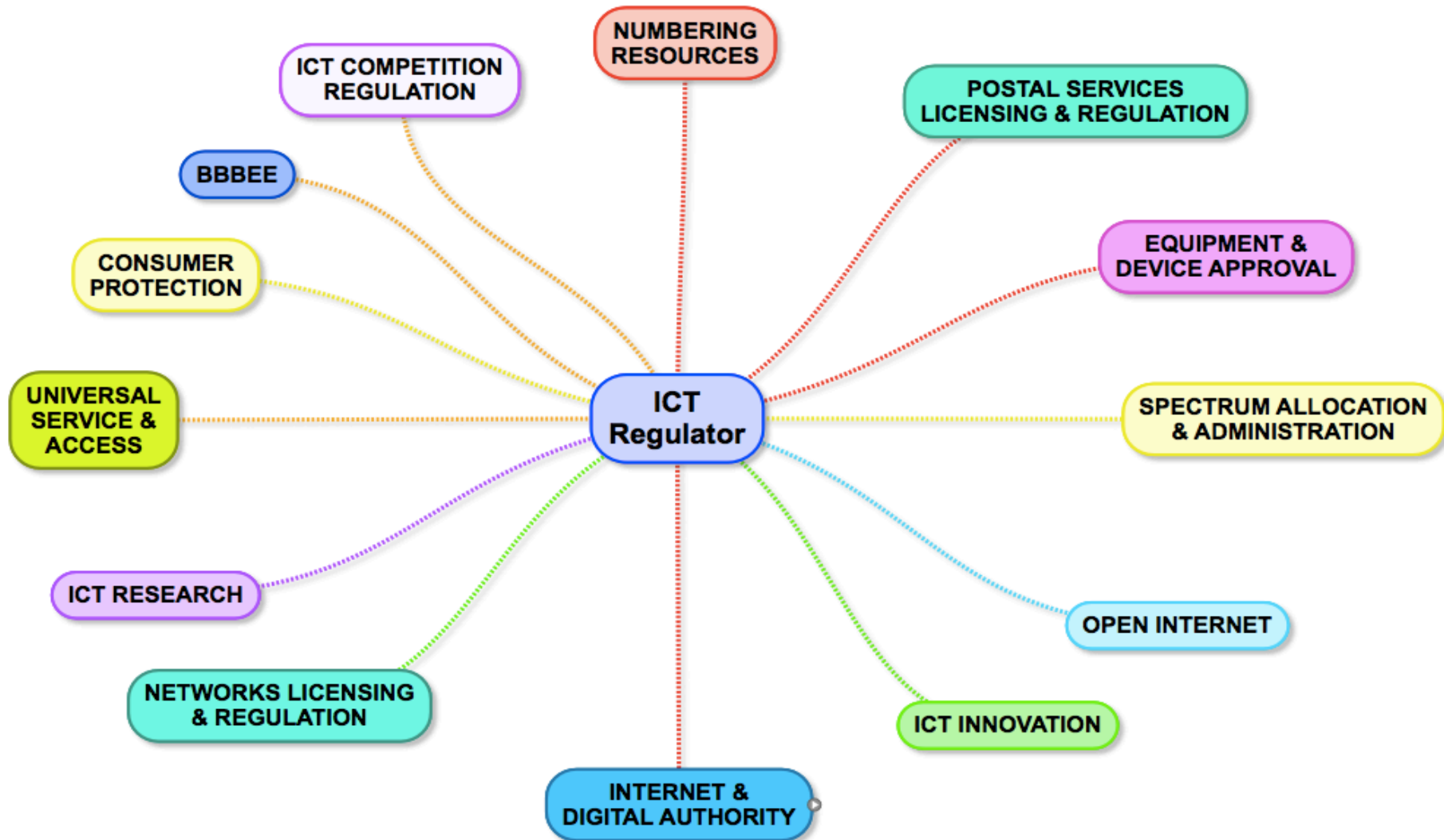
- 2015 Minister's ICT Policy Green Paper called for regulatory integration especially across ICASA and USAASA
- No conclusive recommendations on ZADNA, but Minister urged to consider expanding ZADNA's mandate to cover other broader Internet issues
- Call for a clear Internet Governance Principles
- Call for integrated domain name regulatory framework covering both .ZA and local gTLDs (.durban, .joburg, etc)

# From the ICT Policy Green Paper to the White Paper – Policy decisions made



- Integration of ZADNA-ICASA-USAASA under an independent ICT Regulator
  - Broadcasting content regulation not included
- Significant amendment of laws will soon ensue
  - ECT Act, EC Act, ICASA Act, Broadcasting Act, etc
- Willingness of Government to receive expert advice on best implementation
- Appreciation that a phased integration may be more sustainable

# New ICT Regulator illustration



# What does this mean for the current domain name management & regulatory framework



Integrated ICT Regulator will now assume responsibility for:

- .ZA domain name regulation from ZADNA
- Management of registries (top level & 2<sup>nd</sup> level e.g. co.za)
- Registrar accreditation
- Internet Governance engagements
- dotCities' registry operation: .capetown, .durban, .joburg



# Key drivers of integration



- Elimination of duplications, addressing grey areas & achieving coordinated & effective governance & regulation
- Accelerating rapid deployment of ICT infrastructure in a developing economy
- Appreciation of technology convergence
- Flexibility in allowing existence only of entities with clearly defined mandates
- Cost efficacy in ICT regulation



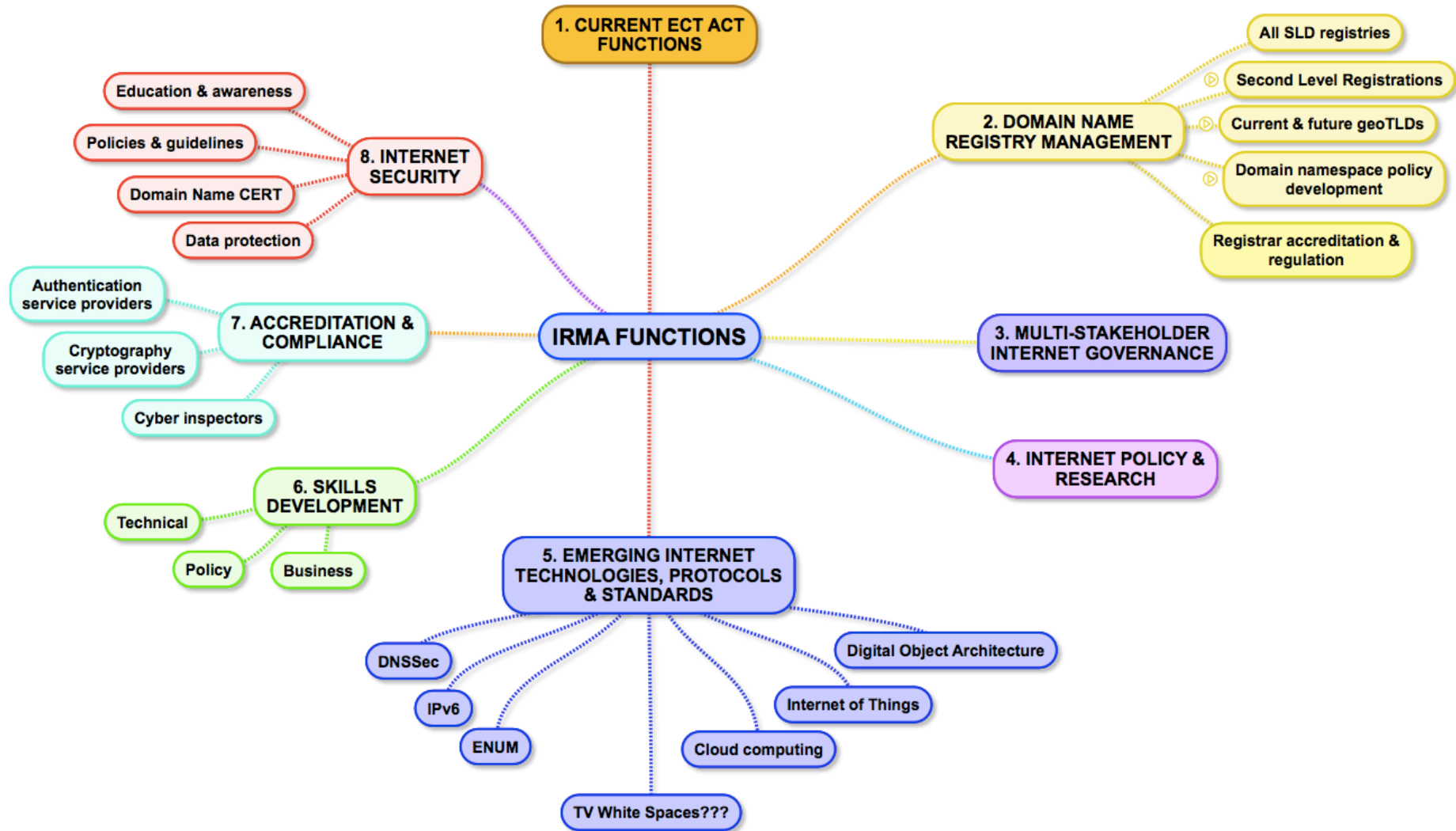
# But what will be the best means of achieving integration?



ICT industry appreciates unique nature of Internet Governance & Government is willing to consider options:

- Option 1: integrate Internet resource management under ZADNA as priority & thereafter integrate ZADNA to ICT Regulator
  - Benefits of measured integration that allows learning-as-you-go
  - Allows for priority in quick wins i.e. integrating Internet value chain
- Option 2: integrate Internet resource management & governance under “new ZADNA” and let it exist separately from ICT Regulator
  - This is receiving greater support from local ICT industry
  - Government is strongly considering it as well

# What will a separate Internet Resource Management Agency do?



# Way forward



- Expansion of ICT Policy to specific legislation
  - Prolonged amendment of current legislation is inevitable & may last long
- Proving value & benefit of separating Internet Governance framework from Integrated ICT regulation
- Working with local ICT industry to support & inform Government's pursuit of addressing current regulatory challenges in the broader ICT sector



THANK YOU 😊