Chapter IV

Implementing IT Policy and the Bedevilment of Post Colonialism-A Case Study of Tanzania

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ABSTRACT

This chapter is concerned with how Tanzania has been socially and economically affected by post-colonialism at a policy level as well as at an ordinary (public) level during the IT policy development process in the country. An IT policy according to Corbitt (1999:309) “is a reflection of the society in which it is formed and is socially constructed within the ideologies which frame that society.” Corbitt (1999:312) goes on to describe the implementation phase of the policy:
Policy is implemented in an environment influenced by ideologies which spawn values and beliefs, some of which are known, recognized and obvious to the actors involved, whilst other influences are not recognized, nor obvious.

This chapter examines the post-colonial influence, which comprises both directly and indirectly, observed implications within the IT policy development process in Tanzania. The discussion focuses on challenges which face decision and policy-makers in the country. The chapter also proposes an IT policy model which might be developed or designed using a different approach from the traditional policy-making model.

INTRODUCTION

Tanzania needs to emphasize the use of information technology (IT) as a vital tool for strengthening her social and economic development activities. Tanzania’s economy is natural resources rich. If those resources had been mobilized using modern IT’s effectively and efficiently under an appropriate policy, the country could have moved ahead economically and been providing better social services. (Sheya & Koda, 1987; Wangwe, 1987; Sekimang’a, 1992; Wagao, 1992; Materu-Behitsa, 1994; Mgaya, 1994; Shila, 1994; Kilemile, 1995; Kabalimu, 1996; MSTHE, 1996; Inganji, 1997; Nkhoma-Wamunza, 1997; COSTECH, 1999; Mnyanyi, 1999; Adjibolosoo, 2000; Machumu, 2000b & 2001; Mkwayu, 2000c; Mdoe, 2001; Sabas, 2001b; Ubwani, 2001

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Science and Technology (S&T) are considered to be essential instruments that can give strength to socio-economic development activities in Tanzania (COSTECH, 1991 & 1996; MSTHE, 1996; Inganji, 1997; Esselaar, et al., 2001; Tanzania Government, 2001b; eSecretariat, 2002). However, even though Tanzania has realized the importance of S&T, various factors especially lack of human and financial resources have hindered the development and promotion of scientific and technological activities in the country (COSTECH, 1999).

Science and Technology Policy (STP)

According to MSTHE (1996), Tanzania established The National Science and Technology Policy (STP) in 1985, which was reviewed in 1996. In the reviewed policy, MSTHE (1996, p. 5) describes the importance of the STP: