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International Workshop
Towards the establishment of an
African Parliamentary Knowledge Network
on ICT, legislation and documentation

20 March 2007
Abuja, Nigeria

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The Rational Behind a Common Approach for Capacity Building

- Challenges, Opportunities & Strategies for the Way Forward

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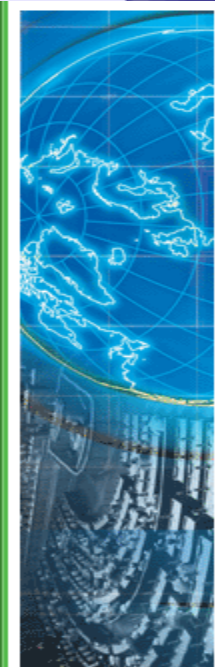


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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Background to the UWC School of Government
- Case Study: Legislative Accountability Program
- Lessons from Capacity Building Programs
- Challenges for a Common Approach to Capacity Building
- Opportunities for a Common Approach
- Meeting the Challenges & Seizing the Opportunities





Background to the School of Government

- SOG established in 1993 – mandate to support transformation process in SA
- Support to the Legislative sector:
 - ✓ Conducted 1st Learning Needs Assessment of all 10 legislatures in SA
 - ✓ Legislative Directories (“Empowerment through Education”)
 - ✓ Briefing Sessions for MP
 - ✓ Committee Staff Training Program



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Background to the School of Government

- ✓ SADC Parliamentary Leadership Centre
- ✓ National Assembly of Kenya
- ✓ Pan African Parliament





Legislative Accountability Program

- LAP Program to strengthen Parliamentary Accountability in Southern Africa through contributing to “more effective parliamentary committees and parliamentary organizations”
- Program of support to all Legislatures in SA & SADC-PF
- **Committee Staff Training Program**
- Program based on explicit learning needs identified by 10 legislatures in SA
- Target Group – Committee Secretariat staff



Committee Staff Training Program

- Program achieved aim of providing participants with core skills required to perform secretariat duties competently.
- External evaluation by CIDA - program offered “**the greatest long-term and sustainable results**”.
- Phase II: Presently working with SADC-PF Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) to extend the program to the region.



Lessons Learnt from Capacity Building Programs

- Platform for participants from legislatures to share experiences, problems and find common solutions.
- Gain and share knowledge and skills on management & administration of legislatures.
- Establish network of staff at operational & management level
- Improve their overall performance & image
- Common understanding of their roles





Challenges to a Common Approach for Capacity Building

- No base line survey or common approach
- Lack of thematic approach to capacity building (ie. ICT, HIV/AIDS/Poverty etc.).
- Lack of research capability within Legislatures.
- Insufficient networking among regional legislatures.
- Lack of IT skills amongst elected and appointed officials.
- Lack of general management & communication skills.
- Cost of Travel & Culture to “connect” people.





SADC Training Gaps

Parliamentary Democracy

- transition to multipartism; transparency
- constituency relations
- human rights and dealing with the civil society

Leadership Skills

- Committees
 - Oversight
 - Dealing with the Media
- Lawmaking
The Budget

Thematic/Topical issues

- Environment
 - Food Security Management
 - Human Rights
 - IT
- Peace Building
Disaster
HIV and AIDS

Gender Awareness & Analysis

- Enactment of laws
- Techniques for achieving gender equity
- Gender in electoral systems

Orientation

- Workshops for new MPs & inter-parliamentary cooperation

Election Observation Training

- Institutionalize it within PLC

SADC Protocols

- Acquaint MPs to critical protocols





Opportunities for a Common Approach to Capacity Building

- NEPAD
- AU
- Pan African Parliament
- Regional Bodies
- Consortium of Project Champions





Meeting the Challenges & Seizing the Opportunity through ICT

- ✓ Require continuous commitment from leaders
- ✓ Physical resources and infrastructure
- ✓ ICT as a means to achieving objectives (Tool or Toy?)
- ✓ Skill in IT
- ✓ E-learning





Meeting the Challenges through ICT

- ✓ UWC pioneering Open Source Software at tertiary level in SA & continent (Calc, Impress, Writer)
- ✓ Learning Management System (Open Source)
- ✓ (Knowledge environment for web-based learning)
Next Generation
- ✓ Developers from Africa





Forecast of Population Growth - UN Population Division					
	Year				
Country	1950	2007	2015	2025	2050
South Africa	13 683	48 577	50 260	52 300	55 590
Nigeria	33 960	148 093	175 715	210 129	288 696
Angola	4 148	17 024	21 231	27 324	44 566
Zimbabwe	2 747	13 349	14 508	15 969	19 112
Zambia	2 413	11 922	13 842	16 539	22 868
Swaziland	273	1 141	1 189	1 242	1 360
Botswana	416	1 882	2 062	2 265	2 703
Lesotho	734	2 008	2 107	2 211	2 356
China	554 760	1 328 630	1 388 600	1 445 782	1 408 846
India	371 857	1 169 016	1 302 535	1 447 499	1 658 270
Iran	16 913	71 208	79 379	88 027	100 174

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Questions?

If you think you are too small to be effective,
you have never been in a dark room with a
mosquito!

