



DATA IS MORE THAN 1'S AND 0'S

Data Services Market Inquiry
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Competition Commission, 2018
DTI

ABOUT MEDIA MONITORING AFRICA

- MMA non benefit trust operating since 1993, celebrating 25 years in 2018!
- Vision: a just and fair society empowered by a free, responsible and quality media;
- Human rights-based approach: MMA aims to promote the development of:
 - Media that is transparent, diverse, ethical and accountable to its audiences;
 - Critical and constructive communications by the powerful, and;
 - Informed, engaged and connected citizenry.

Funded by local & international donors;

Use Machine learning to help hold media accountable.



OVERVIEW OF INPUT

- Getting the foundations right;
- Access to Information and presenting the Seven Point Plan;
- Concrete steps towards bridging digital divide.



FOUNDATIONS

- We need clear, coherent digital policy;
- A multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach must be adopted (ongoing, haphazard or singular entity dominance fail our democracy);
- Policy must have at its basis in the following:
 - Public interest as paramount;
 - Deliberate effort to bridge digital divide & combat inequality (This will not happen unless deliberate steps are taken to do so);
 - Be in line with African Declaration on Internet Rights;
(<http://africaninternetrights.org/>)
 - Marginalised interests (esp. not just rich v poor)
 - Help realise the rights in our Constitution

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Access to Information lies at heart of issue and immediate impact on data costs. MMA with APC, SANEF and IAB SA

Seven-point plan to achieve universal access:

1. Commitment to implementation of **free public access to internet at government sites** such as schools, libraries, health facilities, etc.(requires oversight and monitoring by appropriate bodies);
2. **Zero-rated access to government websites and data**, as envisaged in the e-government policies;

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

3. **Free wi-fi access should be regarded as a basic municipal service** and run as a public utility (could be via public/private partnerships & making it requirement for commercial operators to provide free wi-fi in poor areas for the right to provide commercial services in business and affluent areas);
4. **Setting minimum standards for the provision of free internet access**, including for all commercial offerings: a minimum data allocation per person per day; and standards for privacy, security, access quality and fair access to information in the public interest;

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

5. The introduction of the concept of My Internet Rights (or My i-Right): that **every citizen should be entitled to a daily tranche of free internet access** (eg 500MB per day, which is already the standard for many free wi-fi schemes), to exercise their access to information rights;
6. The introduction of **digital literacy programmes in education curricula** and as part of free internet schemes, especially aimed at children and those unfamiliar with risks and opportunities related to the internet;
7. The need for the SAHRC and other **oversight bodies to monitor and report on the progressive realisation of internet access rights**, and in particular the adoption and implementation of legislation, regulation and policies governing free access to the internet
as a basic human right

CONCRETE STEPS

Digital & critical literacy not as once off but
comprehensive strategy with diverse
partners.



DIANA SCHWARZ ATTORNEYS

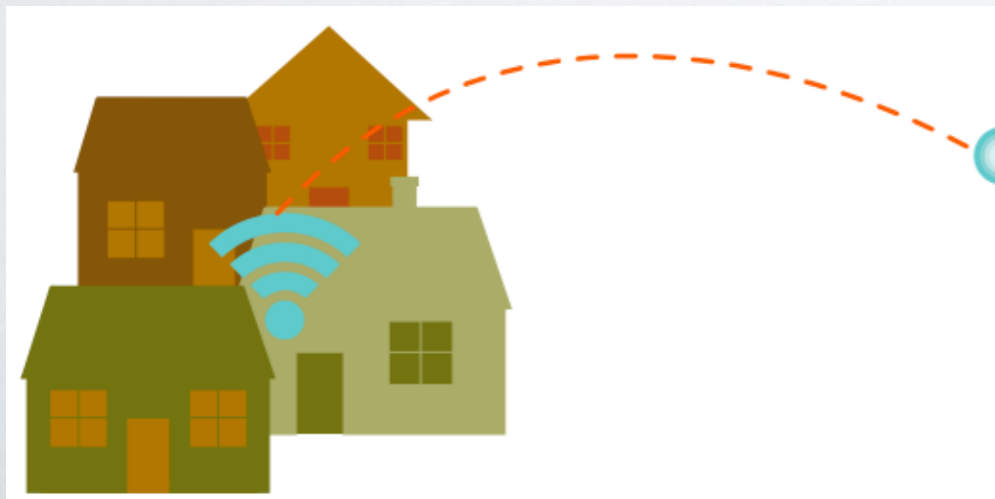


CONCRETE STEPS

Community WiFi initiatives to help ensure not just access but understanding, ownership and elements of control.



SHIKAMOTO



CONCLUSION

- We have experts to show how high costs are and those to motivate for their reduction;
- What is clear is that overall framework needs to be to bridge digital divide and combat inequality - ultimately serves all our interests to do so;
- Cannot only be about cost, but must also be approach, multi stakeholder, driven by human rights and must also look at critical skills especially for marginalized.

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PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY THROUGH MEDIA
MEDIA MONITORING
• • • • • **AFRICA**

THANK YOU

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