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ICT FOR EDUCATION – SOUTH AFRICA, SWAZILAND

Hon. Winnie Magagula

Minister of Information, Communications & Technology, Swaziland





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Presentation By:

Senator Winnie Magagula

Minister for Information Communications &
Technology – Kingdom of Swaziland.



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□ PRESENTATION OUTLINE:

- Current Status - Swaziland;
- Why Invest on ICT for Education;
- Successes;
- Challenges;
- Way-forward.



CURRENT STATUS - POLICIES

□ National ICT Policy:

- Policy was adopted in 2005 by Act of Parliament;
- It has nine pillars and Education is one of these pillars;
- Ministry of Education and Training has developed a draft ICT Policy in Education.



CURRENT STATUS – POLICIES Cont..

□ The Education Sector ICT Policy has the following goals:

- To train ICT Teachers for Schools;
- To introduce ICT curriculum from Primary to Secondary Schools;
- To use ICT in T/L and Management of the education system; Promote e-Learning.
- ICT literacy prerequisite for entry into Teacher training colleges.



CURRENT STATUS - SCHOOLS

- ❑ Setting goals is one thing, reaching them is another;
- ❑ Government Colleges have all introduced computer education as a mandatory course in the first year;
- ❑ Secondary schools have taken it up at an appreciable rate;
- ❑ Primary schools are lagging way behind.



CURRENT STATUS - SCHOOLS

School Level	Number of Schools	Number of Schools with ICT Facilities
Primary	550	31 (approx. 6%)
Secondary	230	146 (Approx 63%)



CURRENT STATUS – Cont...

- ❑ ICT training is mandatory for all Tertiary Educational Institutions;
- ❑ UNISWA is piloting e-learning methods of programme delivery in partnership with Indian Universities;
- ❑ UNISWA is also piloting online learning with its Institute of Distance Education students.



CURRENT STATUS – INFRASTRUCTURE

- ❑ One state owned telecom's company;
- ❑ One private mobile company;
- ❑ Four private ISP's;
- ❑ Government has her own Internet service;
- ❑ Backbone is owned by the state Telecomm's company;
- ❑ Optic Fibre Ring around the country network & urban centres.



SUCCESSSES

- Modest successes that have been realized:
 - The Education Management Information System is fully equipped to capture and process all statistics on schools around the country;
 - Colleges have fully examinable ICT curriculum;
 - A few secondary schools have own LANs that are connected to the Internet.



CHALLENGES

- ❑ Very few qualified ICT teachers;
- ❑ Financial constraints;
- ❑ High cost of Bandwidth;
- ❑ High cost of ICT resources i.e. Hardware / Software;
- ❑ Non availability of locally developed Training / Learning materials.



Why Invest in ICT for Education

- ❑ We now live in Information Knowledge based economy;
- ❑ Development is now driven by ICTs;
- ❑ ICT motivates learning as it can be used as both a teaching and learning tool;
- ❑ Encourages creative development, collaboration and cooperation among learners;



Why Invest in ICT for Education Cnt...

- ❑ It support social and gender inclusion;
- ❑ Learners to be exposed to new technological learning opportunities to explore, experiment and express themselves;
- ❑ Investing on ICT for education help in creating a knowledgeable society that would attract investors to a country;
- ❑ The use of ICT tools in schools and universities help in human development and encourage learners to engage in small and medium enterprises.



WAYFORWARD

- ❑ Development of Private Public Partnerships [PPP] to invest in ICT for education;
- ❑ Introduce tax incentives for investors in ICT for Education;
- ❑ Engage Development Partners for an investment in ICT for Education;
- ❑ Political support is equally important;
- ❑ Look at ways of lowering the cost of Bandwidth;
- ❑ Put in-place appropriate policies and legislations that support ICT for Education.



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CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon. Senator Winnie K. Magagula
Minister for Information,
Communications and Technology;
P.O. Box 642;
Mbabane;
Swaziland.

Email: minister_mict@gov.sz;
winniekn@realnet.co.sz



Questions and Answers

