

Cheap data "vital for SA's future"

By [Nico Gouws](#)

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South Africa would struggle to compete in the fourth industrial revolution if its data prices remained high. This is according to Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel.



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"It is not just responding to the strong and legitimate call of young people for data costs to fall.

"It is also recognising data will be a driver of many of the innovations that we'll see in the 21st-century economies, and high costs will limit South Africa's ability to play in this field."



#SocialMediaBlackout pressures network providers to lower data costs

Ilse van den Berg 21 Jun 2017



Patel spoke at the 11th Competition Law, Economics and Policy conference hosted by the Competition Commission at the Gordon Institute of Business Science in Johannesburg.

The fourth industrial revolution includes new technology such as artificial intelligence, algorithms and 3D that is reliant on data.

Patel said: "Big data, search engines, complex algorithms and social media are the modern utilities that play the role akin to what water and energy utilities did a century ago."

He asked the Competition Commission in May this year to compare South African and international data prices.



Data prices respond to market economies

Luke Muller 22 Dec 2016



Source: The Times

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