

Mixed reaction to Zuma's Padayachie move

By [Duncan McLeod & Craig Wilson](#)

25 Oct 2011

President Jacob Zuma's decision to redeploy communications minister Roy Padayachie and his deputy, Obed Bapela, has drawn mixed reaction from the information and communications technology industry, with one analyst saying he was "stunned" by the move and that it would delay several important projects, including the migration to digital terrestrial television.

Denis Smit, MD of technology consulting firm BMI-TechKnowledge, says he is "shocked" that Zuma decided to redeploy both the minister and his deputy, saying the changes will inevitably result in delays to crucial projects, including digital migration and the allocation of new radio frequency spectrum needed by telecommunications operators to build next-generation wireless broadband networks.

Zuma has named a former deputy communications minister, Dina Pule, who served under Padayachie's predecessor, Siphwe Nyanda, to lead the ministry. At the same time, he has sent Padayachie's deputy, Obed Bapela, to the presidency and appointed Stella Tembisa Ndabeni, an ANC MP, as Bapela's successor. According to political news site The Daily Maverick, Ndabeni is regarded as a "committed enemy" of ANC Youth League president Julius Malema.

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