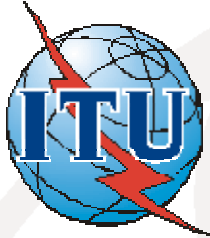


# Regional Development Forum 2008

"Bridging the Standardization Gap in Developing Countries"

Accra, Ghana, 26-28 May 2008



## *"e-Readiness in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)"*

**Eng. John S. Kimbe**

**Manager Technology and Policy**

Accra, Ghana, 26-28 May 2008



*Southern Africa Telecommunications Association*

## Background of SATA

- ❖ Association of Telecom Operators & ICTs Players in the SADC (Southern African Development Community, which is an economic grouping of 14 Member States)
- ❖ Established 28 years ago under SADC Treaty and Protocol on TCM
- ❖ Consultative Member of SADC on telecom and ICTs matters
- ❖ Sits on Telecom Sub-Sectoral Committee (SCOM) of SADC; and
- ❖ Has Constitution, clear Objectives, Mission and Vision and a permanent office (Maputo) led by its Executive Secretary (CEO)

# SATA Members

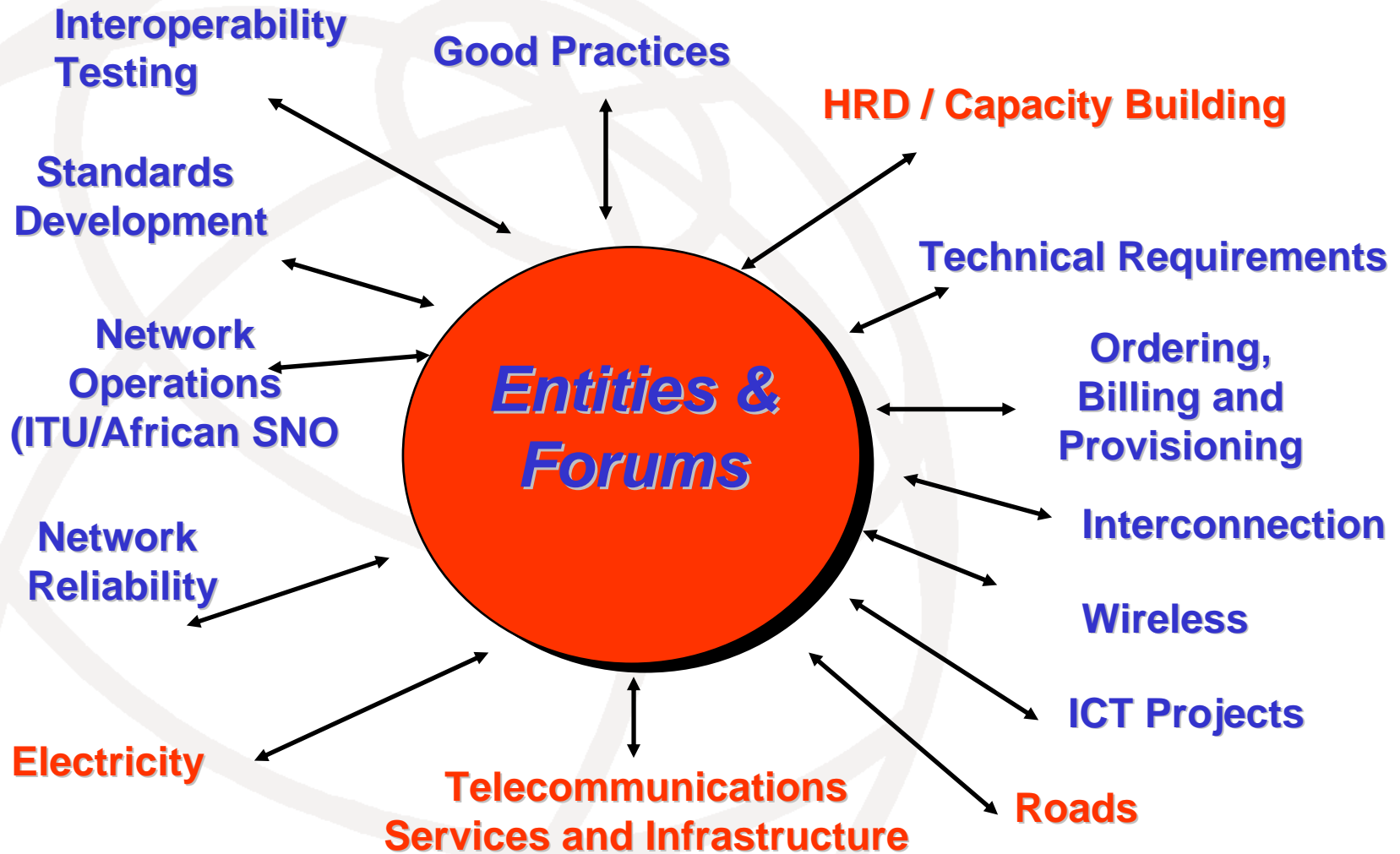


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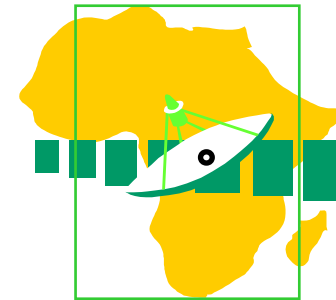
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# Critical Industry Issues Addressed



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# SATA Cooperating Partners (not all)



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## Overview of e-Readiness

- ❑ Facing the challenge of the digital divide, world leaders in government, business, and civil society organizations including the ITU are harnessing the power of information and communications technology (ICT) for development.
- ❑ They are seeking to improve their countries' and communities' *e-readiness -- the ability for a region to benefit from information and communications technology.*
- ❑ It is increasingly clear that for a country to put ICT to effective use, it must be "e-ready" in terms of infrastructure, the accessibility of ICT to the population at large, and the effect of the legal and regulatory framework on ICT use.
- ❑ If the digital divide is going to be narrowed, all of these issues must be addressed in a coherent, achievable strategy that is tailored to meet the local needs of particular countries.



## Overview of e-Readiness (cont)

- ❑ Developing country leaders are using e-readiness assessment to help them measure and plan for ICT integration.
- ❑ It helps them focus their efforts from within, and identify areas where external support or aid is required.
- ❑ But an assessment alone is insufficient, and decision-makers face two key challenges in making effective use of this tool.
  - ✓ First, they need to understand how ICT can help their countries achieve economic and social benefits, and set achievable goals accordingly.
  - ✓ Second, they must take concrete steps toward effective and sustainable ICT use that will help their countries realize their objectives.

## Overview of e-Readiness (cont)

The process of assessing and improving e-readiness comprises four steps:

- Choosing an appropriate assessment tool based on a clear understanding of national goals for ICT integration.
- Conducting the e-readiness assessment.
- Developing a detailed action plan that will move the country toward its objectives.
- Implementing the plan.



## e-Readiness Factors

- ICT is part of solution to economic and social problems – empower people to help themselves;
- Countries face threat of being left further behind if do not address the growing digital divide between and within countries;
- International Leaders, Donors and Lending Agencies are increasingly requiring recipients to integrate ICT into their Development and Aid Programmes.

# SADC Consultation Report on e-Readiness

Source: [www.bridges.org](http://www.bridges.org)

- **[Consultation report on e-readiness](#) for the South African Development Community – by World Economic Forum –**
  - ▶ policies and recommendations for improving e-readiness in SADC countries, in a methodology that can be replicated in other areas of the world.

# SADC e-Readiness Initiatives

## Political Commitment

- ❖ SADC Heads of State and Government signed ICT Declaration at the Summit in Blantyre, Malawi in August 2001 giving priority to Bridging the Digital Divide in all the SADC Member States;
- ❖ Following the Declaration, an ICT Task Force charged with researching e-readiness of Member States was established.
- ❖ The Task Force produced a very good Report adopted by the Member States.



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# SADC e-Readiness Initiatives

## Political Commitment (cont)

- ❖ SADC Member States have also adopted at Presidential Level, the Policy Guidelines on *"Making ICT a Priority in Turning SADC into an Information-Based Economy"*
- ❖ We all understand that Politicians pave way for implementation of issues. *Who is responsible?* With the Blessings from Governments, Bodies like SATA are the responsible Entities in the implementation of ICT Projects in Africa.



# ICT Implementation & Financing in SADC

- ❖ ICT Projects Implementation:
  - Telecommunications (SATA: SRII Project) coordinating with
    - Road Highways (SARA & ASANRA)
    - Electrification (SAPP)  
for resources and capacity sharing
  - Human Capital Development (SATA) with support from cooperating partners
- ❖ ICT Financial Challenges:
  - ❖ Financing channeled to other areas:
    - Fighting Diseases and other epidemics
    - Hunger, War and Natural Calamities

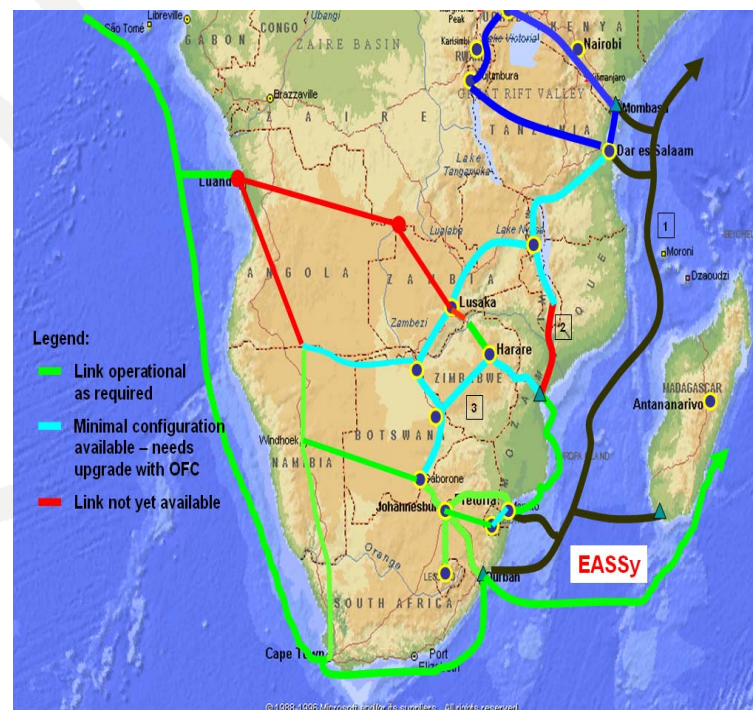
# Telecommunications and ICT Infrastructure



## Region Information Infrastructure (SRII)

### Terrestrial and Submarine Optic Fibre Connectivity

- A number of projects – infrastructure, Services, capacity building
- Regional Projects – SATA
- National Projects – SATA Members and Non-Members (please join SATA)
- Projects supported by the SADC Secretariat, CRASA, ITU, AU, AFDB, DBSA, World Bank, Cooperating Partners

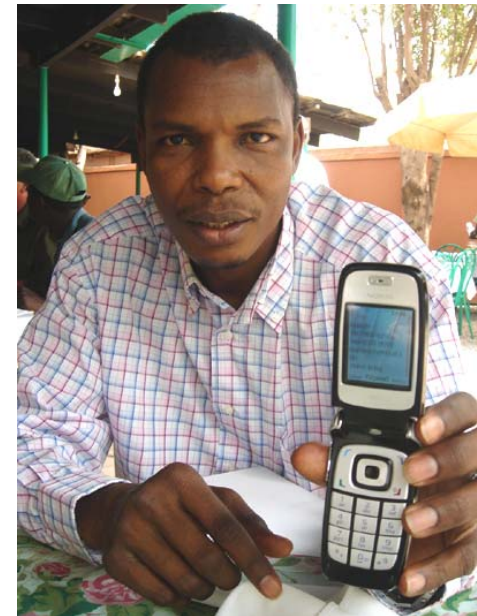




# ICT Attitude and Awareness

## Awareness & Positive Attitude towards ICT:

- ❖ ICT Benefits known to Entire SADC;
- ❖ Positive Attitude created towards adoption
- ❖ Affordability as a Key Issue (U-Service)
- ❖ Increase PC Penetration – PCs are key platform for individual and corporate access to the INTERNET and key for providing training in ICT skills.





## ICT Attitude and Awareness- (cont)

### Awareness & Positive Attitude towards ICT:

- ❖ Many SADC countries still need to achieve basics in respect of financial (banking) infrastructure: from ***Paper to Paper-Less Economy***;
- ❖ The SADC Region has plans to go beyond ***“e-mail”*** by increasing INTERNET access and utilisation (on-line banking, etc)
- ❖ Local (African) Content Development – reduce reliance on foreign sources

## How to get details

➤ **SATA Website :** <http://www.sata-sec.net> Any information about SATA

➤ **Contacts:** **Jacob Munodawafa - Executive Secretary**  
[jacob.munodawafa@sata-sec.net](mailto:jacob.munodawafa@sata-sec.net)

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[john.kimbe@sata-sec.net](mailto:john.kimbe@sata-sec.net)



**Thank you for your attention.**

Accra, Ghana, 26-28 May 2008