AfICTA

Africa Information and Communication Technologies Alliance

Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA) is a concerned private sector led alliance of ICT Associations, Multi-national Corporations, Companies, Organizations and individuals in the ICT sector in Africa.

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IT Infrastructure Deficit: Challenges and Solutions

Wale Osborne ODERINDE - CEO

Letago Solutions Pty Ltd
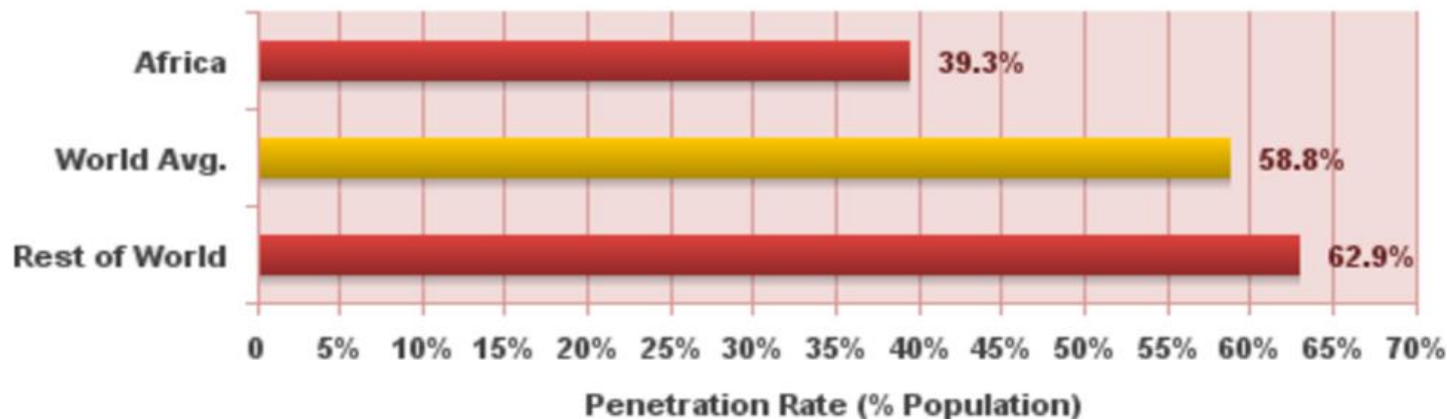
www.letagosolutions.com

24th November 2020

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Internet Penetration in Africa
2020 - Q1 - March

Africa — 39.3%

World Avg. — 58.8%

Rest of World — 62.9%

0   5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50% 55% 60% 65% 70%

Penetration Rate (% Population)

Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats1.htm
526,710,313 estimated Internet users in Africa in March 31, 2020 and
4,585,578,718 Internet users in all the World in March, 2020
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Challenges and Solutions in Summary

- ## Challenges
  - Accessibility

  - Connectivity

  - Affordability

- ## Solutions
  - Raise Awareness

  - Invite governing bodies in discussions and executions that will improve network connections in rural settlements. (a number of job opportunities for entrepreneurs both in small and big companies)

  - Build more IT service companies with stable connectivity independent of the users location.
  - Focus on introducing packages that suggest affordability irrespective of social status.

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The Shortfalls and Solutions to IT Infrastructure

- **Access** to IT infrastructure (components that are a fundamental for IT service) is still limited to a percentage living above the national poverty line, this is referred to as "Digital Divide."

- People residing in rural settlement battle with **Connectivity** (network connection). South Africa's rural population currently ranking at almost 60%. Without a stable network connection, access to a laptop, smart phone, any other gadget has little significance.

- **Affordability** of IT components is directly proportional to one's social class; the ruling class (afford unlimited 5G coverage); middle/working class (may afford limited coverage); the poor (purchase data when necessary; when funds are available)

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Opportunities Presented by Covid-19

- Covid-19 allowed communication in ways other than the traditional face-to-face, power of virtual connection.

- Technology has been framed as a panacea for developmental issues.

- As Luyt notes, "at the highest levels of government and intergovernmental organisations, this newest form of information technology is viewed as a ticket to everlasting peace, progress, and prosperity ... hopes remain that the application of information technology will solve many of the problems now confronting the planet."

- E-commerce is certainly driving the demand for IT professionals but it also requires IT expertise to be coupled with strong business application skills, thereby generating demand for a flexible, multi-skilled work force.

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Future Projections

Rapid increase of internet use; technological processes inevitably creates the dependency of technology.

- An economy directly proportional to the speed of digitization.

- With digitization comes globalization and globalization begets connectivity.

- Technologies utilize communication infrastructures that are both global and always up, thus enabling. 24-hour activity and asynchronous as well as synchronous interactions among individuals, groups, and organizations

- Africa's digitization rising, with inequality deepening, which presents more space for innovative leaders.

- Skills development programmes.

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