



Statement

By

Hon. Tjekero Tweya (MP)

Minister of Information and Communication Technology

INVEST IN NAMIBIA CONFERENCE

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15H00- 16H00

ICT Legal framework

The ICT sector of Namibia is still small but rapidly growing. At the beginning of 1990s, a series of legislative processes that aimed at promoting ICT in Namibia were put in place such as :

1. Namibian Communications Act, 2009
2. Overarching ICT Policy, 2009
3. Telecommunications Policy
4. Broadcasting Act 1990
5. Postal Policy and New Licensing Framework
6. Universal Access Policy
7. DTT Policy

Policy Interventions & Initiatives

- Universal access
- Broadband connectivity
- Mobile Penetration
- Digital TV
- Education and training (Research and Innovation)
- Information security and privacy
- Electronic Government (e-government)
- Electronic Commerce Foreign ICT skills
- Reduction of ICT emission levels and ICT waste Management
- Cyber security
- Data Protection
- Internet Governance

Objectives

- **Achieve inclusive development through ICT by reaching the detailed benchmarks of HPP14**
- **Build a Knowledge-Based Society: Shared Access to ICT tools irrespective of geographic location**
- **Full coverage of broadband internet, TV and radio broadcasting**
- **People are the drivers of innovation**
- **Providing all Namibians with access to ICT tools**
- **Unleashing untapped business opportunities throughout the country**

From incantation to implementation; Getting things done

- **Benchmark against the best practices and solutions internationally**
- **Promote Competition in the domestic market**
- **All stakeholders to contribute fairly**
- **Need for increased transparency**
- **Fight new threats:**
 - **end grey traffic**
 - **Prevent exclusionary and discriminatory practices of (non-present) foreign providers of telecommunications services**
- **Set up the Universal Access Fund (UAF)**

The Universal Access Fund (UAF): a Unique tool to promote inclusive development through improved access to ICT Services

- UAF Created under Article 56(4)(b) of the Communication Act 2009
- To assist in roll-out of identified ICT Infrastructure and Services in underserved areas (HPP14)
- Administered by CRAN, aiming at:
 - Shared ICT usage for all
 - Availability, affordability and accessibility of ICT infrastructure, services
 - Access to the majority of communities, as well as individuals, households and businesses

By:

Contributing to infrastructure development financing alongside commercial operators



Ensuring all stakeholders contribute fairly towards the objective of inclusive development

- Ensuring non-present international telecom operators share fairly with Namibian licensed operators, both domestic and foreign-owned
- Options – Single Entry Point
- “One Landing Point”: International flights to Namibia arrive only through one airport. This allows GRN to efficiently control incoming flux. If any plane could fly from abroad into Namibia and land anywhere, all control and levies due on landing fees would be lost
- International Internet Titans (e.g. Facebook, Google, Twitter, etc): a duty to contribute in markets from which they generate and export revenues
- Promote shared infrastructure between licensed operators:
 - Ensure maximum coverage of the population in less densely populated areas;
 - Decrease barriers to market entry for new players

Broadband Implementation

- 42% of the population has access to broadband services (3G/4G and fixed) as per the minimum SADC standard of 1Mb/s

The proposed broadband implementation plan is based on 6 pillars-

- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Connectivity and Devices (including wireless Next Generation Access [NGA] networks and integrated multi-service access devices)
- ✓ Content, Applications and Innovations – including Research and Development (R&D) in these areas
- ✓ Capacity Building and Awareness
- ✓ Policy and regulatory harmonization covering policy legislation and regulation
- ✓ Finance and Investment
- Development of a demand for broadband plays a key role
- Implementation and measuring of achievement of milestones and KPI's are to be overseen by a steering committee chaired by the **Ministry of ICT**

Commitments

- To create an equitable, fair, just and competitive environment based on the principles of the free market and open unfettered access to products and services.
- To protect Consumer- Provision of reliable services that conform to international technical and quality standards
- To promotes professional standards and ethical practices in the Namibian ICT industry through self regulation.
- Promote Foreign participation and skills acquisition
- Support Small and Medium Enterprises
- Youth Empowerment – Innovation and Jobs Creation

Conclusion

