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Ikamva National eSkills Institute

Newsletter   Edition 23, February 2014

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The Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) is a national catalyst, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA, within the globally evolving information and knowledge-based environment, by leading the creation of key e-skills development strategy, solutions, practices and the implementation thereof, to benefit the total population. iNeSI focuses primarily on four components: research, teaching and learning, innovation and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

The iNeSI launch 2014 - Multi-stakeholder collaboration for the developmental state

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, an inclusive economy, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

The Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) was officially launched by the Department of Communications on 21 February 2014 at the Durban University of Technology. It is now a state-owned company and the merger of three institutions: the e-Skills Institute, the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa and the Institute for Satellite and Software Applications.

The launch programme, contextualised within the new broadband policy, South Africa Connect, and the National Development Plan (NDP), was conducted by Prof Roy Marcus, a member of the Board of iNeSI.

A unique model

Prof Marcus noted that iNeSI has already received global recognition and that "it is held up as a unique model for the triple helix and, more importantly, it is a model that many organisations across the world have requested for us to share how we have been able to develop this unique partnership to literally roll out a programme which is aimed at millions and millions of people in a country."

> **What is the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI)?**
> iNeSI is a globally-recognised collaborative model that allows stakeholders to sustainably meet South Africa's e-skilling objectives.
> These objectives are aligned to the new broadband policy, South Africa Connect, and the National Development Plan, among other national and international goals.

Welcome address – considering the fundamentals

The welcome address was given by Deputy City Manager Musa Gumede, a representative for Mr James Nxumalo, Mayor of eThekwini Municipality.

He viewed the launch as a direct response to the clarion call from President Zuma – to work together as government, business and labour to grow South Africa's economy and to create new jobs.

His address considered the fundamentals of the organisation. Firstly, iNeSI is aimed at "developing a capable developmental state in a world increasingly dominated by modern ICT devices, and addressing the inequity in the country in as far as information technology is concerned'.

The intention of iNeSI is to offer a framework to encourage, sustain and enable collaboration across all

The unveiling of the iNeSI plaque with VIPs including Mr Trevor Manuel, Mr Yunus Carrim, Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and Dr Molatelo Maloka.

stakeholders. This collaboration allows stakeholders to refocus their efforts in ways that help build and aggregate responses to the needs of South Africa.

"This model of the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute will also allow the integration of efforts from all stakeholders including government, business, education, civil society and global development partners, in a framework architecture that is clearly aligned to the aspirations of our National Development Plan and encompassed in the SA Connect broadband policy," said Mr Gumede.

Policy framework

Prof Ahmed Bawa, Vice-Chancellor of Durban University of Technology (DUT) and Chairperson of Higher Education South Africa, noted that South Africa is at an important juncture regarding ICT and its impact.

The NDP provides a framework, the new broadband policy provides policy guidelines and iNeSI provides a national approach to increasing the penetration of ICT use within a developmental context.

Prof Bawa said that the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training was also an important part of this juncture: "It provides us with a basis for looking at education post school in a much more coherent way, in a way which allows us to build a system that caters for all people."

"If we think we are going to meet the developmental challenges we face without ICT, forget it," he said. He concluded by affirming DUT's commitment to iNeSI. →

L to R: Prof Roy Marcus; iNeSI exhibition information; Mr Musa Gumede; Ms Mymoena Sharif taking VIPs through the iNeSI exhibition; guests at the iNeSI launch which was hosted at the Durban University of Technology.

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The iNeSI launch 2014 [continued]

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iNeSI was launched by the Department of Communications along with the Board of iNeSI.
The following key organisations endorsed iNeSI:
• The National Planning Commission
• The Department of Public Service and Administration
• The Portfolio Committee on Communications
• The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Education Committee
• Higher Education South Africa
• eThekwini Municipality

L to R: Prof Ahmed Bawa; Ms Linda Shongwe; Dr Ellen Kornegay

ICT capability is key for a developmental state

Ms Linda Shongwe, Chairperson of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Portfolio Committee on Education, gave the mess-age of support from Ms Peggy Nkonyeni, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education.

She said that South Africa has committed itself to building a develop-mental state "that efficiently guides national economic development by mobilising resources of society and directing them towards the realisation of com-mon goals".

A developmental state places the needs of the poor and social issues, such as healthcare, housing and education, at the top of the national agenda.

"A developmental state must be able to direct and support economic development through building a strong public service, creating an investor-friendly environment, supporting small business development, using state-owned enterprises effectively, and driving strategic investment... this state has to play a role in keeping our economy competitive and close to the leading edge in the global knowledge of ICT," said Ms Shongwe.

She noted that government needs organisational and technical capacity to play its developmental state role and that it "must be able to unite the public sector, business, labour and civil society in a partnership geared to implement

"With the multitude of approaches currently being used across the country, there is a high need for an e-skills institute that can operate across the full spectrum of government, business, education and civil society to coordinate and provide approaches to integrate efforts and to identify gaps and developmental approaches to close them."

Dr Ellen Kornegay, Adviser to the Minister, and representative for Ms Ayanda Dlodlo, Deputy Minister of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) at the iNeSI launch

this shared programme... without ICT capability, the idea of a developmental state is stillborn".

ICT and innovation

The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) ties ICT and innovation together. "They are an impor-tant part of e-skills and e-government," said Dr Ellen Ko-rnegay, Adviser to the Minister, and representative for Ms Ayanda Dlodlo, Deputy Minister of the DPSA at the iNeSI launch.

South Africa, as one of the founding partners for the Open Government Partnership (OGP), has committed itself to using technology to advance development.

"This means that, as a country, we have committed ourselves to increase access to new technologies, openness →

Appreciation and thanks
iNeSI would like to thank and note our sincere appreciation to all the stakeholders that have lent their weight to developing the organisation's unique model, as well as being part of the multi-stakeholder collaborative network. Thank you, also, to all those who attended the launch.

L to R: Ms Mymoena Sharif with Dr Harold Wesso and Mr Trevor Manuel; Representatives from the e-Skills CoLabs - Surendra Thakur, Lorna van der Merwe, Dr Hossanna Twinomurinzi and Dr Leona Craffert; Ms Mina Lesoma giving the speech from Mr Sikhumbuzo Kholwane, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications; Ms Mina Lesoma, Dr Molatelo Maloka and Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

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and accountability," said Dr Kornegay. This commitment is linked to the national developmental targets in the NDP.

She noted that new technologies offer opportunities for information sharing, public participation and collaboration. Harnessing ICT can make more information public in ways that enable people to both understand what their governments do and to influence decisions. ICT also allows for the development of accessible and secure online spaces to deliver government services, which are also a way of engaging the public and sharing information and ideas.

> "[iNeSI] is held up as a unique model for the triple helix and, more importantly, it is a model that many organisations across the world have requested for us to share… "
>
> Prof Roy Marcus, member of the Board of iNeSI

(PCC).

She noted that the launch is a culmination of many legislative and policy decisions undertaken by the government. Ms Lesoma gave the following example: "the ANC's 53rd National General Council pronounced that e-skills should become a compulsory subject in all public schools to promote an e-literate society."

"[I]t is indeed possible to harness ICT properly as [iNeSI has] the ability to strengthen the mechanisms necessary for development while creating socio-economic development opportunities for our people and country," said Ms Lesoma. It was noted that capacitating e-skills across the country is now a matter of urgency.

Guests and the choir at the launch of the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute.

"The public service we aim to achieve is one that is skilled, effective, adaptable, learning, innovative, and knowledge centred… Such an approach would result in a knowledge-based society, one which through the use of ICT will result in a more responsive and agile state that advances the achievement of developmental state/s through the implementation of the developmental agenda," said Dr Kornegay.

The importance of collaboration

"In line with global trends, South Africa is putting in place e-government initiatives to bring government services closer to the people in an integrated manner," said Dr Kornegay.

"With the multitude of approaches currently being used across the country, there is a high need for an e-skills institute that can operate across the full spectrum of government, business, education and civil society to coordinate and provide approaches to integrate efforts and to identify gaps and developmental approaches to close them."

The DPSA endorsed iNeSI and the development of an e-skills platform. It was noted that there should be a strong partnership between iNeSI and the National School of Government.

The Portfolio Committee on Communications

The closing remarks and vote of thanks were made by Ms Mina Lesoma, representing Mr Sikhumbuzo Kholwane, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications

Ms Lesoma said that the PCC should be seen as the lead advocate for iNeSI. The achievements to date of working with Further Education and Training colleges (FET colleges)

Join the network!
As a national catalyst for the development of e-skills in South Africa, the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) calls on e-skills stakeholders to become involved in the integrated approach to e-skills development through our multi-stakeholder collaborative network.

Our value proposition
Have a look at the iNeSI value proposition: www.inesi.org/media-and-publications/pdfs/value_proposition.pdf.

Understanding the collaborative multi-stakeholder network
See the explanation for the collaborative multi-stakeholder network: www.inesi.org/common/collaborative-network.php. This includes ways to engage with iNeSI.

Contacting iNeSI
Use the following link to get the contact details for iNeSI: www.inesi.org/contact-esi/.

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The iNeSI launch 2014 [continued]

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were commended: "[O]ur government has continuously focused on capacitating those centres of learning to become the cornerstone of our education system. It is important

"We must ensure that [rural communities] are not sidelined and receive services secondary to the townships or urban areas."

Ms Mina Lesoma representing Mr Sikhumbuzo Kholwane, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications

indeed that they should use this opportunity for our schools and the youth, in particular in rural areas."

The integrated approach of the multi-stakeholder collaborative network was applauded as a way for

government to work across departments, as well as with international and regional stakeholders. It is seen as a way of influencing the curriculum demands for the knowledge economy and responding to the skills demand of a knowledge society. It also addresses the issue of overlapping and duplication.

It was emphasised that iNeSI's programmes should focus on rural communities as they are most in need of e-skills: "We must ensure that they are not sidelined and receive services secondary to the townships or urban areas."

"[ICT] must have a positive effect on our society and economic development. If not methodically and systematically deployed, the result can have a negative impact leading to the much broader digital divide," said Ms Lesoma. It was noted that the PCC strongly endorses the e-readiness programme and iNeSI. ⒺⓃⒹ

Guests at the launch of the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute.

Building SA's human capacity to harness ICT around the NDP goals

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, an inclusive economy, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

The first chapter of the National Development Plan (NDP) is devoted to decision making in a complex environment. Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission, noted that this is where the discussion of changes in ICT finds resonance. He was

Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission

giving the keynote address at the launch of the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI).

Access to ICT has made the world a much smaller place. Minister Manuel noted that ICT impacts directly on people's lives, enabling and creating new opportunities, and all within a variable rate of change.

Ensuring e-inclusion
One of the biggest risks from the advancement of ICT is the chasm between those who have access and those who don't. "The truth of the matter is that inequality will grow →

"The truth of the matter is that inequality will grow because ICT doesn't wait until the laggards are ready... [policy makers] need to understand that the responsibility of policy is to watch the gap and ensure that people don't get left behind."

Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission

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Building SA's human capacity to harness ICT around the NDP goals [continued]

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because ICT doesn't wait until the laggards are ready... [policy makers] need to understand that the responsibility of policy is to watch the gap and ensure that people don't get left behind," said Mr Manuel. He noted that this will, in many ways, provide the definition of iNeSI's responsibility.

Technologies change how people live – on every level. Without e-skills, sections of society can be left behind. Manuel stressed this point, saying: "Because unless [policy makers] are conscious of the fact that people are being left out and locked out of economic livelihood, I think we will fail generations."

He noted that we see this impact on young people - that baby boomers have taken too much off the table and have underinvested in future generations. "So part of the establishment and expansion of the Ikamva Institute is about engaging with that. It's about ensuring that we can make an appropriate and necessary investment in the next generation," said the Minister.

ICT as a force for good

Minister Manuel said that the big challenge is how we harness ICT and use it as a force for good, while considering the uncertainties that ICT presents. The way we engage with the uncertainties is critical to raising the living standards of all citizens and freeing the potential of each person.

"We have got to understand the power of what we are working with," said Mr Manuel. He noted that Moore's Law – that the capacity of computing is likely to double every year – has almost become a rigid iron law.

It is now the 49th year since Moore's law was first mentioned. It is necessary to look back and understand how computing has changed and what this means in terms of its ability to impact on the people's lives.

MOOCs are Massive Open Online Courses and are a reality. Minister Manuel mentioned three – edX, Coursera and Udacity. He then spoke of how attrition rates are still very high at universities. (Attrition rates refer to the rate of shrinkage in size or number.)

"[T]he world of tertiary education will have to change to accept what ICT now presents, [and] knowledge and

Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission

> "So part of the establishment and expansion of the Ikamva Institute is about... ensuring that we can make an appropriate and necessary investment in the next generation."
>
> Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission

information will change along with it. I am using this to merely illustrate that for people like ourselves, it's imperative that we understand that we harness, that we embrace and engage ICT," said Mr Manuel.

The need to invest in e-skills

He noted that "we haven't started as a nation to invest significantly in ICT literacy and so that gap between the select few of us and the majority is a very, very real one." Furthermore, the rate of change due to ICT and e-skills is changing all over the developing world, especially within Africa.

> "We have to invest massively in skills, in training and in hard work... what I am hoping is that [iNeSI] will recognise that this is its core mandate - that it will help us understand how to advance and that it will ensure that we have the requisite spread of skills across the country."
>
> Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission

"So part of what we have to do is to understand that our responsibility as policy makers is to close the gap, to measure and understand the impact of what we are doing, to do so in order to encourage the advancement and application of technology and always to be conscious of the distance of a large part of our people from the frontier of technology," said Manuel.

"We have to invest massively in skills, in training and in hard work... what I am hoping is that [iNeSI] will recognise that this is its core mandate - that it will help us understand how to advance and that it will ensure that we have the requisite spread of skills across the country." END

NDP Priority Areas supported by NeSPA 2013

Pillar 1: Unite around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality
Pillar 2: Active citizenry
Pillar 3: Inclusive economy
Pillar 4: Build capabilities
Pillar 5: A capable developmental state
Pillar 6: Leadership throughout society to work together to solve problems

Building an inclusive economy through e-skills

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, an inclusive economy, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

It is the government's role to ensure that the National Development Plan (NDP) is not merely a guiding document. "[But] how do we then ensure that we make the usual business unusual?" said Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Deputy Minister of Communications. Her response to that question is to address the e-skills shortage through Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI).

Developing a knowledge-based economy

Education is a priority and that includes lifelong education and training. This is especially the case regarding ICT, which is an enabler and essential to performing well in today's world.

Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams noted that there is much to be done in South Africa and that this poses

> "Our only way and hope for South Africans to be able to achieve economic freedom is... [to] empower them with e-skills."
>
> Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Deputy Minister of Communications

Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Deputy Minister of Communications

a challenge for iNeSI. It is necessary to develop an e-readiness programme as part of building an information society and a knowledge-based economy.

"[W]e have learnt from other countries, internationally and in Africa, that without [ICT and e-skills]... it is very rare that one will be able to progress," said Ms Ndabeni-

> "[W]e are saying it is now your time to Google yourselves out of poverty."
>
> Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Deputy Minister of Communications

Abrahams. To make an impact as part of BRICS and to be a leader of the African continent, we need to be more than beneficiaries of technology." BRICS is an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"Our only way and hope for South Africans to be able to achieve economic freedom is... [to] empower them with e-skills," said Ms Ndabeni-Abrahams. She explained that

the launch of iNeSI is to ensure that South Africa bridges the e-skills gap. Despite previous measures taken, the challenges still exist and the e-skills gap continues to grow larger.

Working in partnership

"[The Department of Communications has] agreed that while we are mapping out a clear strategy for the country we are not going to do that as individuals... It is high time that we work towards complementing each other for the benefit of our country and that of ourselves as individuals," said Ms Ndabeni-Abrahams.

The Deputy Minister said that ICT businesses should focus on three critical As - availability, accessibility and affordability: "You might have the beautiful devices wherever you are, or information, but if our people can't... access that, it is of no use. But if you avail it at an affordable rate... we will make sure, as government, that they are able to access it."

Call to join the iNeSI multi-stakeholder collaborative partnership

The Deputy Minister asked that stakeholders join the iNeSI multi-stakeholder partnership in this revolution in ICTs. There was also a specific call to the youth and their parents: "[W]e are saying it is now your time to Google yourselves out of poverty. Let us make sure that we utilise the information that government and others are bringing to us for the development of our country."

"There are countless opportunities available for young people for meaningful participation – to become innovators and [to] become creative.... As the Department of Communications, we are committed towards positioning our country as a global leader in the development and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for socio-economic development. We are committed to building youth who will have the requisite skills to participate in the global knowledge and information economy that will deliver us to economic freedom." (END)

For more information about the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute, contact:
Mymoena Sharif, mymoena@doc.gov.za
- Follow us on Twitter @ iNeSI_
- Website: www.inesi.org

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, an inclusive economy, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

One of Minister of Communications Yunus Carrim's first statements to the audience at the launch of Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) was to say that the Department of Communications would like all stakeholders to play their full role "to significantly advance e-skills and e-literacy in our country and make the Ikamva Institute truly effective".

He noted that ICT is crucial to economic growth, development and job creation. South Africa needs to become a far more effective knowledge economy and information society, as outlined in the New Growth Path and National Development Plan (NDP).

ICT transforms societies

Minister Carrim noted that, at this year's World Economic Forum, one of the key sub-themes was how fast ICT is transforming both economies and societies. During one of the sessions, he was told by a development worker of how when giving aid to people in areas of distress that often between 40-70% of that aid disappears into the hands of middlemen.

However, with the Syrian refugees, the development agencies are providing weekly electronic vouchers that can be stored on a cellphone – refugees are given a cellphone if they don't have one.

The refugees use the voucher to sustain themselves. The advantages include reducing – if not eliminating – corruption, offering a choice so that aid can be used according to specific family circumstances, and supporting the local economy.

He further goes on to show the benefits of ICT in a developmental context. "The Colombian minister [says] that with the use of cellphones in the rural areas, the productivity of the emerging small potato farmers has increased by 40% because they are able to look on their cellphone to work out weather patterns and decide when they are going to reap the crop and/or what the different monies they will get are depending on which market village they go to, and on which day."

M-Pesa was also mentioned. This is a mobile phone-based money transfer and micro-financing service in Kenya and Tanzania. It allows users with a national ID card or passport to deposit, withdraw and transfer money with a mobile device.

> "[We need] to do everything we can to deepen and advance e-skills in our country. We need to far more effectively address our e-readiness and tackle our e-skills deficit. We need to make our people more e-astute across socio-economic, age, gender or literacy backgrounds."
>
> Mr Yunus Carrim, Minister of Communications

iNeSI as a solution

The Minister of Communications said that other developing countries are engaging in ways that South Africa is not currently able to: "We just can't afford to be left so far behind. ICT has huge potential to reduce the gaps between the poor and the rich. But, if not effectively drawn on, it also has just as much potential to increase the divides between the haves and the have-nots, the connected and the unconnected."

iNeSI is part of the solution. "[We need] to do everything we can to deepen and advance e-skills in our country. We need to far more effectively address our e-readiness and tackle our e-skills deficit. We need to make our people more e-astute across socio-economic, age, gender or literacy backgrounds," said Minister Carrim.

The Ikamva National e-Skills Institute is there to more effectively harness the range of capacities across government, business, education, civil society and global

Mr Yunus Carrim, Minister of Communications

development partners. It also gives expression to South Africa Connect, the broadband policy and strategy.

SA Connect, the broadband policy

Mr Carrim said that there is increasing evidence to support claims that increased broadband penetration correlates with economic growth and development – that broadband has the potential to create new jobs, broaden educational opportunities, and enhanced public service delivery and rural development.

SA Connect is a response to such evidence and to evolving global trends, as well as a mechanism to meet the diverse needs of South Africans. It was noted that the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council has decided that access to the internet is a basic human right, and the UN Broadband Commission is campaigning that, in 2015 when the UN reviews the Millennium Development Goals, broadband should be put down as a basic human need.

SA Connect is based on a four-pronged strategy: Digital Readiness, Digital Development, Digital Future and Digital Opportunity. It is in the context of this last prong of the strategy, Digital Opportunity, that the launch of iNeSI is

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◎ iNeSI and Digital Opportunity [continued]

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Mr Yunus Carrim, Minister of Communications

located.

"The high levels of inequality in the country mean that citizens are unable currently to exercise their rights equally and to use the potential of the internet to meet their needs and improve their wellbeing," said the Minister. "Without a critical mass of e-producers, e-workers, e-consumers, e-civil servants and indeed e-citizens, South Africa would be unable to optimise the benefits of broadband connectivity."

Broadband as an ecosystem

The four-pronged strategy adopted in the national broadband policy goes beyond broadband as simply an infrastructure and access challenge.

"Rather it understands broadband as an ecosystem of networks, services, applications, content and, most importantly, users - all interdependent and connected and as functional as the health of the ecosystem permits. Such an approach is essential to understanding the increasing complexity and dynamism of the fast-growing ICT sector and its centrality to other sectors in the economy," said Mr Carrim.

iNeSI provincial CoLab thematic areas
Western Cape e-Skills CoLab: e-Inclusion and Social Innovation
KZN e-Skills CoLab: e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery
Eastern Cape e-Skills CoLab: ICT for Rural Development
Gauteng e-Skills CoLab: Creative New Media Industries
Limpopo CoLab: Connected Health
Southern Gauteng/Northern Cape CoLab: e-Literacy and e-Business (knowledge economy and e-social astuteness)

The broadband policy focuses not only on the critical supply-side aspects of provisioning but, importantly, the demand-side too.

"As access to communication comes to mean far more than a voice service on the cellphone, but rather a full range of ways of communicating, more cheaply, more effectively, of coordinating your personal life, finding information and better managing your business, of banking, creating knowledge, and innovating, the importance of the country having the individual and collective skills base to realise these possibilities becomes critical to our success," said the Minister.

The national broadband strategy identifies the necessary points of policy intervention to leverage the linkages in the ICT ecosystem in order to create a more equitable information society and knowledge economy – a critical one being e-skills development.

"We need supply-side skills to meet the diverse needs of the producers of the different broadband elements – engineers, economists, accountants, technicians, content producers, software and applications developers – so that the economic and innovative potential of broadband can be exploited," said Minister Carrim.

The high-level skills required by the sector and the user skills necessary for social and economic inclusion will be targeted in schools, universities and community access centres.

> "Realising these digital opportunities requires that demand is stimulated and use and uptake increased through the promotion of local and relevant content and applications. We need to ensure that multiple development and incentive programmes in these areas form part of the broadband and funding plan."
>
> Mr Yunus Carrim, Minister of Communications

"Realising these digital opportunities requires that demand is stimulated and use and uptake increased through the promotion of local and relevant content and applications. We need to ensure that multiple development and incentive programmes in these areas form part of the broadband and funding plan," said the Minister.

He noted that a lot of the funding will come from the private sector and that government will prepare the conditions.

Coordinating government

iNeSI will also assist in coordinating the e-skills development needed among government departments. He noted that allied department heads are beginning to understand the matter and that they have expressed a keenness to collaborate with the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute.

In conclusion, he stressed again the amount of work that needs to be done and the crucial role that iNeSI plays, as well as the importance of stakeholder contribution for success. ⓔ

National e-skills architecture to directly respond to SA Connect and the drop in e-readiness ranking

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, an inclusive economy, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

The launch of Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) as a single integrated entity, bringing together three organisations, is well positioned within the context of the recently-gazetted SA Connect broadband policy.

"Extensive and broad-based roll-out of broadband in South Africa offers the best set of conditions a single integrated e-skills entity could have wished for in order to further the cause of e-skills human capacity development," said Dr Molatelo Maloka, Chairperson of the Board of iNeSI.

iNeSI is a dynamic entity, developed through a wide consultation process. Dr Maloka explained that the organisation is clearly focused on South Africa's needs and has a road map to take global best practice and adapt it to the South African environment while aligning to the National Development Plan (NDP), among other national and international goals.

Dr Molatelo Maloka, Chairperson of the Board of iNeSI

> "[iNeSI] is well positioned to play the much-needed national catalytic and supporting role... to develop the e-skills, the e-astuteness and e-social astuteness required to live and function in a broadband-empowered society."

Dr Molatelo Maloka, Chairperson of
the Board of iNeSI

South Africa's e-readiness rankings

South Africa's global e-readiness rankings have fallen from 47th in 2007 to 70th in 2013, out of a total of 140 countries. The country lags behind comparable economies in five of the 10 criteria, namely skills, individual usage, government usage, social impact and affordability.

"This is despite being well ahead of our group in the political and regulatory environment criteria," said Dr Maloka. This has serious implications for the country and lays out an agenda for iNeSI.

"We simply need to step up to the challenge and... recognise that whatever committed effort that has been undertaken in the past few years, other countries are doing more and we need to catch up," said Dr Maloka.

She noted that urgency is critical. This is because it affects issues of inequality, the youth especially those in the deep rural areas, international competitiveness, and much-needed inward investment.

"The Ikamva National e-Skills Institute is well positioned to play the much-needed national catalytic and supporting role at a local, provincial, national and international level to develop the e-skills, the e-astuteness and e-social astuteness required to live and function in a broadband-empowered society," said Dr Maloka. "As a state-owned company, we will give immediate life to one of the pillars named the Digital Opportunity in the SA Connect broadband policy." (END)

The National Integrated ICT Policy Green Paper

Call for participation

The Minister of Communications, Mr Yunus Carrim, invites you to the provincial consultations on the ICT Policy Review Green Paper. An event has been scheduled in each province and your presence would be greatly valued.

The table alongside shows details of each provincial event. Note that all events are scheduled for 9h00 to 14h00.

An asterix (*) next to the province indicates where venue details are still going to be confirmed.

To download the Green Paper or for online registration, go to www.doc.gov.za. (END)

7 March 2014	North-West Province: The Orion Safari Lodge, Rustenberg
14 March 2014	Mpumalanga: Ehlanzeni District Management Conference Centre, Mbombela
20 March 2014	Eastern Cape: East London* and Limpopo Province: Polokwane*
24 March 2014	KwaZulu-Natal: eThekwini*
25 March 2014	Western Cape: Cape Town*
27 March 2014	Northern Cape: Kimberley* and Free State: Mangaung*

South Africa Connect, broadband policy - creating opportunities, ensuring inclusion

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, active citizenry, an inclusive economy, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

South Africa Connect, the new broadband policy was passed in December 2013. The policy and its associated strategy and plan gives expression to South Africa's vision in the National Development Plan (NDP): "a seamless information infrastructure by 2030 that will underpin a dynamic and connected vibrant information society and a knowledge economy that is more inclusive, equitable and prosperous".

The core of this is a widespread communication system that is universally accessible across South Africa, at a cost and quality that meets the country's communication needs, including those of citizens, business and the public sector. It will provide access to a wide range of converged applications and services needed for effective economic and social participation.

Broadband as an ecosystem
The broadband policy and the NDP see an ecosystem of digital networks, services, applications, content and devices that integrate into the economic and social fabric of the country.

"Together, these broadband elements provide an enabling platform for economic enterprise, active citizenship and social engagement and innovation. It will connect public administration to the active citizen; promote economic growth, development and competitiveness; drive the creation of decent work; underpin nation-building and strengthen social cohesion; and support local, national and regional integration" (NDP).

Ensuring broadband impacts on economic growth
There are four key variables that impact on the link between broadband and economic growth:
- Broadband must reach a critical mass of South Africans
- Access to broadband must be affordable
- **Demand-side skills must be developed so that broadband services can be used effectively**
- Supply side skills must be developed so that the economic and innovative potential of broadband can be exploited

e-Skills and e-astuteness as part of Digital Opportunity
The four-pronged strategy that arises out of SA Connect includes: Digital Readiness, Digital Development, Digital Future and Digital Opportunity. iNeSI falls within the last prong – Digital Opportunity.

SA Connect states that "a multifaceted series of interventions will stimulate demand through the e-readiness programmes in schools and clinics, formal skills development in curricula and general awareness and e-literacy campaigns.

"The high-level skills required by the sector, and the user skills necessary for social and economic inclusion will be targeted in schools, universities and community access centres to secure and create work.

"There will be an alignment of broadband initiatives with other government department programmes in Research and Development (R&D), innovation and entrepreneurialism".

Developing the demand side and the use of broadband
It further goes on to say: "Realising these digital opportunities requires demand to be stimulated and use and uptake to be increased through the promotion of local and relevant content and applications. Multiple development and incentive programmes will include a local content and applications development fund and dedicated entrepreneurship and R&D funds. Specifically, there will be incentives for localisation of local content and applications development."

"This is necessary both for the revitalisation of the economy and also for enhancing citizenship and democracy in the digital age, and creating opportunities for participation and consultation. Standards for open data will be set to create new norms around public information that make it widely available and technically accessible. These will not only enable the use and re-use of public information for public purposes but also stimulate the development of applications and content for private and commercial purposes that can enhance the flow of information and add value to public information." END

South Africa Connect, the broadband policy
You can download the full document at www.gov.za/documents/download.php?f=205142.

We have come a long way – celebrating 20 years of freedom
On 27 April 2014, South Africa celebrates the 20 year anniversary of the country's first democratic elections which included South Africans of all races. Initiatives will include events, celebrations and reports from all sectors on how far South Africa has come as a country since 1994.

◎ e-Skills capacity development for the Creative Economy

An inclusive economy, building capabilities, and leadership working together to solve problems

Radio training for Rainbow FM

Part of the National Development Plan Priority Areas, supported by the National e-Skills Plan of Action 2013, include building capabilities and uniting leadership to solve problems. Aligned to these goals, the Creative New Media Industries CoLab: Gauteng has been running short courses for community radio stations.

Beyond building a rapport with a nationwide network of community radio stations and positioning itself as the preferred training provider and a leader in creative new media skills, the CoLab is also fulfilling part of the e-skills training needed for the opportunities that will arise from the broadcast digital migration process (BDM).

The Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI), as a national catalyst, is contributing to the Department of Communications' BDM commitment through e-skills capacity development and the opening up of new job opportunities. These include creating content and developing technical and creative capabilities within the emergence of a Creative Economy in South Africa and Africa.

This initiative is also part of South Africa Connect, the new broadband policy that focuses on Digital Opportunity as part of a four-pronged approach to building a broadband ecosystem within South Africa. It notes that digital opportunities require demand to be stimulated and use and uptake to be increased through the promotion of local and relevant content and applications.

Radio Training for Rainbow FM

From 4-7 February 2014, the Creative New Media Industries CoLab held a 'Skills Programme in Studio Production' for Rainbow FM, a community radio station in Johannesburg. The four-day course is designed for newcomers and freelancers to navigate the studio and production workstations. It equips the newcomer with vital radio skills in vocal delivery, basic studio operation, field recording, sound editing and multi-track packaging. ⓔ

◎ Understanding effective e-learning practices

Uniting around a common pillar to fight poverty and inequality, building capabilities, a capable developmental state and leadership working together to solve problems

As part of the national Research Network for e-Skills (ReSNeS), the e-Enablement for Effective Service Delivery: KwaZulu-Natal CoLab (based at the Durban University of Technology) was part of the collaborative multi-stakeholder research.

The research collaboration was between the KZN e-Skills CoLab, the MMI Foundation, Durban University of Technology and the KZN Provincial Department of Education. Following is the research abstract.

Abstract - 'Learning and Motivation: A Case Study'

International assessments have demonstrated that South African students have performed poorly, particularly in maths and science. Although a combination of factors may be responsible, such as high student/teacher ratios and lack of textbooks, one proposed solution to address these and other challenges is through the use of ICT to provide individualised instruction using a multimedia platform.

The interactive nature of ICT enables better differentiation of instruction tailored to an individual's learning style, aids better learning organisation by students, and enables students to take responsibility for their own learning.

In this research-in-progress paper, the development of a research instrument for use in a qualitative focus group interview is presented. **This instrument is used in order to further investigate the effectiveness of self-regulated e-learning with the purpose of improving the management, design and development of e-courses.**

The paper was co-authored by Surendra Thakur of the KZN e-Skills CoLab, along with Richard Millham and Mustafa Abbas Ally.

The e-learning initiative

The research was around an e-learning initiative launched

e-Learning initiative prize-giving

during March 2013. There were 50 top Grade 11 pupils from schools in ilembe, a rural area in KZN, who underwent free extra e-learning tuition with the aim of attaining university admission marks. The programme will continue into 2014.

A prize-giving was held on 8 February 2014 with all the stakeholders. Forty-four learners enrolled and all of their performances improved. Of the total number, 15 learners got Bs or higher in Maths, English and Physics and consequently received a free laptop.

iNeer ICEE ICIT Conference

The paper, 'Learning and Motivation: A Case Study' was presented at the iNeer ICEE ICIT Conference held from 8-11 December 2013.

iNEER is a global professional organisation formed by the world engineering community to promote mutual progress in teaching and learning through international cooperation. ⓔ

www.inesi.org

iNeSI
Ikamva National eSkills Institute

◎ Taxonomy for e-skills

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An e-skills taxonomy is more than just definitions. The e-skills agenda requires a shift in thinking with outcomes such as changes in policy. The terms used are part of creating the environment for this shift. Following are definitions for some of the words that form part of the e-skills taxonomy.

e-Astuteness	The capacity to continuously appropriate the technology into personal work, education, business, social and family contexts for both personal and collective benefit. e-Astuteness is defined as a knowledgeable capacity, based on personal and interpersonal skills, that involves: • Understanding people and situations • Building alignment and alliances • An acute understanding of strategic direction • Applying strategic behaviour e-Astuteness allows individuals to take personal advantage of ICT in social or economic situations, through the appropriate e-skills. (Building social connections is an example of a social situation and obtaining a job or starting a business is an example of an economic situation.) e-Astuteness does not necessarily depend on formal education or high levels of literacy.
e-Literacy	e-Literacy is the ability of individuals to use digital tools and facilities to perform tasks, to solve problems, to communicate, to manage information, to collaborate, to create and share content and to build knowledge, in all areas of everyday life and for work.
e-Skills	The ability to use and develop ICTs within the context of an emerging South African information society and global knowledge economy, and associated competencies that enable individuals to actively participate in a world in which ICT is a requirement for advancement in government, business, education and society in general.
e-Social astuteness	e-Social Astuteness is defined as the use of ICT and e-skills for more astute ways of people interacting with others, which include: • Social interactions • A level of awareness and understanding of diverse social situations • The various alternatives open to them for response e-Astuteness focuses on individual benefit whereas e-social astuteness focuses on interacting with others for group benefit.
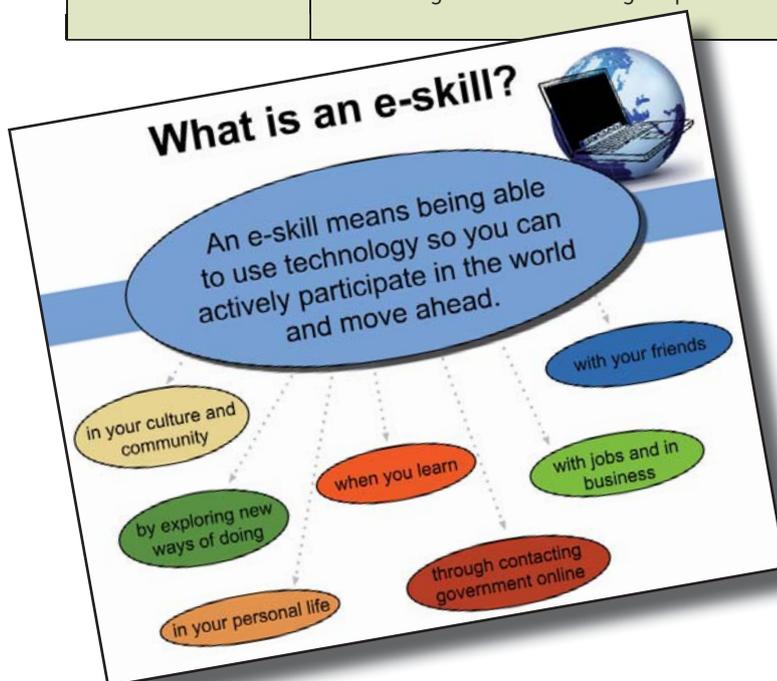
Official South African definition (from the National e-Skills Plan of Action)
The ability to use and develop ICTs within the context of an emerging South African information society and global knowledge economy, and associated competencies that enable individuals to actively participate in the world in which ICT is a requirement for advancement in government, business, education and society in general.

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Partners in the Ikamva National e-Skills Institute multi-stakeholder collaboration

Education

Government/South Africa

Civil society
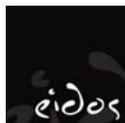
Business

Global developmental partners

Kenya

Rwanda

Please note that this list will be extended as there are Memorandums of Understanding in progress across all sectors.

The Ikamva National e-Skills Institute (iNeSI) is a national catalyst, facilitator and responsive change agent in the development of SA, within the globally evolving information and knowledge-based environment, by leading the creation of key e-skills development strategy, solutions, practices and the implementation thereof, to benefit the total population. iNeSI focuses primarily on four components: research, teaching and learning, innovation and a monitoring and evaluation framework.