



RESEARCH & DATA COLLECTION GROUP

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REVIEW OF POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR BROADBAND INTERNET IN GHANA

GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

**To conduct research to provide
evidence-based policy recommendation
towards affordable connectivity**

Importance of broadband internet

- Medical care and medical information more convenient and accessible
- Access to lower-cost online education
- Opportunities for jobs and income generation,
- Socialization
- Support business development eg. E-commerce
- Governance

ICT policy and regulatory Framework

1. Ghana ICT4AD

- Policy has the overall objective of supporting an ICT-led socio-economic development process aimed at transforming Ghana into a middle-income, information-rich, and knowledge-based society (Ghana Government, 2003).
- policy identified 14 priority focus areas to drive the country towards the information and knowledge society
 - Deployment and spread of ICTs in the community
 - Rapid ICT and enabling physical infrastructure development
 - Promotion of local and foreign direct investment drive in ICTs

ICT policy and regulatory Framework Contd.

- horizontal review process
 - National ICT Policy For Geoinformation
 - National Broadband Policy and Implementation Strategy
 - National ICTs, Environmental and
 - Climate Change Policy and Ghana National Cyber Security Policy & Strategy

ICT policy and regulatory Framework Contd.

- National Broadband Policy and Implementation Strategy
 - broad goal of supporting the development of reliable, fast adaptive and robust national ICT backbone and infrastructure to support electronic service delivery and information exchange (MoC 2012)
- The broadband policy is to contribute to:
 - promoting the development of world-class ICT infrastructure in Ghana.
 - facilitating and encourage the development of a nationwide physical infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth, and
 - increasing the overall capacity for the transmission of data, voice, video and internet services nationwide (MoC, 2012).
 - General thrust of the policy on infrastructure is to ensure the widespread deployment and utilisation of broadband services by every citizen of the country irrespective of wherthe person resides

ICT policy and regulatory Framework Contd.

- ii. Ghana Telecommunication Policy
 - GTP provides a framework within which the Ghana telecommunications sector will contribute to the achievement of the government's ICT policy vision
 - objective of the GTP is to ensure that every citizen or resident in the country has access to high quality and affordable ICT services so as to transform Ghana into a knowledge-based society and technology-driven economy (Ministry of Communication, 2005).

Regulatory Framework

- Review of key legislations that have relevance for the development of internet and broadband services.
- **National Communication Authority Act, 2008, Act 769**
 - responsibility to formulate a strategic plan; grant communication licenses; regulate and monitor licenses and holders of frequency authorisations and to ensure fair competition among licensees, operators of communication networks and service providers of public communications
 - new law had provisions for ensuring good regulatory and best practices in terms of accountability, transparency, proportionality and consistency

Regulatory Framework Contd.

- **Electronic Communications Act, 2008, Act 775**
- covers regulation of electronic communications and broadcasting services, and the use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Under the Act, the NCA is mandated to regulate
 - the radio spectrum allocated for use by broadcasting organizations and providers of broadcasting services in accordance with the standards and requirements of ITU and Radio Regulations as adopted by Ghana.

Act deals with Interconnection issues and mandated all electronic communications networks to interconnect with each other

Regulatory Framework Contd.

- Electronic Transactions Act, 2008, Act 772
 - Act provides the legal basis for electronic transactions in the country.
 - It gives legality to electronic documents/records and digital signatures.
 - Establishment of a Certifying Agency to issue licenses for encryption and authentication
 - Establishment of a Domain Name Registry

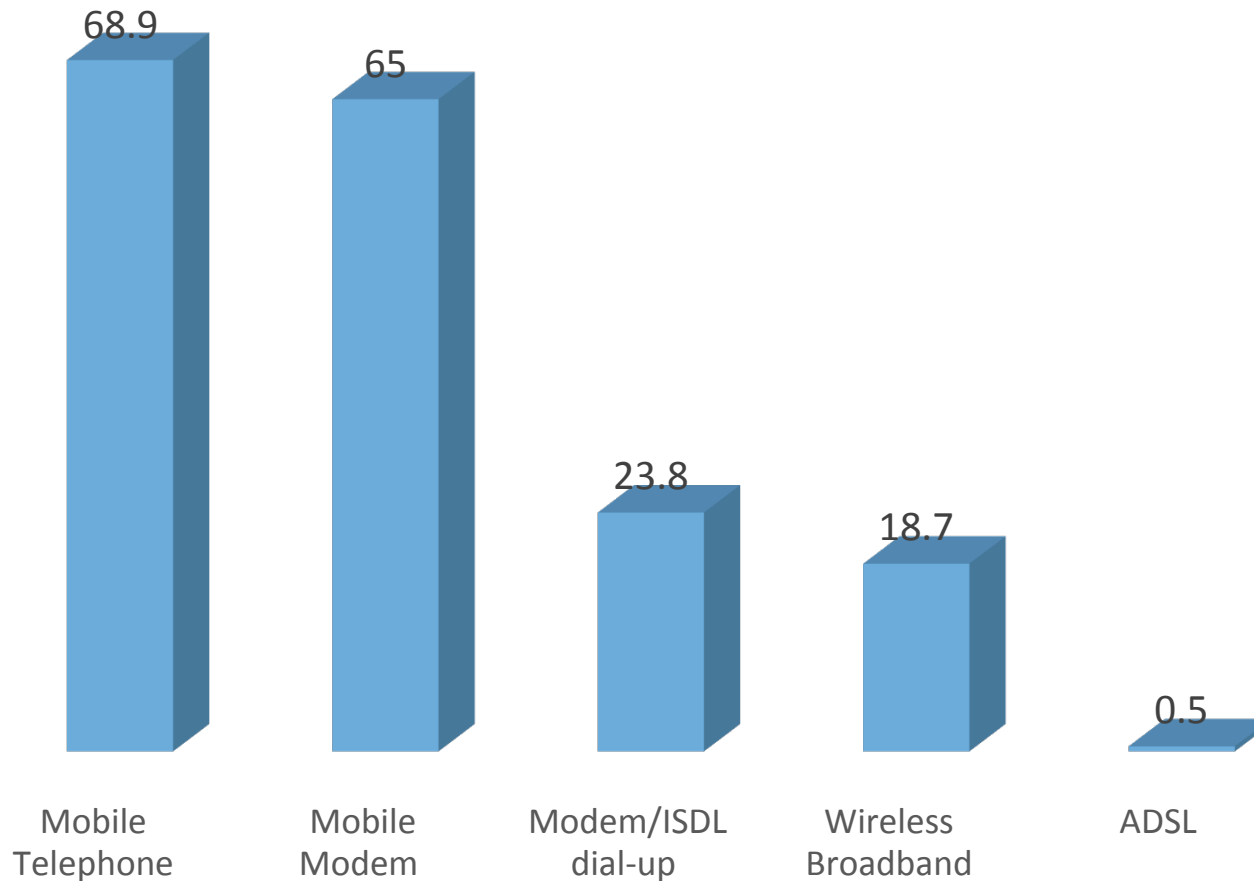
Regulatory Framework Contd.

- National Information Technology Agency Act, 2008, Act 771
- Establishes the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) with the functions of .
 - Establishing and monitoring the implementation of the national information communications technology policy;
 - Serving as the certifying agency as provided under the Electronic Transactions Act;
 - Playing the dual role of enforcing the provisions and regulations of this Act and those of the Electronic Transactions Act; and
 - Resolving matters involving domain names in accordance with the Electronic Transactions Act.

Regulatory Framework Contd.

- Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843)
 - To protect the privacy of the individual and personal data by regulating the processing of personal information
 - Provides for the process by which one can obtain, hold, use or disclose personal information and other related issues bordering on protection of personal data.
 - Also establishes the Data Protection Commission to regulate and implement its provision.

Internet Landscape in Ghana



Thank you!

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