

# Building an Inclusive Information Society in South Africa



ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT WITH ICTs

## Information Society and Development (ISAD) Plan

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# OVERVIEW

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Accounting Division W/C/13

- ☎ Background
- ☎ Process
- ☎ Pillars of ISAD
- ☎ Sectors
- ☎ Institutional arrangements



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# Background

- ☎ Established in 2001, PNC on ISAD was tasked among others with investigating the status of ICTs in the country;
- ☎ PNC investigative work revealed that the country needed intervention in 3 areas:
  - Planning (ISAD Plan)
  - Coordination (ISAD IGR Forum)
  - Evaluation (e-Barometer)
- ☎ PIAC – recommended a plan with a national vision to rally the whole country;
- ☎ Plan of Action of WSIS calls for a national e-strategy to guide Information Society programme of the country



# Process



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- ☎ PNC hosted a workshop in Dec 2004 at which the concept was presented National Working Group (NWG);
- ☎ NWG is constituted of 16 national departments, 9 provincial government representatives and 9 SALGA provincial and 1 SALGA national representative;
- ☎ Hosted two major workshops – (international and national) several sectoral workshop;
- ☎ Four NWG meetings have been held and there is to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006;

# Vision for South Africa



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**“To create South Africa as an advanced Information Society in which Information and ICT tools are major drivers of economic and societal development.”**





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# Objectives of the ISAD Plan

- ☎ Broaden participation and increase the competitiveness of our economy;
- ☎ Increase the capacity of Government to deliver on its mandate
- ☎ Celebrate our diversity promote social inclusion and equality;
- ☎ Entrench democracy and respect for human rights;



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# Pillars

- ☎ Policy and legislative framework ;
- ☎ ICT infrastructure and Universal access ;
- ☎ Human capital development ;
- ☎ ICT Capacity Development and R& D;
- ☎ Digital Inclusion;
- ☎ Funding ;
- ☎ e-Awareness;
- ☎ Coordination and Integration;
- ☎ Measurement of the Information Society;



# Policy and regulatory framework



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The strategic imperative in this regard is to *ensure a predictable, investor friendly, progressive and enabling policy and regulatory environment and strengthening the capacity of the regulator.*



# ICT Infrastructure and Universal Access



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The strategic imperative in this regard is to *provide ubiquitous access to ICT infrastructure and services at affordable prices thus enabling meaningful participation in the economy and society.*



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# Human capital development

The strategic imperative in this regard is to *restructure education curriculum to address the needs of the knowledge economy as well as to develop the skills necessary for a vibrant and sustainable technology sector in general and ICT sector in particular.*





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# Local Content Development

The strategic imperative in this regard is to *ensure that the Information Society in the country reflect both the diverse culture and multilingualism of the South Africa*

# ICT capacity development and R&D



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The strategic imperative in this regard is to *develop a sustainable, science, technology and research sector and increase employment in vibrant and growing knowledge-intensive industries for competitive advantage in the knowledge economy.*





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# Institutional Mechanism

The strategic imperative in this regard is to *adopt greater coordination and strategic synchronisation across government to ensure that ISAD policies, programmes and initiatives are sequenced and driven in concert towards a shared overarching vision through a series of institutional arrangements that enable planning, alignment and coordination across government.*



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# Funding

The strategic imperative in this regard is to ensure that investments by both governments and the private sector are made so that basic infrastructure is financed adequately.





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# Digital Inclusion and e-Awareness

The strategic imperative in this regard is to *increase awareness of the benefits of ICTs to all, especially persons with disability, women, youth, children and including bringing to bear the acceptance of universal design of equipment as critical to meeting this objective of ensuring that services can be accessed by all irrespective of their abilities.*

# Coordination and Integration



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The strategic imperative in this regard is to *harness efforts of across government structures in all three spheres of government with all stakeholders to realise Information Society and national development objectives*



# Measurement of the Information Society



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The strategic imperative in this regard is to *develop an indicator system that supports monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment, development planning, budgeting, forecasting and decision making processes regarding the development of the Information Society in South Africa;*

# SECTORS

- ☎ e-Education – implementation of the e-education policy;
- ☎ e-Health – e-Health policy process; Electronic Health record (EHR);
- ☎ e-Government – survey on the readiness status for phase 2 of e-government;
- ☎ SMMEs - cooperatives in ICT sector and uptake of ICT by SMMEs;
- ☎ Local content development – Digitisation of cultural heritages.



# Provincial ISAD model

- ☎ Provincial ISAD model task team was established consisting of Western Cape, Limpopo, Northern Cape and North West;
- ☎ Provincial ISAD Plan vis-à-vis PGDS;
- ☎ Three main elements of the provincial model:
  - ▣ Broad and equitable access to ICT infrastructure
  - ▣ A significant and growing level of skills in the form of basic literacy, computer literacy, information literacy and business literacy.
  - ▣ A significant and growing amount of digital content.



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**MINISTERIAL ISAD Committee**  
(Chaired by the  
Presidency)

**e-Documentation Steering  
Committee**  
(Chaired by DG of the  
DHA)

**e-Education Steering  
Committee**  
(Chaired by DG of the  
DoE)

**e-Health Steering  
Committee**  
(Chaired by DG of the  
DoH)

**e-Government Steering  
Committee**  
(Chaired by DG of the  
DPSA)

**PNC on ISAD  
Commission**

**PNC on ISAD  
Secretariat**

**National ISAD Planning &  
Coordination Committee**  
(Chaired by DG PCAS in the  
Presidency, Deputised by DG DoC)

**Project Committee Chaired by DG of the Lead Dept. eg**

- Dept of Home Affairs (e-documentation)
- Dept of Health (e-health)
- Dept of education (e-schools)
- Dept of Arts and Culture (content development)
- Dept of Trade & Industry (SMMEs)

**Government IT Officers Council (GITOC)**  
Made up of Govt Information technology  
Officers from Government Dept.





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# Thank you