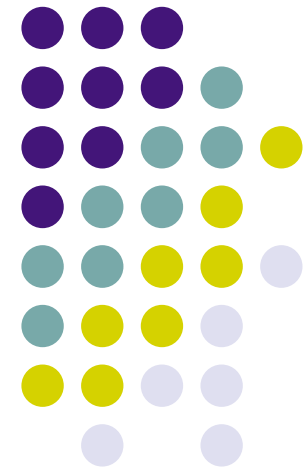


Regional Integration in ICT in SADC: An Overview

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Botswana ICT Liberalisation Workshop
Gaborone 31 January – 2 February 2005

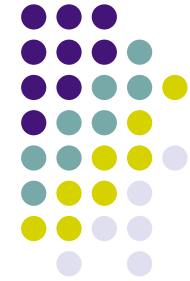




Background

- SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications & Meteorology (1996) (*chapter 10*)
- Model telecommunications policy & law (1998)
- Telecommunications regulators' Association of Southern Africa (TRASA) (1997)
- Major collaborative efforts by SADC Member States – supported internationally – USAID, AusAID, SIDA, CIDA, DFID, CTO

SADC Protocol



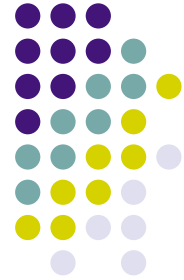
- Focused on:
 - Split of policy, regulatory and service-delivery responsibilities & mechanisms;
 - Liberalisation, competition & private sector participation;
 - Regional harmonisation on policies & processes: strategic issues eg standards, interconnection, tariff principles, human resource development, regional collaboration;
- Strategic objective: to make SADC a more attractive direct investment environment by providing consistent, transparent, effective policies & regulation with ultimate aim of significantly improving quality & levels of access to ICT services for all



Model Policy & Law

- Policy defined the environment:
 - Ministry = broad national ICT policy
 - Regulator = policy implementation, regulatory processes & management of sector
 - Operators = service-delivery
 - Sought to strengthen credibility of regulator through separation of powers, transparent & consistent regulation;
- Policy encouraged greater liberalisation of service-delivery – private sector involvement, inc privatisation of incumbent fixed-line operators
- Law drafted to enable policies to be implemented
- Policy & Law developed using international “best practice” as a foundation for adaptation, *significant regional consultation across all stakeholder constituencies – government, operators, consumers*
- Policy & law endorsed at SADC ministerial level

TRASA



- Regional collaboration & guidelines / templates on issues such as:
 - Interconnection principles (guidelines & draft agreement)
 - Tariff principles
 - Technical standards
 - Regulatory accounting principles & guidelines
 - Administrative procedures guidelines
 - Consumer affairs
 - Performance monitoring
 - Human resource development strategies
- Has created human capital,
- Aim: consistency of principles & approach – this is attractive to regional investors – provides certainty, reduces costs, provides incentive to deliver services
- Has become an internationally accepted model for collaboration – West Africa, COMESA, Arab Region, SE Asia



Botswana's situation

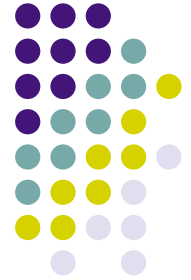
- Telecommunications policy in advance of other SADC countries (1996)
- BTA quickly became effective
- BTA a key enabler of SADC's harmonisation efforts through leadership & support of TRASA
- Burgeoning ICT market – far outstripped the initial forecasts when first policy formulated
- BUT may have lost opportunities because of pace of liberalisation (off-shore banking, call-centres, service industries)



Conclusion

- Burgeoning ICT market in SADC – Botswana no different
- Botswana has been a leader in regional integration through BTA
- Rapid pace of change in ICT sector is unpredictable
- Greater liberalisation will facilitate growth in sector,
 - growth will provide platform for better quality / range of services,
 - better services should attract higher level of investment (in ICT & other sectors which are ICT dependent)
- Principles in The SADC Protocol still form basis for developing the ICT sector

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