REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Private Bag 13344   Tel: (+ 264 61) 283
        9111
WINDHOEK   Fax: (+ 264 61)
        222343
NAMIBIA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

POLICY STATEMENT: TOPIC: ICT AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
HONOURABLE TJEKERO TWEYA: MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

What is the role of ICT in achieving sustainable development goals including in areas such as poverty reduction, education, economic growth or inclusive societies?

ICT plays a very important role in achieving sustainable economic development goals through the availability and accessibility of many essential ICT services. Through the use of ICT many rural people are now able to access important information and are informed on important issues affecting their everyday activities on agriculture, social welfare , health and education among others through the use of ICT .

With the introduction of e – governance, significant strides has been made in many areas of government service delivery such as the enhancement of the Integrated Financial Management System , speedy processing of passports and Visas and real time border control among others.

 The Namibian Government with its 2, 3 million population continues to bear testimony of integrating ICTs into the lives of many of its citizens by introducing ,   the use of

Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) system . With the just ended elections, voters used the EVMs for the second time.

The usage of EVMs allows a country to have a reliable data base of voters, minimises long queues and speeds up the process of counting votes and with no human interference.

How can ICT drive innovation and entrepreneurship? What are the requirements and preconditions for unlocking the potential of ICT for innovation, and what is the role of businesses and the public sector?

ICT has been declared a priority by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and that has been cemented by the creation of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) in 2008 to lay the foundation for the accelerated use and development of ICT in Namibia, and coordinate information management within Government.

In the past and present National Development Plans (NDPs) appropriate programs and projects have been developed and implemented that ensure that Namibia benefits from advances made in ICT. Namibia's Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) 2017, commits that adequate ICT infrastructure will be in place to facilitate economic development and competitiveness through innovation, research and development. To this end the ICT Sector developed its Five year Sectoral Plan which is cascaded into Annual Sectoral Plans.

The Namibian Government established the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) to co-ordinate, monitoring and supervise research, science and technology in Namibia. Once in every three years, NCRST develops a National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RSTI) addressing challenges in the national innovation system (NIS) by devising appropriate interventions to improve on the RSTI enabling framework in the policy areas, human resources and institutional framework, as essential tools for addressing needs in the basic enablers and economic priority set out in the NDP4.

The Namibian government in its Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) commits to increase Research and Development spending to at least 0.3% of the GDP which roughly translates into N$ 300million annually.

What data are required to monitor sustainable development, growth and innovation?

Namibia is at an advanced stage of implementing the Scan-ICT programme aimed at identify ICT indicators and build capacity to measure Information Communication for Development (ICT4). The programme is implemented with a view of harnessing ICTs for development in order to measure the impact of ICTs on various sectors of the economy and the people at large. The central scan-ICT portal /database in place will support the policy development and implementation process, with ICTs forming an integral part of the country's vision.

ICT statistical data are critical for identifying areas where governments can use ICT to improve and implement their development strategies. Quality data can help them define strategies for E-government and e-business. They also help governments monitor their own policies and draw comparisons with other countries.