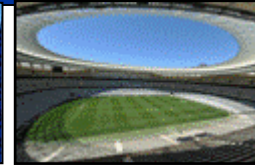


# Importance of e-Skills for Economic Promotion

Thembinkosi Siganda  
City of Cape Town  
South Africa



## Cape Town 2010

- A city with 3,5 million inhabitants
- >65% of the workforce employed in the services sector
- >27,000 employees ICT sector (3% total employed)
- 21% Unemployment rate
- 86% companies employ less than 10 employees
- 100,000 students in the 4 Universities



## Economic Promotion;

- Positioning Cape Town as a leading enabler of entrepreneurship & innovation
- Small business, investors

## Social Cohesion & Inclusion

- Learners
- Unemployed Youth
- Broader community members

- > 240 000 citizens connected via libraries
- Digital Business Centres (ICT for business development) - > 400 SMME's per month
- Cape IT Initiative – sector development, promotion
- About 50% of ICT companies export their products and services to international markets including Africa, Europe and North America.
- Bandwidth Barn - (widely recognized as the most successful ICT incubator in South Africa)
- City of Cape Town investment in broadband infrastructure (initial R151m capex)
- Phase I:
  - 24,000km of fibre
  - 230km of cable

- Broadband = basic economic infrastructure, pre-requisite for economic development
- e-skilling citizens **key** to enable participation in knowledge economy
- fast, reliable, cheap connection is a pre-requisite for business location
- Multi stakeholder network architecture approach recommended
- Social inclusion & equity

< R 200 m (cumulatively)

- Each location is unique
- Strong will and a common vision for location
- Part of City's economic development strategy
- Basic economic infrastructure & skills required to support a modern economy
- Developmental approach - means of bridging the digital divide, and encouraging economic development

M. Thembinkosi Siganda

Director: Economic & Human Development

City of Cape Town

Tel.: 021 483 9015

Cell: 082 412 8019

E-mail: [thembinkosi.siganda@capetown.gov.za](mailto:thembinkosi.siganda@capetown.gov.za)

Skype: thembinkosi.siganda