CONNECTING AFRICANS TO THEIR OWN RESOURCES

CAPACITY BUILDING IN CONTEXT

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INTRODUCTION

- Enabling environment
- Legal frameworks
- Institutional development
- Community participation
- Human Resource development
- Managerial systems incorporating…
  - Capacity building as a long-term strategy
  - Ensuring continuity
  - Encouraging stakeholder participation

DEFINITION - UNDP

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DEFINITION - WCO

- *"Activities which strengthen the knowledge, abilities, skills and behaviour of individuals and improve institutional structures and processes such that the organisation can efficiently meet its mission and goals in a sustainable way"*

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DEFINITION – Ann Philbin – *(Capacity building in social justice organisations.* Ford Foundation, 1996)

- *"Process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organisations and communities need to survive, adapt and thrive in the fast-changing world."*

Digitization – defined

- Digitizing is representing an object, image, sound, document or signal (usually an analogue signal) by a discreet set of points or samples. The result is called a digital representation or digital image. (*Wikipedia*)

- Capturing an analogue signal in digital form or converting image to text

- Obviously by looking at the above simplified definitions of digitisation and capacity building one can appreciate the complex issues involved.

The challenges (from an African perspective)

- Lack of coherent approach
- Limited understanding of the complex issues relating to digitization
- Donor influence – many donors tend to enforce their own agendas
- Lack of commitment at strategic levels
- Legislative shortcomings
- Lack of own resources
- Improper prioritization

Areas where focus should be

- Develop the ability to foster organizational instinct
- Resource allocation and utilisation
- Trends and traits – warning signals
- Empowerment – decision making and accountability
- Devolution of accountability responsibilities
- Economic shock absorbers and stability control
- Environmental analysis
- Developing trust

Motivations for digitization

- Bridging the information divide
- Provision of equitable access to information
- Global economic role playing
- Marketing and popularization
- Heritage preservation and access
- e-Governance
- Education
- Communication

Conclusion

- Capacity building in the context of digitization should be viewed from an empowerment angle.

- Empowerment should not be limited to skills only but should also include sustainability models and the ability to respond to economic downturns.

- Focus should not be placed on money but should start to look at information and heritage as a form of wealth.

Thank You