Towards the Development of Open Government Data Programme in Uganda

By

Julius Peter Torach
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
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  
<p>|                              | • All financial releases to central government published in newspapers and websites |
| Licensing                    | Procurement process for consolidation of licenses for applications/software has commenced |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Blocks for Open Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data standards</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National IT Standards being developed;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enterprise Architecture, Interoperability framework and metadata standards to be developed before end of year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data portal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Datasets</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Feasibility study for integration of national databases about to commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The above standards will promote data sharing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Data sets from finance, education, health, etc. will be made easily accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feedback loops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User interfaces / apps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Palm Courts, Plot 7A,
Rotary Avenue (Lugogo Bypass)
P. O. Box 33151,
Kampala – Uganda
Office:  +256 417 801 040
website: www.nita.go.ug