

National Policy and Advocacy on “Open Access” at Local and National Levels

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CRASA – Isidoro da Silva

Communications Regulators’ Association of
Southern Africa.

Background (1)

- **Policy Makers and Regulatory Authorities**
- **The main goals are:**
 - –Achieve economic growth;
 - –Accelerate poverty reduction;
 - –Achieve sustainable development; and
 - –Attain national integration and development goals.

Background (2)

- **Policy Makers and Regulatory Authorities**
- **Mandate**
- Development of Policy Framework and Conducive Environment for:
 - **Investment,**
 - **Development of infrastructure and services.**
 - **Quality of service and Services Accessibility**
 - **Service Affordability**

Background (3)

- **CURRENT STATE**

- In spite of its recognised benefits, the availability of ICTs in SADC has remained inadequate.
 - For example, in SADC in 1998, the penetration of personal computers (PCs) was 1.97 per 100 inhabitants on average and the tele-density was 5 fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants on average.
 - In the same period, the world average for penetration of personal computers (PCs) was 6.43 per 100 inhabitants and the tele-density was 14.26 fixed lines per 100 inhabitants.

Background (4)

- **Digital Divide**
- The gap is wide and limits SADC's ability to develop competitiveness and to effectively participate in the global economy.
- Therefore, effort is needed to bridge this digital divide. This gap calls for the design and implementation of policies to turn SADC into an information-based economy.

Background (5)

- **Ownership**
- It had been proven that with the privatization of certain basic services, expectations had not been met as the private sector focused on profits and not building infrastructure, whilst governments focused on social development.
- There was therefore still a role for governments in building strategic infrastructure, as they do for roads, rail, electric power and water distribution.

Background (5)

- Inadequacy of Infrastructure
 - Promotion of ICT entails the availability of telecommunications and broadcasting infrastructure in both the urban and rural areas, along with computers.
 - Special incentives need to be granted to potential investors to implement development activities and licenses delivered accordingly.
 - Regional initiatives should also be considered in achieving national development.

Challenges (1)

- **Institution:**
- Adjust the responsibility of the Ministry/Ministries (To address convergence)
 - Telecommunications/information technology and broadcasting portfolio.
 - Address the issues of ICT
 - E-governance
 - E-education
 - E-health
 - E-comm.
 - E-.....

Challenges (2)

- **Time and Timing**

- Pace of technology changes
 - Customers perception
 - Laws and regulatory frameworks always behind.
 - Need to move faster
- Laws and Regulations - stand test of time.
- Investors needs predictable regulatory framework

Challenges (3)

- **Harmonisation**
- Regulatory framework for ICT development
 - Country to be seen as a whole
 - Avoid sporadic and spot development
 - Avoid country asymmetries
 - Have credible criteria for selecting sites
 - Political implications
- External Investment dependence
 - Tries

Challenges (4)

- National/Regional/global interconnectivity
- In consolidating national integration in an environment dominated by open trade, regional interconnectivity is as critical as national interconnectivity.
- This will facilitate the establishment of private networks, government transactions as well as electronic commerce.

Challenges (5)

- **Interconnection**: The multiplicity of networks and service providers in an open environment requires appropriate equipment and standards to inter-operate. This will ensure that information flow is adequate to support electronic transactions, electronic commerce, and any such exchange in society.
- The principle of interconnection provides that any user of any operator shall be able to call, or transmit information-based services to, any other user of another operator without inconvenience. For this to be possible, an adequate interconnection regime, developed by national communications regulatory authorities, is extremely important.

Challenges (6)

- Tariffs
 - Cost/Price
- **Affordable and reliable communication services that will enable economic growth and development**
 - Cost Based
 - Cost Oriented
- **The Price of International bandwidth is a significant barrier to the national development**

Challenges (7)

- Licensing Regimes
- There are 3 distinct layers in Telecommunications:
 - The first is the basic infrastructure layer, which provides capacity in the form of channels.
 - On top of this there is the logical layer where the channels are used to switch traffic around the network and provide services to end users. Telco's do most of their business on this layer.
 - The third layer is the applications layer, where value added applications such as ISPs do their business.

Challenges (6)

Most telecommunications operators have licenses for all these layers and will require time in order for these layers to be dealt independently through appropriate licensing regimes

THANK YOU

E-mail: Crasa@it.bw

Mobile: +267 72 72 90 95

Phone: +267 3158468

Fax: + 267 31 58 470