

USAASA OBSERVES THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2016

The Universal Services and Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA) observes the beginning of the commemoration of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2016(WTISD-2016) for the month of May.

The 17 May, marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

In accordance with resolution 68, Member States and Sector Members were invited to celebrate the day annually by organising appropriate national programmes.

The theme for this year is *“ICT entrepreneurship for social impact”*.

USAASA, through the ICT Broadband programme, has rolled out ICT infrastructure with the aim of creating economic development and growth opportunities, especially in underservices areas.

The programme makes provision for the roll out of ICT Infrastructure , broadband connectivity including devices.

Emerging entrepreneurs can now sell airtime and electricity, open internet cafes and manage Mobile Money platforms in their respective areas, as a result of business opportunities created from the roll-out.

The project has been implemented in the Msinga, Emalahleni, Ratlou, Joe Morolong, Mutale and Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipalities, throughout the country.

The potential impact that ICTs have in developing countries, more specifically in underservices areas, is enormous. It has the potential to eradicate unemployment and poverty, increase literacy and self-sustaining local economies.

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