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Achieving Universal Access to Broadband

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Achieving Universal Access to Broadband

Broadband Policy Recommendations
From Selected Research Publications

List of sources

- Digital Entrepreneurship in Kenya - GSMA, 2013
- *Impact of the Internet in Africa - Dalberg, 2013*
- *Lions Go Digital - The Internet's Transformative Potential in Africa - McKinsey 2013*
- *Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy - Boston Consulting Group (by ICANN) - 2014*
- *Lifting Barriers to Internet Development in Africa - ISOC, 2013 and*
- *Kenya National ICT Master plan and National Broadband Strategy - Government of Kenya*

AREAS COVERED

- a. The Five Foundations for Development
- b. Leading at the Highest Levels
- c. The Five Levers for Regulators
- d. Financial Deepening and Inclusion
- e. Energy and Transport

A. FIVE FOUNDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. National ICT strategy.:

- Coherent, pragmatic strategy
- regulatory environment
- Access to public information (open data).
- eGovernment using an agency with the executive authority
- Adopt adaptive policy making

2. Infrastructure.

- Remove the physical barriers
- Abolish barriers to investment in fibre,
- Allow competition
- Reduce bureaucracy and costs of rights of way
- Promote infrastructure sharing
- governments need to use their own resources
- Avoid infrastructure competition by gov.

3. Business environment.

- Create a supportive business environment
- Ensure an effective competition policy.
- promote local entrepreneurs
- Identify 'Pasha Centers' (to promote digital entrepreneurship)
- Establish an 'Entrepreneurship Visa' programme.
- Reduce sector-specific tax burden.

4. Financial capital.

- Support early stage funds and accelerators with financial resource, or by co-financing their investments.
- accommodate qualified mobile and ICT-oriented businesses in loan guarantees

5. ICT skills base

Emphasize:

- Education
- training
- skills building

B. LEADING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

1. Broadband Policy:

Develop a policy framework for broadband in order to achieve an Improved and streamlined growth in the ICT sector.

2. Institutional Reform:

Establish and an agency responsible for all public ICT infrastructure development and management in order to have an Efficient and effective utilization of public funding in ICT infrastructure.

3. Spectrum:

Provide a comprehensive spectrum plan on available spectrum and expected digital dividend , allocation mechanism and utilization reports of utilized spectrum in order to provide adequate spectrum for mobile Broadband services.

4. Universal Service Fund:

Provide for robust and holistic approach in the use, management and governance of USF as well as implementation of legislation in order to Operationalize USF for support of expansion of service in high cost areas.

5. Way leaves:

Legally cater for the provision of ICT infrastructure along and across roads and railways(similar to water and power) in order to Stimulate investment in ICT.

C. THE FIVE LEVERS FOR REGULATORS

1. ensuring a viable industry structure
2. optimizing spectrum allocation
3. ensuring spectrum license fees are cost-efficient;
4. supporting the sharing of infrastructure and spectrum;
5. instituting targets and incentives for coverage.

D. FINANCIAL DEEPENING AND EXTENDING INCLUSION

1. mMoney and eCommerce:

- create legal frameworks for mobile money operators
- integrate mMoney and eCommerce
- ensure that mMoney can be used for commerce
- ensure convergence of ecommerce and mMoney policies.

2. Digitization and citizen ID:

- Promote digitization
- strengthening of citizen identification systems

3. Connectivity:

Continuously emphasize connectivity to promote the competitiveness of the ancillary delivery and transport services

E. ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

1. Off-Grid: Promote access to off-grid power
2. Aggregate public data and make it available to developers to spur growth of applications.
3. Traffic jams: Governments should use their leverage to engage telecom companies in the fight against traffic jams.

THANK YOU

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