



Republic of Namibia

# THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

**DIGITAL INNOVATION AND ACCESS TO ICTs**

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# MICT

## Mission

To create an enabling environment for ICT development and access to information for socio-economic growth.

## Vision

A catalyst for an informed and inclusive ICT smart Namibia.



# NAMIBIA'S INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) LANDSCAPE

- ICT has been declared a priority by the Government of the Republic of Namibia
  - Cemented by the creation of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) in 2008.
- The Namibian Government embraces ICT as outlined in its National Documents
  - Vision 2030
  - National Development Plans
  - Harambee Prosperity Plan
- The Namibia ICT sector comprises of:
  - Telecommunications Services
  - Broadcasting Services
  - Postal Services and
  - An independent Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN)



# CHALLENGES IN THE ICT SECTOR IN NAMIBIA

- The Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) highlights the following challenges for the ICT sector in Namibia which are yet to be addressed:
  - Lack of modern ICT Infrastructure in rural areas
  - Lack of understanding of the relevance of ICT which results in low resource provision and usage of available ICT capacity
  - Limited internet access at public facilities in rural areas
  - Insufficient electricity in rural areas
  - Low capacity and expensive telecommunication networks



# CHALLENGES IN THE ICT SECTOR IN NAMIBIA

- Poor quality of service
- Inadequate capacity (human and financial resources) to implement projects that may already have been formulated
- High import taxes on ICT equipment and high fluctuations in exchange rates which further push the cost of imported equipment higher and this is impacting affordability
- High unit cost of rolling out to vast geographical area



# WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

- Namibia has sound and responsive ICT Legislation and Regulatory Framework in place
- Introduced the 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) technologies
- Invested heavily in the modernization and expansion of its telecommunication infrastructure especially in urban areas and now targeting rural areas
- Namibia is connected to the West Africa Cable System;
- Establishment of Internet Exchange Point (IXP)
- Establishment of Rural ICT Centers in all 14 regions to bring ICT services closer to the furthest communities



# WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

- E-Governance framework
- Cyber Security Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Coverage
  - **95% of Namibians are covered by 2G**
  - **89% of Namibians are covered by 3G,**
  - **79% of the population covered by 4G**
  - **90% by broadband**



# CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- MICT is currently drafting and reviewing the following legislation and policies to accelerate ICT access and innovation
  - Cybercrime Bill
  - Data Protection Bill
  - Access to Information Bill
  - Amendment of the Communications Act
  - Review of ICT Policies and consolidation into a National ICT Policy





# FUNDAMENTALS FOR INCREASED INNOVATION AND ACCESS TO ICTs

- A question of how we can use ICTs for our people to innovate and maximize their potential
- Development of state of the art ICT Infrastructure
  - 5G
  - Satellite technology
- Digital literacy
  - Deepening inclusion of ICT in school curriculum
  - Development of parallel digital literacy programs across all age groups
  - Digital literacy for E-governance (Public Service)



# FUNDAMENTALS FOR INCREASED INNOVATION AND ACCESS TO ICTs

- Access to devices
  - Placing devices in more people's hands
  - Though tax regimes, refurbishing decommissioned devices, collaborative procurement
- Universal Access Services
  - To support digital inclusion
  - To bridge the digital divide
- Cyber security
  - Creating online safety for protection of human rights and sovereignty of nations
- Opportunities
  - Creating multiple multi-sectoral opportunities to increase digital participation



# MICT'S ROLE IN ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND ACCESS TO ICTS

- ICT is a multisector development enabler
- ICTs are cross cutting and plays fundamental roles in enhancement of other fields
- MICT collaborates with other sectors to accelerate ICT development and use in those sectors to enhance service delivery
- Working together to improve the lives of our people



# WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

- Digital Literacy
  - Multi-stakeholder collaboration to increase digital literacy in Namibia
  - Basic ICT training for communities through Multi Purpose Community Centers
  - It is not Ministry of Education alone responsible for digital literacy
  - Actors such as Banks and financial service providers, political parties, agribusinesses, mining industry, tourism and leisure enterprises are equally responsible
- Universal Access Service Fund
  - Roll-out of services through demand-side management to provide access to secondary schools and clinics in all under-served and unserved areas in Namibia.
  - Upgrade of 122 towers to 4G and the building of an additional 36 additional towers in rural areas
  - Pay for 4G routers with uncapped data to secondary and vocational schools and clinics in areas with insufficient coverage
  - Provide a total number of 227 institutions with 4G services.



# WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

- National Cyber and Security Incidence Response Team
  - To support the operational cyber resilience of Namibia
  - Foster a culture of cyber awareness
  - Serve as the focal point for coordination of responses to cyber incidents
- GIGA Project
  - Mapping technology: Advances in technology and use of artificial intelligence allows for more accurate mapping of school locations to determine the state of school connectivity in Namibia
  - Financing: New global financing instruments built can be more sophisticated than the advanced market commitments of GAVI
  - Connectivity technology: Connectivity expansion through low earth orbit satellites and mesh technologies now make building coverage easier
  - Accountability: Giga uses new ways to transparently monitor progress and ensure service continuity (e.g. blockchain)



# WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

- Opportunities
  - National ICT Summit
    - Youth exhibition fair
    - Market exposure
    - Make inputs in National Policy direction
  - Connected African Girls Coding Camp
    - 100 girls from all 14 regions
    - Training in graphic design, robotics, IoT, turtle stitch, fashion, design thinking, computational thinking and soft skills
  - Digital Jobs Project
    - Train youth for microwork industry
    - Promote working online
    - Prepare an online workforce



# GET INVOLVED

We are open to partnerships  
We are open to new ideas to solve  
contemporary challenges!

Contact us at : [info@mict.gov.na](mailto:info@mict.gov.na)  
Follow our socials : @MICTNamibia /  
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# THANK YOU



Republic of Namibia

