



# DATA IS MORE THAN 1'S AND 0'S

Data Services Market Inquiry  
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Competition Commission, 2018  
DTI

# ABOUT MEDIA MONITORING AFRICA

- MMA non benefit trust operating since 1993, celebrating 25 years in 2018!
- Vision: a just and fair society empowered by a free, responsible and quality media;
- Human rights-based approach: MMA aims to promote the development of:
  - Media that is transparent, diverse, ethical and accountable to its audiences;
  - Critical and constructive communications by the powerful, and;
  - Informed, engaged and connected citizenry.

Funded by local & international donors;

Use Machine learning to help hold media accountable.



# OVERVIEW OF INPUT

- Getting the foundations right;
- Access to Information and presenting the Seven Point Plan;
- Concrete steps towards bridging digital divide.



# FOUNDATIONS

- We need clear, coherent digital policy;
- A multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach must be adopted (ongoing, haphazard or singular entity dominance fail our democracy);
- Policy must have at its basis in the following:
  - Public interest as paramount;
  - Deliberate effort to bridge digital divide & combat inequality (This will not happen unless deliberate steps are taken to do so);
  - Be in line with African Declaration on Internet Rights; (<http://africaninternetrights.org/>)
  - Marginalised interests (esp. not just rich v poor)
  - Help realise the rights in our Constitution

# ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Access to Information lies at heart of issue and immediate impact on data costs. MMA with APC, SANEF and IAB SA

Seven-point plan to achieve universal access:

1. Commitment to implementation of **free public access to internet at government sites** such as schools, libraries, health facilities, etc.(requires oversight and monitoring by appropriate bodies);
2. **Zero-rated access to government websites and data**, as envisaged in the e-government policies;

# ACCESS TO INFORMATION

3. Free wi-fi access should be regarded as a basic municipal service and run as a public utility (could be via public/private partnerships & making it requirement for commercial operators to provide free wi-fi in poor areas for the right to provide commercial services in business and affluent areas);
4. Setting minimum standards for the provision of free internet access, including for all commercial offerings: a minimum data allocation per person per day; and standards for privacy, security, access quality and fair access to information in the public interest;

# ACCESS TO INFORMATION

5. The introduction of the concept of My Internet Rights (or My i-Right): that **every citizen should be entitled to a daily tranche of free internet access** (eg 500MB per day, which is already the standard for many free wi-fi schemes), to exercise their access to information rights;
6. The introduction of **digital literacy programmes in education curricula** and as part of free internet schemes, especially aimed at children and those unfamiliar with risks and opportunities related to the internet;
7. The need for the SAHRC and other **oversight bodies to monitor and report on the progressive realisation of internet access rights**, and in particular the adoption and implementation of legislation, regulation and policies governing free access to the internet  
*as a basic human right*

# CONCRETE STEPS

Digital & critical literacy not as once off but comprehensive strategy with diverse partners.



DIANA SCHWARZ ATTORNEYS

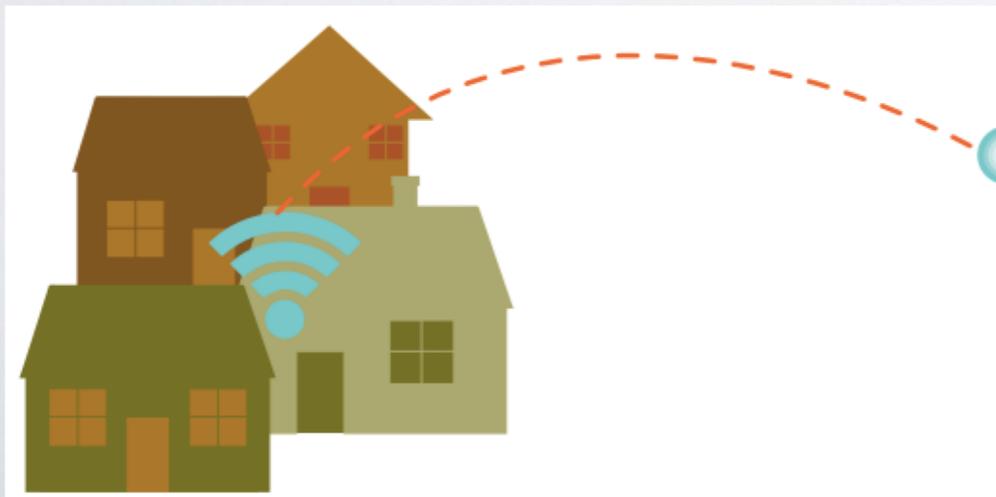


# CONCRETE STEPS

Community WiFi initiatives to help ensure not just access but understanding, ownership and elements of control.



**SHIKAMOTO**



# CONCLUSION

- We have experts to show how high costs are and those to motivate for their reduction;
- What is clear is that overall framework needs to be to bridge digital divide and combat inequality - ultimately serves all our interests to do so;
- Cannot only be about cost, but must also be approach, multi stakeholder, driven by human rights and must also look at critical skills especially for marginalized.

1993 **25** 2018

*PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY THROUGH MEDIA*

**MEDIA**MONITORING  
• • • • • **AFRICA**

THANK YOU

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