



Presentation to the Select Committee on Labour and Public Enterprises

23 February 2011

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What The Presentation Covers

- Rationale for Cuba visit
- Institutions visited
- New issues raised
- Focus of the Signed Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation
- National Stakeholders

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RATIONALE FOR CUBA VISIT



- Ministry of Communications was invited to Cuba by the counterpart Ministry for a Bilateral Session and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the fields of Information and Communication

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INSTITUTIONS VISITED



- Minister's delegation visited the following Cuban Institutions:
 - ❖ University of Computer Informatics (UCI)
 - ❖ Institute for Digital Research (ICID) and
 - ❖ Institute of Radio and Television (CIRTV)

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INSTITUTIONS VISITED



- University of Computer Sciences
- ❖ The output of the engagement with the University of Informatics Sciences (UCI) provided a sound basis for collaborative action to strengthen the research, curriculum development and policy development for e-skills.
- ❖ The type of training and courses provided at the UCI emphasised demand and is cross-linked with industry growth and government service delivery initiatives.

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INSTITUTIONS VISITED



- University of Computer Sciences
- ✓ *Softel Solutions; this is a company specialising in IT solutions for health and provides the following solutions:*
 - *Software for the use of Diagnostic Kits*
 - *Software for Blood banks*
 - *Computerisation of the management of Primary Health Care and*
 - *Hospital Computerisation*

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INSTITUTIONS VISITED



- University of Computer Sciences
- ✓ *ALBET Engineering and Systems INC – a distinctive characteristic of this organisation is the working in “Cuban Teams” approach where, with a systematic approach, the best professionals and specialists of different sectors in the country are integrated in order to attain solutions with high added value and scientific level.*
- ✓ *ALBET commercialises applications developed by the UCI to ensure a sustainable flow of income for the UCI.*

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INSTITUTIONS VISITED



- Institute for Digital Research (ICID)
- ❖ *The ICID produces telemedicine equipment which, have the capacity to transmit results in digital format from one location to another.*
- ❖ *ICID has qualified staff of more than 160 scientists and engineers and has a subsidiary called COMBIOMED responsible for import and export.*
- ❖ *ICID has unfortunately been unsuccessful in accessing the global market due to the trade embargo.*

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INSTITUTIONS VISITED



- Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (CIRTV)
- ❖ TV first started in Cuba in 1950 and at present, more than 80% of Radio and TV content is locally produced.
- ❖ Both Parties agreed to explore cooperation in areas of local content development. CIRTV falls outside of the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Informatics and Communications (our counterpart)
- ❖ In this regard, CIRTV would present a proposal for cooperation in radio and TV.

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NEW ISSUES RAISED



- The Cuban counterparts have raised 10 new business opportunities that will be a central part of our submission to Cabinet. This proposals will be pursued as soon as an Agreement on Cooperation in ICTs is signed this year.
- New areas proposed include; technical productive centre for Cuban medical equipments, Integrating platform of telemedicine services, Integral system for Hospital management, Tele-training services designed for public and educational institutions; to name but a few.

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SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION



- The Parties have agreed to cooperate on the following:
 - ❖ Joint Development of software
 - ❖ Development of ICT-Industry personnel
 - ❖ Development of healthcare-sector applications
 - ❖ Development of software for the education sector and educational software for various teaching levels
 - ❖ Computerisation of society and e-government

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NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS



- To ensure maximum benefit for South Africa in this partnership and success for the projects in general, the Department of Communications proposes to work with all affected National Departments, State Owned Entities and willing companies in the ICT Industry.

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Conclusion



- Our Cuban counterparts will benefit through access to other markets
- South Africa's benefit will be twofold:
 - ❖ e-skills in the manufacturing sector using Cuban IP, experts etc. and
 - ❖ New job opportunities for our unemployed youth

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Questions and Comments



THANK YOU

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