

## GSR13 CONSULTATION

### CONTRIBUTION FROM RWANDA UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (RURA), RWANDA

*The evolving role of the regulator: the regulator as a partner for development and social inclusion*

#### **Abstract**

This contribution focuses on a case study showing how the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority is entirely partner for the development and social inclusion of the Country.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

##### **The Vision for Rwanda: Transforming Rwanda into an Information Rich Society and Economy**

Since 1999, the Government of Rwanda acknowledges the need to clearly define and state its overall *Vision for Rwanda* -- the realization of which will transform Rwanda into an information-rich knowledge-based society and economy --- with a middle-income status within 20 years.

The Government of Rwanda's *Vision for Rwanda* has three components: (1) the Global Vision, (2) the Vision 2020 framework for socio-economic development and (3) the ICT-led Development Vision.

##### **- The Global Vision**

To improve the quality of life of the people of Rwanda by enriching their social, economic and cultural well-being through the modernization of the economy and society.

To contribute to the realization of this Global Vision, the Government of Rwanda is guided by the Vision 2020 and the ICT-led Development Vision.

##### **- The Vision 2020<sup>1</sup>**

To develop Rwanda into a middle income country by Year 2020

##### **- ICT-led Development Vision**

To modernize the Rwandan economy and society using information and communication technologies (ICTs) as an engine for: accelerated development and economic growth; national prosperity; and global competitiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> Full Version at [www.minecofin.gov.rw](http://www.minecofin.gov.rw)

## **2. RURA's MANDATE IN REGARD TO ICT SECTOR**

RURA's mandate within the ICT sector is to license, monitor and enforce license obligations, manage scarce resources, advise policy makers on ICT related issues and represent Rwanda in International organization on issues pertaining to ICT. Particularly, RURA also implements the Universal Access Policy in conformity with Rwanda Vision.

## **3. RURA's CONTRIBUTION TO ICT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AS ONE OF RWANDAN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

In line with its policy of economic development and good governance, the Government of Rwanda has established the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority so that it contributes to the achievement of its socio- economic goals.

The documents of the Vision 2020 and the Second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS2<sup>2</sup>) 2013-2018 set the target to achieve income status by 2020 with an annual growth rate of 11.5% and the GDP per capita of USD 1,200 by 2020.

The RURA five year strategic plan (2013 - 2018) is in line with the general framework of the national programs and policies, including the Vision 2020 and the EDPRS2.

### **RURA strategic intervention, contribution and response to the thematic areas of EDPRS 2**

- RURA will accompany and support initiatives aiming at increasing the domestic interconnectivity of the Rwandan economy through investments in hard and soft infrastructure by facilitating increasing access to ICT services and infrastructure and resources;
- Programs will be initiated to contribute to promoting the availability, accessibility and affordability of regulated services to all consumers including low income, rural and disadvantaged consumers;
- RURA will put in place regulations that promote investments in the ICT Sector and by virtue of the Law, it will create a level playing field for the private sector's players involved in ICT services provision;
- RURA will give priority to fostering Regional/International cooperation with the aim of enhancing Rwanda visibility and market its image and investment opportunities on international scene to attract large investors;
- RURA will contribute to the human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities by ensuring efficient and effective allocation utilities resources, safety and reliability of ICT services;
- RURA will encourage and support initiatives put forward to develop and deploy utility services to non/underserved areas in line with National development policy;
- RURA will contribute to transforming rural communities by supporting programs aiming at connecting them to economic opportunity through Improved Infrastructure where Electricity and ICT will be geared as drives of development to urban areas to build a capacity and knowledge of communities;
- In the spirit of contributing to building a knowledge based economy, RURA will set up mechanisms to foster the deployment of broadband last mile solution, promoting and supporting the deployment of appropriate technologies, service and content which are meant to be enablers of strong entrepreneurship and business development and innovation initiatives, with much emphasis to rural communities and youth in rural and remote areas;

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<sup>2</sup> Full Version at [www.minecofin.gov.rw](http://www.minecofin.gov.rw)

- RURA will avail means to ensure that the citizens enjoy acceptable quality of services at reasonable prices and are assured of secured supplies. They will be empowered to protect and claim their rights, educated and equipped to not only accept quality services, but also respect their obligations;
- RURA will support the development of sustainable and professional media in Rwanda;
- RURA will prioritize the disaster prevention approach by ensuring safety and reliability of ICT services;
- RURA will promote and support the development and deployment of appropriate technologies, services & content ensuring non-discrimination especially for people with disabilities.

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