

GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

ICT POLICY STATEMENT

This ICT Policy Statement is designed to guide the process of the deployment and exploitation of ICTs within the Ministry of Private Sector Development to support its organisational activities and operations within the framework of the national ICT4AD vision. The Ministry was set up as a result of the need to redouble Ghana's efforts in private sector development. This has been reinforced by a number of opportunities and challenges in the global economy. Globalisation is a reality. Increasingly survival in open markets requires an ability to compete. Globalisation has created unprecedented opportunities for a strong private sector. A competitive private sector can take full advantage of opportunities to participate in international trade and finance.

Ghana would need to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the African Growth and Opportunities Act and the adoption by ECOWAS of a second currency zone and the subsequent merger of this zone with the CFA franc zone. On the other side of these opportunities are threats to Ghana's economy which can be mitigated only by the strengthening of the private sector.

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

VISION STATEMENT:

To create a “Golden Age of Business” that is an enabling environment within which entrepreneurs can utilise their resources, skills and talents for the purpose of wealth creation.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To create and sustain the “Golden Age of Business” by facilitating the development and growth of a competitive and vibrant private sector through: the co-ordination of sectoral effort; the promotion of positive attitudes towards private enterprise; fostering an enabling environment; and ensuring the elimination of bureaucratic restrictions and impediments.

STRATEGIES FOR ATTAINING THE STATED MISSIONS

The Ministry is committed to the implementation of the following core strategies towards the attainment of the missions for the realisation of the vision:

- Ensure the development of an export-oriented industrialisation drive focused primarily on agro-processing and other manufacturing activities that involve mass mobilisation of rural communities and other vulnerable groups.
- Develop a comprehensive domestic market-oriented industrialisation programme targeted at producing locally, a substantial proportion of non-petroleum Government imports, as well as processed foods and agricultural products imported by individuals and companies.

ICT DEPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION POLICY GOALS

- To improve the management information systems of the Ministry.
- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management and administrative functions of the Ministry through the deployment and exploitation of ICTs.

- To provide training for staff at all levels in
- computer literacy to enhance their efficiency
- To deploy and utilise ICTs to collect, collate, process, analyse and disseminate information about the private sector and relevant MDAs.
- To enhance and strengthen the ICT capacities and facilities of small and medium enterprises.
- To deploy ICTs for the development of standards and quality systems to meet production requirements for local and international markets.
- To strengthen the ICT resource capacities and facilities of vocational/technical institutions to ensure a critical manpower base for industrial activities.

ICT DEPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION COMMITMENTS

The Ministry, in implementing its stated ICT strategy is committed to:

- Establish an Information Documentation Unit (IDU) which would, among other things, put in place databases to provide more efficient storage and retrieval of private sector related information.
- Establish a dynamic and interactive website on which information on the private sector in Ghana can be accessed and views on policy initiatives and formulation can be collated.
- Using ICTs, create a platform for an enhanced dialogue with the various stakeholders in the private sector.
- Establish an electronic bulletin board or online discussion forum to enhance the participation of the private sector in policy formulation and serve as a feedback system on the impact of government initiatives in the private sector.
- Developing and implementing policy instruments to facilitate the importation of computer components and other ICT equipment at special import duty rates targeted at the private sector.
- Securing the introduction of tax incentives and budgetary provision to kick-start the development of the ICT manufacturing subsector in the area of hardware, software and system development, and other peripherals.

- To assist private sector entities to bid for ICT contracts within the national framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPS).
 - Assisting and supporting private sector entities in their bids for outsourcing work from international companies so as to tap into the extremely lucrative worldwide offshore software development industry.
 - Assisting in the development of a competitive ISO standard in the local software development industry.
 - Promoting policies and supporting initiatives aimed at speeding up the growth of the ICT-related service sector so as to boost its export capacity within the sub-region.
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- Promoting the development of a cottage industry for the repair and maintenance of computer and network equipment.
 - Promoting the establishment of simplified ICT equipment on hire purchase and leasing schemes to enhance the availability of ICT facilities to the private sector particularly the SMEs.
 - Creating a database on women entrepreneurs.
 - In conjunction with other relevant Ministries, support the provision of computer hardware courses in the repair and servicing of computers targeted at school leavers to generate the required manpower for the local computer repair and servicing industry.
 - In conjunction with other relevant agencies, facilitate the establishment of a One-Stop Shop based ICTs to reduce bottlenecks in licensing and the establishment of private sector entities.
 - Setting up a wide-area network to facilitate communication and policy formulation to enhance business in the private sector.
 - Promoting the adoption of electronic commerce in private sector entities.

THE FOCUS OF THE ICT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry as part of the on-going government-wide initiative to improve Government administration and service delivery to the public through the use of ICTs is committed to implementing programmes and initiatives aimed at the deployment and exploitations of ICTs to facilitate and improve its administrative operations and activities as well as its service delivery to the public at large.

