



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE



33rd NRM Liberation Day Anniversary

The Leadership and staff of the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance congratulate the National Resistance and the people of Uganda on commemorating 33 years of Liberation.



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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



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BAGIRE VINCENT WAISWA
PERMANENT SECRETARY

The ICT Sectors contribution to prosperity for all and development

Introduction

ICT is among the fastest growing sectors in Uganda. The National Development Plan - Vision 2040 envisages ICT as a critical driver of inclusive economic growth and modernization. Increase in ICT uptake is contributing to the ease of doing business in the Private sector and efficient delivery of essential services by government. The Ministry of ICT & National Guidance (MoICT&NG) ensures that the country has an enabling legal and regulatory framework to support continued growth and productive use of ICT in Uganda.

The Ministry also promotes ICTs to improve livelihoods. High on that agenda is expanding internet reach, innovations and scaling uptake of emerging technologies and e-government services. Under Digital- Vision-Uganda, the ministry is aligning ICT to support various sectors by integrating and consolidating ICT strategies into a unified vision.

Creating Opportunities for ICT innovators

The Ministry's policy framework provides for creation of market-tailored ICT solutions to create value, employment and wealth for innovators. Under the National ICT Initiatives' support program (NIISP), Government of Uganda is funding

developers of ICT applications for use by the public and the private sector. At the first call for ICT innovations, 340 entries were received, 112 of which were eventually funded.

Some of these innovations are already on the market. The Academic Information Management System(AIMS) developed by young Ugandans has been well received by the market, and is being used by 13 public universities thus-far. It has improved efficiency in processing academic data to the effect that students' transcripts are now issued by graduation time. I20 innovators under phase one are also benefitting from attachments to mentorship under the auspices of the ministry to further develop their capacities.

After the second call for ICT innovations for support under NIISP which closed on 24th January 2019, the ministry received over 400 entries. These will also be reviewed to select the applications that meet the government's funding criteria for support. Construction of a hi-tech innovations hub in Kampala is now at completion stage. It will offer a highly conducive environment with high-speed internet connectivity for use by developers of ICT solutions. Therefore, we fully associate ourselves with the theme for the 33rd anniversary of

the NRM government, i.e. "A moment of glory that set a new chapter of peace, unity and prosperity for Ugandans."

The National Broadband Policy

MoICT&NG has developed a National Broadband policy to optimize access to, and usage of spectrum by synchronizing investment in the requisite infrastructure by the government and the private sector. Eradicating of duplication of infrastructure will ensure faster expansion of ICT services, including those areas that are hitherto unreached. It should spur increased access to internet and use of electronic services to deepen research, data-sharing and creation of more opportunities across Uganda. The Policy, coupled with recently enacted Data Protection Act will ensure that content is not only shared, but used responsibly to create opportunities for Ugandans.

Coordinating GoU's Communication Function

The Ministry has streamlined government's communication functions, to ensure that information trickles down from the highest echelons of decision making to communities. As such, the ministry has instituted weekly press briefings through the government Media Center, where members of the Press and

the public are updated on cabinet meetings and decisions, in a bid to foster transparency in government business.

As Communication and engagement progressively goes online, the ministry has constituted a Government-Citizen interaction centre, as a one-stop centre for citizens to interact with and inquire about the various functions of government MDAs across all social media platforms. The Centre obtains feedback about government functioning from the public, which it follows up with the relevant MDAs, to ensure accountable and continued improvement in public service delivery.

The National Broadcaster – Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) has also been revamped, and its programming improved under new management, to ensure that it produces market relevant content and its 11 radio and 4 TV stations effectively and more efficiently support citizen mobilization for National Development. A National Guidance Policy is in final draft, and will once complete serve as the Ministry and National blueprint for rallying Ugandans around a common set of values, as we seek to achieve our national vision of a Modern, Transformed and Prosperous Uganda.