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Department:  
Communications  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Ms Heather Dryden**  
The Chairperson  
Government Advisory Committee (GAC)  
ICANN

cc: GAC secretariat

Dear Ms Dryden

### **USE OF THE ZULU NAME FOR A NEW gTLD**

As you are aware, during the last ICANN meeting, it was noted that there had been an application for the use of the term 'zulu' for a new gTLD.

The term Zulu is part of South Africa's cultural heritage. The province of KwaZulu-Natal is often referred to as the 'Kingdom of Zulu', and this has great significance to marketing campaigns to promote tourism to the province, which has some of the most beautiful landscapes and tourism attractions in South Africa. isiZulu is also the dominant language group of South Africa. There is also considerable historical significance in South Africa associated with the term Zulu.

South Africa believes that the ICANN Board should ensure that the panel judging new gTLDs applications should not allow the use and ownership of Zulu as a gTLD as has been requested, and in any case by any entity other than the legitimate representatives of the South African people. Furthermore, South Africa intends to raise the .zulu issue through the GAC early warning process.

South Africa would also request that the case of .zulu is included in the GAC advice about new gTLDs, to ask the Board not to allow the request for the TLD name .zulu.

South Africa is concerned that if the .zulu TLD is granted to private agencies without the authority of the relevant national and provincial authorities, namely the Government of South Africa and the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal, it will set a disturbing precedence for the administration of future requests for new gTLD, especially with respect to names of cultural, historical and linguistic significance to a particular country and its peoples.

Your assistance and consideration is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gift Buthelezi', is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, there are some faint, handwritten initials or marks.

**Gift Buthelezi**

**Deputy Director-General: ICT International Affairs and Trade**

**2012-08-10**