


Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency



Role of Government Institutions in Fostering Institutional ICT Research Capacity


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Introduction

Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA) was created by law n° 39/2001 of 13th September 2001;
Empowers and structures RURA as a Legal Entity with autonomy and Mandate to regulate certain public Utilities.

- ◇ ICTs (Telecommunication, Broadcasting network and services, Postal Services)
- ◇ Electricity & Gas
- ◇ Water & Sanitation
- ◇ Transport of goods and persons

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Mission of RURA

- ◇ Ensure that certain utilities provide goods and services throughout the country to meet in transparency all reasonable demands and needs of all natural persons and organizations
- ◇ Ensure that all utility suppliers have adequate means to finance their activities
- ◇ Promote Consumers' Interest in effective competition
- ◇ Facilitate and encourage private sector participation in investments in public utilities
- ◇ Ensure compliance by public utilities with the laws governing their activities

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Major Objectives of Vision 2020 of Rwanda



- ◊ **THE SHORT TERM:** Promotion of macroeconomic stability and wealth creation to reduce aid dependency
- ◊ **THE MEDIUM TERM:** Transforming from an agrarian to a knowledge-based economy
- ◊ **THE LONG TERM:** Creating a productive middle class and fostering entrepreneurship

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Towards Knowledge Based Economy




A knowledge economy is an economy in which knowledge is acquired, created, disseminated and used effectively to enhance economic development. World Bank Prerequisites for successful transition to a knowledge economy involves 4 pillars:

- ◊ Making long-term investments in **education**
- ◊ Developing **innovation** capability
- ◊ Modernizing **information infrastructure**
- ◊ Having a **conducive economic environment** for market transactions.

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Towards Knowledge Based Economy Contd..



The Priority Needs (Prerequisites for Building Information Society):

- ◊ **Education of those in education system** – school, college and university students; teachers; lecturers; provision of up-to-date technology in education institutions; encouraging voluntary participation in the process of ICT companies who can benefit from future users (e.g. e-university projects).
- ◊ **Ensuring availability of sufficient capacity of affordable communications infrastructure** – heavily related to pricing of infrastructure services which in turn depend on investment stimulus and competition in the ICT sector.
- ◊ **Potential users of information society** (including individuals, companies and public institutions) should be motivated by being offered cost-savings and ability of better-informed choices.
- ◊ **ICT service providers** should be eager to expand their businesses and market shares

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RURA's Role in ICT Development in Rwanda



Various ICT Directorates under RURA

- ◊ ICT Infrastructure
- ◊ ICT Scarce Resources
- ◊ ICT Applications, Cyber security & Postal Services
- ◊ Information Systems

THAT IS:

- ◊ To come out with appropriate legislative framework
- ◊ To create and foster a **conducive regulatory environment** for investors
- ◊ To establish an **appropriate licensing regime** (transparency : conducive)
- ◊ To engage in an **all-inclusive consultative process** with stakeholders

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ICT Development in Rwanda Contd..



- ◊ To encourage new service providers in **an open competitive environment**
- ◊ To Improve **Quality of Services**
- ◊ To promote **fair competition**
- ◊ To encourage participation of **women in the ICT development**
- ◊ **Consumer Protection Measures** (information, complaints and tariffs)
- ◊ **Enforcing Compliance**

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Challenges faced by RURA in ICT Development Contd..



- ◊ The ICT is a fast evolving industry currently witnessing **convergence** of technologies. This calls for continuous **review of the existing legal and regulatory instruments** to cater for the industry evolution and technology convergence.
- ◊ Rapidly **changing technology** -new kind of networks, new media, new services, new technologies (Wi-Fi, WiMax, WiBro, IPTV, Digital Transmission, 3G services).
- ◊ To attract the necessary **investment funds to rollout** the networks required as envisioned in our country's Vision 2020
- ◊ **Network connectivity** issues- between different operators
- ◊ Consumer demand and expectations- connected any time & anywhere, no network congestion, quality of services, affordable prices
- ◊ National needs for economic development (education/health/social issues)

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Challenges faced by RURA in ICT Development Contd...



- ◊ Impacts of technology convergence = Further Required Skills = Integrated Training Programs
- ◊ Human Resource Capacity/ Weak Institutional Capacity
- ◊ New legislations and regulations for the rapidly changing technology
- ◊ Bringing the ICT to remote areas where there is no electricity

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ICT Research & Development Coverage Areas



INTERNAL

1. **Critical Assessment of ICTs for service provision in the country**
2. **Type Approving Process in Line With Determining National Needs**
3. **Review of Existing Legal Instruments Used in ICT**
4. **Studies on the Urban-Rural Digital Divide in Terms of ICT Deployment and Utilization.**
5. **Developing a Regulatory Database & HR Capacity for all Sectors**
6. **Research on Cost and Pricing, Digitization, NGN, Broadband Requirements**

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ICT Research & Development
Coverage Areas




WHAT THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MAY EQUALLY ADDRESS

1. ICT and the role of universities
1. The ICT factor in research, innovation and knowledge management
2. Impact of ICT Revolution on the Country's Academic Landscape
3. Cyber-science – the Future of Research in the Age of Information and Communication Technologies

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ICT Research & Development
Coverage Areas



ONCE THE ROLES BECOME CLEAR THEN THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS NEED TO FOCUS ON ICTs AND GOVERNANCE

1. *Governance and Democracy* in the Information Age
1. *Cyber democracy or the democracy network* through the use of ICTs by political organizations as well as social movements and citizens
2. *E-Government* - electronic information services in the public administration by having an ICT as an interface between the public administration and citizens as well as businesses.
3. How to turn Rwanda into *an ICT Hub*; ICTs for health, learning, enterprises and regional dominance in software engineering, distributed Systems, database management, network technologies, digital content & digital libraries, internet technologies and comprehensive geographic information systems (GIS)

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ICT Research & Development
Coverage Areas




THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS RESEARCH AREAS FOR THE GENERAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

1. Comparative analysis of national co- and self-regulation in communications markets by identifying the differences in *impacts within the traditional regulatory systems* and the *post market liberalization and globalization*
2. ICT regulation and control – impacts on *citizens' standard and quality of living*
3. New *challenges for data protection* - issues for consumer protection, policy and scientific discourse on privacy and identifying positive trends and innovative measures to enhance privacy.

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EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



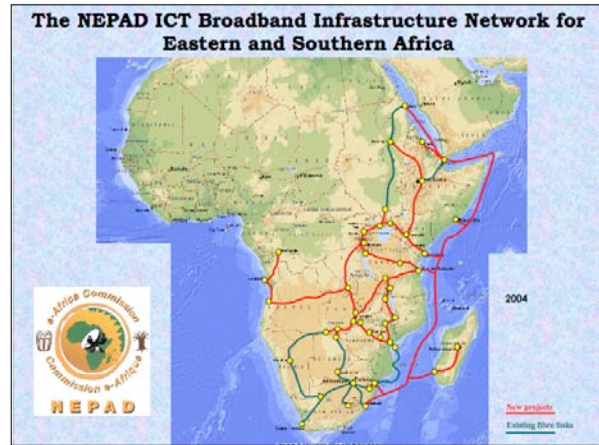
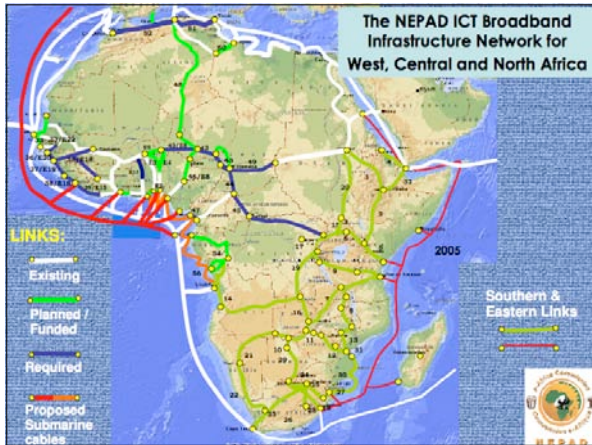
YOUR CHALLENGES

1. The Speed and Effectiveness of Your Research Versus the Daily Sweeping Changes in ICTs
2. Should Your Research be Stakeholder Focus, Technology Focus or Network Focus? – Prioritisation V/s Cost
3. To What Extent Will You Embrace Regional or International Practice and How can Such practices be Domesticated Within Rwanda to Breed the Intended Benefit?

THE NEPAD MAPS (SEE NEXT) – INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS -
WHAT NEXT?

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