



Ministry of ICT and National Guidance

Presentation on NRM Manifesto Pledges and
Presidential Directives

By

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OUTLINE



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Background



- The ICT&NG Sector is composed of
 - Ministry of ICT & National Guidance;
 - National Information Technology Authority-Uganda;
 - Uganda Communications Commission;
 - Uganda Post Limited;
 - Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology;
 - Uganda Broadcasting Corporation;
 - Uganda Media Centre and
 - the Media Council

Background



Sector Mission:

To increase access and usage of ICT infrastructure and services throughout the country, ensure effective communication of government policies and programmes and promotion of a national ideology for socio economic transformation.

The Sector Outcomes:

- a) Responsive ICT legal and regulatory environment;
- b) Secure ICT access and usage for all;
- c) Increased employment and growth opportunities and
- d) Increased Awareness and Citizen Participation in Government programs

Introduction

- ICT adoption is critical in improving service delivery for citizens and businesses, and to foster more productive, competitive economy and inclusive growth;
- ICT services in Uganda continued to grow at an impressive average growth rate of 14.8 percent during the period (2014/15 to 2019/20);
- The sector contribution to GDP averaged 3.1 percent and significantly contributed to national revenue. Telcos are leading tax payers.

Manifesto Focus Areas



1. ICT Infrastructure Development
2. ICT Innovation
3. Development of ICT Parks
4. Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)
5. Establishment of national service programme
6. Promoting and upholding democracy and good governance

ICT Infrastructure Development



Achievements:

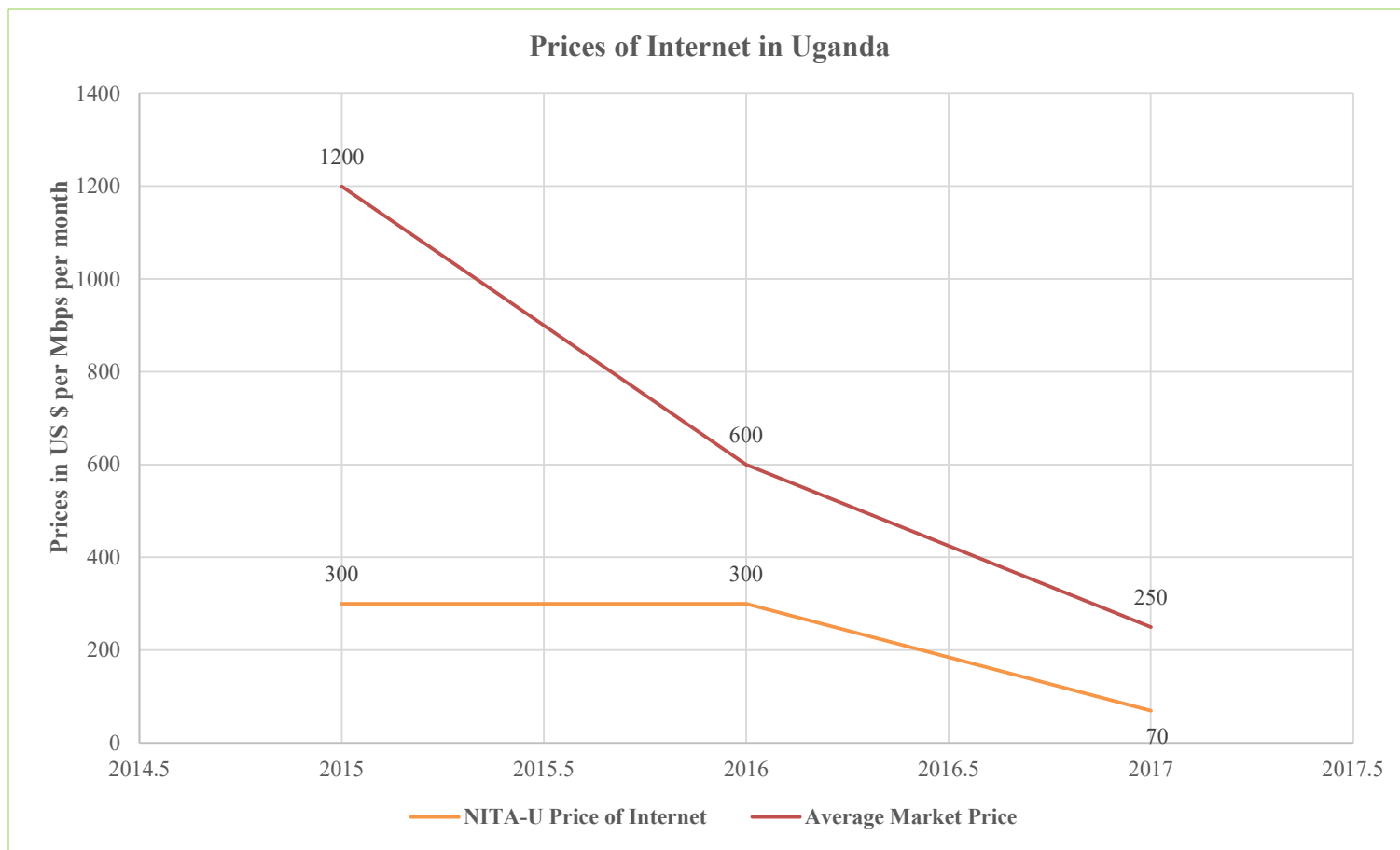
- ✓ A total of about **4000km** of Fiber Optic cable laid;
- ✓ **480** MDAs and LGs sites connected to NBI. **700** new MDA/LG sites will be connected by end of next FY 2020/21;
- ✓ Over **20 million** dollars generated from Commercialisation of the NBI in the last **5 yrs.**

ICT Infrastructure Development

- **31** Police stations and 9 UPDF sites connected to the NBI;
- **Free Wi-Fi** dubbed 'MyUg' is provided to the general public in **284** locations in the Central Business District of Kampala and Entebbe from **5pm** to **6am** on Monday to Friday and full availability over the weekends. There are over **2 million** users are on the MYUG platform each month.
 - Additional MyUG **300** locations will be provided around the country before December 2020.
- National Broadband Policy 2018 approved;
- **17** regulations developed under the Uganda Communications Act 2013.

Prices of Internet Services

76% reduction in the cost of Internet for Government from **300\$** to **70\$** per Mbps month, expected to drop to **50\$** next FY.



ICT Infrastructure Development

- The National Data Centre and Disaster Recovery site have been upgraded to Tier 3 classification, hosting **60** MDAs, over **94** critical applications and **358** websites;
- **22** base stations in rural areas upgraded from **2G** to **3G** to provide internet to over **1,000,000** Ugandans through RCDF;
- **Regional Connectivity:** The **seven (7)** major border posts of Uganda with its neighbouring countries connected to the NBI i.e.; Uganda – Kenya at Malaba & Busia; Uganda – South Sudan at Elegu and Oraba; Uganda- DR Congo at Mpondwe & Vurra; Uganda – Rwanda at Katuna and Uganda – Tanzania at Mutukula respectively

Telephone and internet Subscriptions



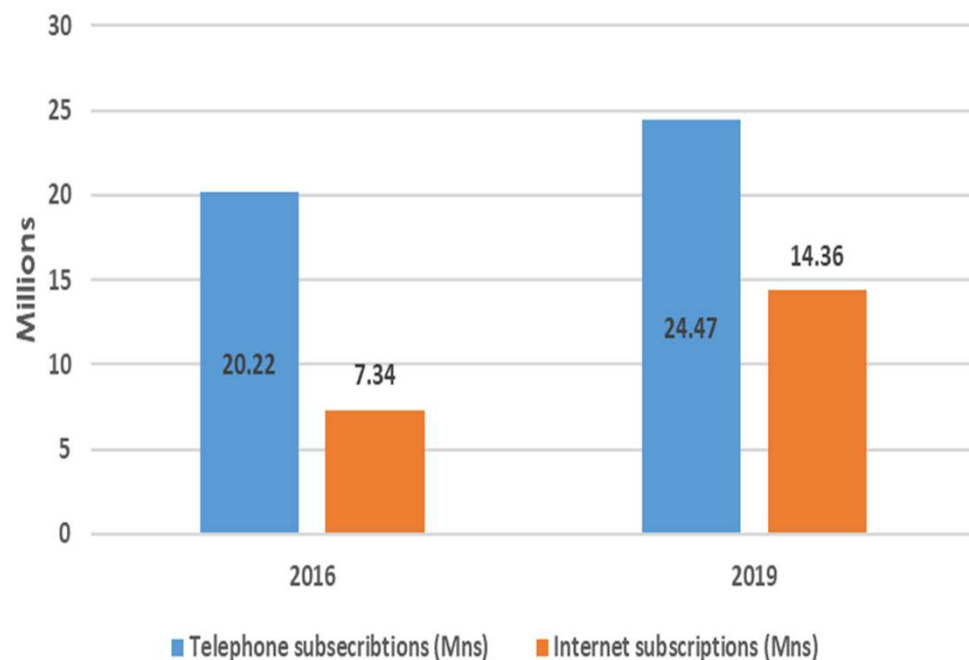
21% Growth in telephone Subscriptions

74% percent growth in internet penetration

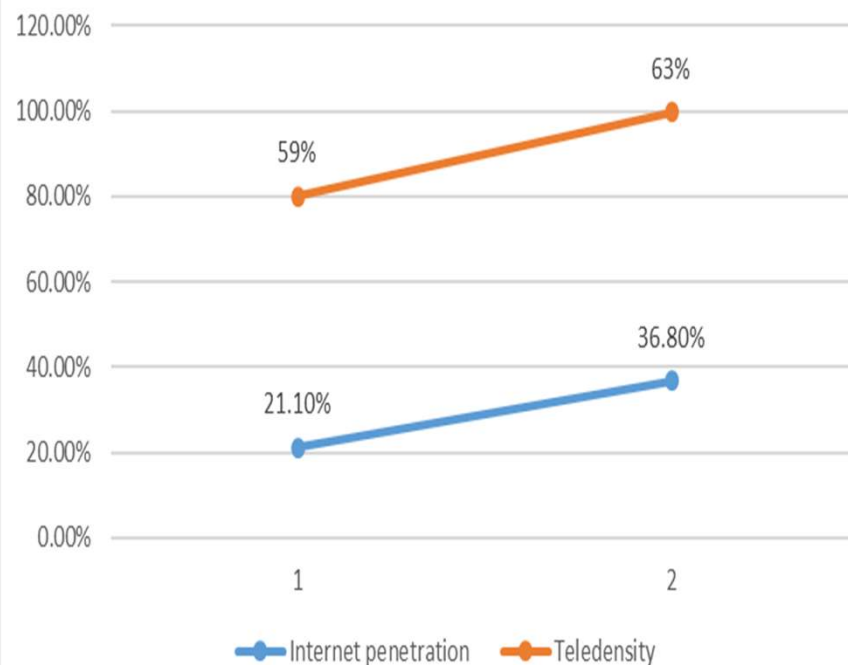
96% growth in internet subscriptions

7% growth in teledensity

Subscriptions



Internet and Telephone Penetration



Telephone and internet Subscriptions

- Currently, there are more than:
 - 25.6 million mobile phone subscribers;
 - 15.2 million internet users.
 - 26.4 million mobile money subscribers, with an active user base of 15.6 million;
 - Mobile transactions have reached a high of *UGX. 19 trillion.*

E-Government Services

- Priority e-Services have been developed and are being rolled out in Government MDAs e.g. eProcurement
 - 37 MDAs are using the Unified Messaging and Collaboration System (UMCS)
- Over 106 e-services can be accessed through the e-services portal www.ecitizen.go.ug

ICT Innovation



National ICT Innovation Hub - Nakawa

- Government is promoting ICT innovation to create jobs, for import substitution and to avoid over dependence on foreign ICT products;
- A National ICT Innovation Hub for 500 innovators has been constructed in Nakawa;
- Innovation grants have been given to 112 Innovators and to 6 private sector Innovation Hubs under the National ICT Initiatives Support Programme (NIISP);
- Locally developed integrated Academic Information Management System (AIMS) has been rolled out in 15 public universities, saving the country foreign exchange.

Development of ICT Parks

- Regulation for Certification of ICT Products has been reviewed to make it affordable to SMEs.
- Land for IT/BPO Park secured in Entebbe to facilitate job creation and innovation.
- Feasibility study has been completed and transaction advisor procured.
- The Ministry is partnering with Universities to establish regional ICT Innovation Hubs i.e. Muni, Mbarara, Soroti & Makerere.

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)

Media Engagement

- UCC has formulated Content standards and conducted training to guide media practitioners against biased and irresponsible reporting;
- The Uganda Media Council (UMC) is in place to review and monitor the media.
- Government Citizens Interaction Centre has been strengthened to provide digital Social Media Communication on Government programmes.

Establishment of national service programme

- National guidance policy is in its final stages to operationalize national service.
- National service program has been designed.
- A bill to operationalize article 17 and objective 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda on the duties of a citizen is in progress.

Promoting and upholding democracy and good governance

- National Guidance sessions on common good and national values delivered around the country and in partnership with NALI and the Patriotism Secretariat;
- Civic education on promotion of constitutionalism and good governance conducted for elected and appointed leaders.
- Awareness on regional cooperation and Pan-Africanism conducted.

Status of Presidential Directives



- In 2016, HE the President directed the Ministry of ICT&NG to promote assembling and manufacturing of electronics in Uganda;
- In August 2018, Satchi TV Assembly Plant was commissioned by HE in Ntinda;
- In November 2019, Mobile Phone and Computer manufacturing by Simi Mobile was launched by HE in Namanve;
- The company has just shipped the first consignment of 18,000 mobile phones assembled in UG to Morocco

Status of Presidential Directives

- Feasibility study on electronics manufacturing has been conducted towards the development of a supportive enabling environment for electronics manufacturing;



Other ICT&NG Sector Achievements

Revamp of UBC

- UBC rebranded with fresh youthful look and feel;
- Quality of content on radio and TV has improved;
- 8 brand new Television studio sets have been set up for UBC TV and Star TV;
- Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Free-to-Air network increased TV signal coverage from 20% in 2016 to 60% in 2020; and TV content providers/clients from 24 in 2017 to 40 in 2020.

Revamp of UBC

- The UBC national radio service has been restored in the areas of Kisoro, Rubirizi, Arua, Soroti and Lira, Mbarara, Masaka. This has improved radio network coverage from **60%** to **70%**.
- Transmission equipment has been ordered to set up new radio transmission sites in the border areas of Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Kotido, Kitgum, Pakwach, Rakai, Rubirizi, Rukungiri, Moyo. This project will increase radio network coverage from 70% to 85% when it is completed in July 2020.

Human Capital Development

- Over 1,047 School ICT labs equipped under RCDF;
- **95%** of ICT teachers and instructors in Govt schools retooled
- Over **4000** SMEs trained in use of ICTs for business as part of the Digital Literacy Programme by UCC.
- Over **80** Sensitization sessions on cyber laws and cyber security conducted

Human Capital Development

- Uganda Institute of ICT Master Plan developed, Institute infrastructure refurbished, and digital labs established and equipped;
- UCC refurbished and equipped five (5) specialized labs (Multimedia, electrical, electronics, optical and a Testing lab) at UICT;
- UICT achieved the following:
 - Trained, skilled and graduated over 2,018 students designates ICT skills specialties;
 - Trained and certified 1,037 SMEs in Citizenship Digital Literacy Skills ((market vendors, juwakali, tailors)
 - Certified 618 Professionals in specialized short courses in ICT and management such as CCNA, Fiber optics, Electronics and ITU courses.

Other ICT&NG Sector Achievements

- A National Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution has been developed to guide the country in the adoption of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and 5G technologies;
- NITA-U (Certification of Providers of IT Products & Services) Regulation 2016 completed;
- 10-year Digital Uganda Vision prepared;
- Over 10 Post offices and Public Libraries converted into ICT access centres for eGovernment Services;

Other ICT&NG Sector Achievements

- Validation of SIM Card Registration with National ID details was done;
- Uganda is represented on several international fora including the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
- The Sector has developed strong partnerships with other countries, development partners and organisations such as the EU, AU, UAE, India, UNDP, UNCDF, UN Pulse Lab, FSDU, ITU, GIZ, Konrad Adeneur Stiftung, Intel and Microsoft.

ICT & NG Sector Challenges

1. Limited appreciation and understanding of national guidance and national service programme to inculcate patriotism in the citizenry
2. Fragmented ICT initiatives across government due to disparate mandates
3. Inadequate complimentary infrastructure such as electricity for effective roll out of ICT facilities
4. Vandalism of ICT infrastructure
5. High taxation regime affecting adoption of ICT
6. Low levels of digital literacy and general apprehension to ICTs
7. UBC has an accumulated debt portfolio of UGX. 75Bn including the principal, penalties and interest on funds owed to NSSF, URA, UMEME and NWSC

NDP III Digital Transformation Targets

- Increase ICT penetration:
 - 90 percent national broadband coverage with minimum speed of 8 Mbps
 - Digital Terrestrial Television signal coverage from 56 percent to 95 percent,
 - 70 percent NBI connectivity in Government MDAs/DHq;
- Reduce the cost of ICT devices and services:
 - unit cost of 1Mbps /month of internet on the private sector retail market from USD 237 to USD 70,
 - unit cost of low entry smart phones from UGX 100,000 to UGX 60,000 or lower and
 - cost of a computer from UGX 1,600,000 to UGX 800,000;
- Create 500,000 (direct and indirect jobs) within the ICT sector;
- Provide 80 percent of government services online.

Conclusion

- The ICT & NG Sector has achieved over 75% of the NRM Manifesto commitments and Presidential Directives;
- The sector registered many other achievements in line with Uganda Vision 2040, NDP II and the ICT Sector Strategic & Investment Plan;
- The ICT&NG Sector also came up with several interventions during the Covid-19 pandemic, including comprehensive coverage by UBC, online platforms, and video conferencing system in partnership with OPM & UNDP.

Thank You

For God and My Country