

# **Data Sharing in the Public Sector**

Advancing the  
Modernization Agenda

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# What is Data Sharing

- The exchange or availability of public sector data across government entities;
- The exchanging, collection or disclosing of information by an organization with other organizations such as any government ministry, agency department or local authority
- Can be for free, for a fee or in other forms of arrangement e.g. licensing agreements, memorandum of understandings.

# Rationale for a Data Sharing Policy

- ❖ Ministry Paper 56 highlights the need to improve the collection, management, analysis and use of data within ministries & agencies and electronically link institutions across the island;
- ❖ Increasing complexity of emerging policies require a range of information that is broader than that contained in any one data set;

# Rationale for a Data Sharing Policy

- ❖ Maximize the utility of data investment to allow for the collection, treatment and analysis of data in less time;
- ❖ Provide access to data in order to respond adequately, appropriately and timely to challenges arising and contributing to the attainment of development goals and objectives;
- ❖ Stimulate the development of value added services by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties for the benefit of public authorities & the public;

# Rationale for a Data Sharing Policy

- ❖ Acknowledgment of the fact that the public sector is operating in an increasingly digitally interconnected world;
- ❖ Allow for data otherwise isolated and under-utilized to be used repeatedly thus increasing the value without necessarily increasing the cost;
- ❖ Expedite the translation of research results into knowledge, products and procedures to improve human health

# Benefits of a Data Sharing Policy

- ❖ More joined up and responsive services (one stop shop concept, e-government);
- ❖ Innovative services designed around the customer
- ❖ Effective planning;
- ❖ Improve efficiency;
- ❖ Increase competitiveness of Industry;
- ❖ Provide enhanced protection for the vulnerable;
- ❖ Promote new research;

# Benefits of a Data Sharing Policy

- ❖ Identify problem areas
- ❖ Improve decision making & organizational performance
- ❖ Quality policy formulation based on empirical evidence
- ❖ Enhance economic potential for the re-use of public sector data.

# Aim of the Data Sharing Policy

- ❖ Provide a consensus-based and sustainable approach for the sharing of data between entities;
- ❖ Address the issue of pricing in order to prevent prohibitive costs that can impact on timely decision making;
- ❖ Address the use of personal data and the inherent issue of privacy as well as the tensions that can arise;
- ❖ Encourage the standardization of concepts and definitions among the relevant sectoral groups.



# Public Sector Initiatives

- ❖ Cabinet Submission on the Distribution & Access to Local Geospatial Data by Foreign Countries or Organizations;
- ❖ Basic data sharing policy exists for the local exchange of geospatial data among govt. agencies;
- ❖ Ministry Paper on 'Assuring Integrity in National Statistics';
- ❖ Draft Data Protection Act

# Public Sector Initiatives

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- Land Information Council of Jamaica has developed metadata guidelines which provides an overall framework & policy direction for the creation, management & dissemination of spatial metadata

# International Best Practices

- ❖ **INSPIRE** – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe - Framework for the sharing of spatial data between public authorities in member states
- ❖ **Google Earth** – Satellite & Aerial Imaging
- ❖ **geoNorge**(Norway)- portal for geographic information & services – national, regional & local agencies
- ❖ **Service New Brunswick** (Canada) – provides over 200 services to the public – land registry, corporate registry etc

# Elements of the Policy

- ❖ Improving the transferability of data – harmonization, standardization of data language (Report done by a consultant)
- ❖ Classification of data
  - geographical, legal, cultural, administrative
  - social & economic, scientific, technical, medical
- ❖ Conditions of use – text, digital, audio, video, database

# Elements of the Policy

- ❖ Types of access – legal, institutional, cultural, technical and regulatory factors will be addressed

Power to share data – ultra vires or intra-vires

Data Transfer Pricing - possibility of separating commercial activities from the public mandate

- ❖ Evaluation Mechanism – improve accountability
- ❖ Building public trust and Engagement

# Elements of the Policy

- ❖ Management of data – includes knowing what exist in the organization (metadata)
- ❖ Systems that support interconnectivity and facilitate access
- ❖ Data Security & Privacy
- ❖ Governance framework established
- ❖ Development of protocols to govern the way in which agencies will have to work together

# Findings of Studies to date

- ❖ Gap Analysis Study finalized
  - some entities are sharing data
  - some processes can benefit efficient data
  - sharing – Development Approval process
  - complex legislative environment

# Findings of Studies to date

- ❖ Inadequate records & information management within the public sector
- ❖ Incompatible data format
- ❖ Inability to discover data
- ❖ Absence of metadata
- ❖ High cost of data
- ❖ Lack of a culture to share data
- ❖ Lack of resources



# Technical barriers to Data Sharing

- ❖ Limited or no access to the Internet
- ❖ Absence of a website
- ❖ Absence of metadata
- ❖ Lack of Standards for e.g. recording, classifying, storing, publishing and managing information
- ❖ Insufficient hardware, incompatible software

# Policy Timeline

- ❖ Economic Study to be undertaken and completed by July – will inform the pricing strategy
- ❖ Policy drafted and consultations held
- ❖ Draft policy submitted for Cabinet approval
- ❖ Legislative framework developed
- ❖ Sensitization of the approved policy

## Please remember:

- ❖ Data is like a streetlight, but not necessarily enlightening!

**Thank You**