AFRICA INFORMATION ETHICS AND E-GOVERNMENT

WORKSHOP, MEGALLESBERG, SOUTH AFRICA 23-27

FEBRUARY 2009

Group 4

Room: Mulberry

Participants: 1. G. Itassu Weldsellasie   (Eritrea)

2. O. Ebenezer Martin   (Ghana)

3. H. Njerekeza Perekeni (L) (Malawi)

4. R. Masipa   (South Africa)

5. D. Ocholla   (South Africa)

6. D. Peterson   (South Africa)

Topics for Discussion

2. Education and training (information literacy and media literacy)

3. Establishing priorities among applications (e.g. health care, education, commerce etc.)

2.3. General Recommendations

- Government and the private sector need to form a strong partnership to empower the community to provide their own solutions to their own problems

- Information, computer and media literacy should be taught in schools, as well as part of adult education

- Multipurpose post offices should be encouraged

- Churches be utilised effectively to also provide services to the community (to supplement existing infrastructure)

- Progressive formal education to be encouraged

- Poverty alleviation policies and strategies need to be developed and strengthened

- Infrastructure to be developed

- Encourage volunteerism

- Encourage and support community initiatives

- Empower community at grassroots / local level

- Encourage and support the development of ICT policies, rules and legislation.

4. CASE STUDIES

4.1. CASE ONE: TAX COLLECTION – SOUTH AFRICA

1. CHARACTERISTICS

- Manual submission of tax returns by citizens/tax payers

- 5-6 months waiting for tax assessment

- 3-4 months waiting period for refund/pay-in

- Satisfactory success in tax collection

POLITICAL CHALLENGES

- Revenue collection is crucial for government budget and implementation of development programmes

E-GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

- Introduction of e-filling

- 30-45 minutes submission of tax returns online

- 7-10 working days for tax assessment online

- 3 days waiting for refund into tax payer bank account

- Excellent success in revenue collection

- Tax Revenue is extremely important for sustaining political and economic independence, service delivery and development of infrastructure