STATE OF ICT AND THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS IN THE PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI

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The Parliament of Malawi recognises the importance of ICT in improving delivery of parliament’s functions of legislative, representative and oversight.

ICT is prominently reflected in the 2010-2015 National Assembly Strategic Plan
2010-2015 National Assembly Strategic Plan

Overview
The Parliament of Malawi is consequently making huge strides in strengthening its ICT services through:

1. Strengthening of capacity of the ICT Division (Functional Review 2009)
2. Procurement of relevant ICT systems (ICT Work plan 2010)
3. Strengthening of ICT capacity among its members and staff (ICT Work plan 2010)
4. Strategic planning objectives that deliberately target ICT (2010-2015 National Assembly Strategic Plan)
The Parliament of Malawi in an effort to strengthen ICT services realizes the importance of having relevant skilled staff to manage ICT service delivery.

To this effect two new key positions of Chief Systems Analyst and Principal Systems Analyst were created and filled in May 2010 to strengthen the Division

(Recommendations of Functional Review of Parliamentary Service -2009)
PROCUREMENT OF RELEVANT ICT SERVICES
(Challenge – inadequate infrastructure and inadequate resources)

The Parliament of Malawi is also taking deliberate steps to procure hardware/software systems and services to enable parliament to efficiently deliver its services.

The following ICT goods and services have been procured or are in the process of being procured:

- Server and MS Exchange to power the computer network and provide institutional mailing/collaborative service - procured
PROCUREMENT OF RELEVANT ICT SERVICES

- Laptops: 193 laptops are being procured to be given to every member of parliament with mobile internet to enable members to make maximum use of ICT – supply order awarded
- Multimedia projectors are planned to be procured and fitted in all committee rooms and board rooms to improve quality of committee and other deliberations – Plan 2010/11 FY
- 30 desktop computers are planned to be procured in the financial year 2010/2011 to be installed in the members lounge and the library with full internet to facilitate online research – Plan 2010/11 FY
- A heavy duty production document scanner is planned to be procured in the financial year 2010/2011 to enable parliament to digitize all physical documents to create an e-document management system – Plan 2010/11 FY
PROCUREMENT OF RELEVANT ICT SERVICES

– Consultancies are planned to be engaged between Aug and Dec 2010 to:
  • Redesign the parliament website (with funding from UNDP) to make it more relevant
  • Design and implement the intranet
  • Develop the ICT Strategic Plan and Policy

(plans 2010/11 FY)
STRENGTHENING OF ICT CAPACITY AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND STAFF
(Challenge – low skills levels)

• A series of training sessions have been planned for members of parliament between Sep and Oct 2010 to make all members computer literate to improve their use of ICT and enhance their oversight skills of ICT development in the country – plan 2010/11 FY

• Members of staff will also get special trainings to enhance their ICT skills to enable them to - Plan 2010/11 FY
CONCLUSION

With these developments, the Malawi Parliament will fully embrace ICT use in its service delivery. However, due to limited government resources the Malawi Parliament is working with various development and cooperating partners in order to effectively implement its ICT plans.

It is the hope of the Malawi delegation that the knowledge and skills obtained from this workshop will be of great assistance when Parliament embarks on its ICT Strategic Plan and Policy development.