Towards the Development of Open Government Data Programme in Uganda

By

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About National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA)

Created by an Act on Parliament in 2009

1. **Vision**

   A globally competitive Uganda through Information Technology

2. **Mission**

   To transform Uganda into a knowledge based society by leveraging IT as a strategic resource to enhance government services, enrich businesses and empower citizens

3. **Overall Strategic Goal**

   A Co-ordinated, harmonized and regulated IT Infrastructure and Services in Government

NITA
U G A N D A
- Driving the IT Revolution -

Open Data & e-Government

1. Improve service delivery and convenience to citizens;
2. Improve the productivity (and efficiency) of government agencies;
3. create a more accountable government;
4. increase transparency and fight corruption;
5. empower public access to information/records in possession of the state or public body, so as to effectively scrutinize and participate in government decisions that affect them;
6. improve the quality of life for disadvantaged communities, promote gender equality and minimize the national digital divide;
7. strengthen good governance, broaden public participation and promote democracy;
8. strengthen the legal system and law enforcement;
9. facilitate commerce and services for businesses online; and
10. Make private sector more competitive by reducing the cost of transacting with the Government e.g. in tax collection and e-procurement.

Building Blocks for Open Government

Policy & legislative framework	• NITA-U Strategic Plan includes devt of open data
	• Enacted Laws
	    • Access to Information Act
	    • Electronic Transactions Act
	    • Electronic Signatures Act
	    • Computer Misuse Act
	• Supportive regulations being developed;
	• Data Privacy Act being developed;

Leadership & support	• Government supports transparency and accountability • All financial releases to central government published in newspapers and websites
Licensing	Procurement process for consolidation of licenses for applications/software has commenced

Building Blocks for Open Government

Data standards	• National IT Standards being developed; • Enterprise Architecture, Interoperability framework and metadata standards to be developed before end of year
Data portal	Planned
Datasets	• Feasibility study for integration of national databases about to commence • The above standards will promote data sharing • Data sets from finance, education, health, etc. will be made easily accessible

Building Blocks for Open Government

Feedback loops	Organising data exchange forum, starting with Government;
Capacity development	Government-wide IT training has commenced, starting with political leaders
Outreach & engagement	Partnering with the civil society and academia towards the development of open data
User interfaces / apps	Innovation being promoted for development of apps and local content

Challenges & Mitigation

1. High Cost of voice/data connections: Extension of National Backbone Infrastructure/e-Government Infrastructure (NBI/EGI) & last mile solutions for Internet and data across the country

2. Expensive Content and app hosting: Centralized Hosting of Services, Data Centre & Disaster Recovery Services for Govt.

3. Multiplicity of data sources: Establish a Centrally Managed National Databank & data sharing standards

4. Unreliable interactions: Promotion of Unified Messaging & Collaboration Services (UMCS)

5. Expensive software: Consolidation and Bulk Licencing of Applications and Software

6. Repetitive and disjointed processes: Partner with Government agencies and run Shared Services

Conclusion

- Our approach will ensure that all the fundamentals for open data are in place within 2 years

- Access to data will be:

    1. Standardized
    2. Open & Interoperable
    3. Easily Integrated
    4. Easy to Use, and
    5. Application ready

Thank you

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