Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The Government is committed to enhancing economic growth, wealth and employment creation. The Government recognizes the economic value and benefits of ICT for the realization of its development goals and objectives. ICT forms part of the overall reform agenda for citizen empowerment, enhanced democracy and socio-economical development necessary for achieving an e-enabled society.

The Government is aware of the fact that the software and hardware industry are two sides of the gold coin that would enable South Sudan to emerge as a regional IT hub. In the realization of this objective, the Government will undertake a number of initiatives such as the establishment of a High Level Institutional Framework to coordinate ICT policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; promote e-Government services; promote ICT Human Resource Development; enhance investments in ICT; and create partnerships with all stakeholders in the sector. The over-arching goal of this policy framework is therefore to ensure a more accessible, equitable, efficient, affordable and effective telecommunications and postal services sectors.

POSTAL SECTOR POLICY

The postal service is, broadly, the carriage of physical communications and light goods both by public and private enterprise. The postal service has a unique social role in providing for the carriage of private letters and parcels, thereby encouraging social integration and harmony and helping families and friends to remain in contact.

This role is recognised by almost every government by obliging the public postal operator of South Sudan to provide all citizens with reasonable access to basic services at relatively low, uniform prices. Postal services are much more accessible to the bulk of the population than telecommunications services because of their relatively low prices and wide geographical distribution.

The Post is a necessity for international and domestic trade and commerce and is recognised as a vital part of the information infrastructure of South Sudan. International studies have shown that a good quality postal service acts as a driver, as opposed to merely a facilitator, of

economic development. Far from being obsolete, the postal system is in many countries a growing, vibrant profitable and innovative industry. The Government of South Sudan therefore, recognises the basic right of all its citizens to access adequate postal services. The postal service is the most basic and most common means by which messages can be communicated and goods delivered. Postal service is a basic link serving the entire population; it also serves as an important medium of communications for business and commerce.

The ultimate goal is to stimulate growth in the postal sector through the development of technology in the postal services, primarily for mail processing, hybrid electronic mail services, the facilitation of mail movements and the provision of financial services through post offices so as to attain standards comparable to other countries in the region.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

The Government recognizes the crucial role of telecommunication in supporting social and economic development. It is thus the Government's policy to ensure equitable and easy access to telecommunication services by the citizens of South Sudan in order to realize this goal.

The Government also recognises that a purely commercial approach in the provision of telecommunication services could marginalize the majority of the citizens, especially those living in rural and remote areas; and has therefore made universal access, supported by appropriate interventions, a key objective.

The Government recognizes the convergence of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and therefore will put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure maximum synergy and harmonized policies, laws, and regulations within the ICT sector.

The overall access to the basic telecommunication services by the majority of the South Sudanese as well as modern and state-of-the art services by the commercial enterprises and international organizations are key strategic priorities that the Government shall aim to achieve.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The global economies today are based on the development of an information society; developments in Information Technology (IT) are the foundation of this trend. IT is an essential component in opportunity and job creation, increased productivity and human resource development.

Information Technology is characterized by rapid changes and, in recognition of the growing technological gap between developed and developing economies commonly referred to as the digital divide, it is the Government's objective to initiate steps to reduce this divide through the

utilization of IT by raising awareness and literacy levels. Further, it is the Government's intention to facilitate access to ensure, efficient and reliable IT networks and the Internet as well as IT-related hardware and software.