



The Board's Vision

Kenya becomes a top ten global ICT hub.

The Board's Mission

To rapidly and innovatively transform Kenya through promotion of ICT for socio-economic enrichment of our society

About Kenya ICT Board

The Kenya ICT Board was established by HE President Mwai Kibaki, as a state corporation under the State Corporations Act Cap. 446 on 19th February 2007.

The achievement of an information-based society is one of the main priorities of the Government towards the realization of national development goals and objectives for wealth and employment creation.

Kenya ICT board is carrying out a Kenya Transparency Communication Infrastructure Project (KTCIP) which aims to generate growth and employment by leveraging ICT and Public Private Partnerships to create an IT Enabled Services industry, and contribute to improved efficiency and transparency of selected government functions through e-government applications.

This KTCIP component will support the Government through the Ministry of Information and Communication over 3 years to roll out and scale up Digital Village (Pasha Centers). This initiative aims at providing internet access and e-services at the grassroots.

Pasha Centers

Pasha centers provide a suite of services to the public via computers connected to the internet.

Who runs and owns the Pasha e-centres?

The Pasha Centers are run by private entrepreneurs who shall go through the training program which will be funded by Kenya ICT Board as advertised in the dailies on 2nd and 4th of April 2008. Prospective entrepreneurs who have undergone training will be eligible to apply for a Pasha development loan from a revolving fund set up by the Board.

The Pasha Centre support will focus on four main activity areas:

1. Training

2. Technical Support
3. Bandwidth Capacity Support
4. Pasha e-centre Revolving Fund (soft loan)

The role of the Pasha Centre will include;

To provide Kenyans in rural areas with access to information. This will serve:

- To enhance information as communities shall be exposed news and trends that may positively impact their lives.
- Provide employment for Kenyans both directly through economic activity that the centre will generate and secondarily through the opportunities that the information will provide.
- Enhance provision of government services. Kenyans will be able to access government services such as NSSF statements, driving license application forms, police extracts among others, from the Pasha Centers.

The Pasha Centers models:

- Basic
- Standard
- Advanced

These are ratings that will be given to Pasha Centers with reference to the number of services that they will provide.

Capacity/Training Programs

The capacity development program is structured to ensure prospective entrepreneurs will attain relevant and applicable skills for business success. The course content will cover the following modules as a minimum;

- Self – employment as a viable option
- Characteristics of a successful entrepreneur
- Stages of business creation
- Why some business fail
- Legal aspects of business creation
- Record/Book keeping in small businesses
- Sources of business finances
- How to start and successfully manage small businesses
- Basic computer training.

Technical Support

Over the first three (3) years the project will support the provision of technical and maintenance support to Pasha Centers.

Bandwidth Capacity Support

This support will be provided for the initial 12 months to ensure sufficient internet connectivity at affordable rates.

Pasha Centers Revolving Fund

The funds allocated to each entrepreneur will be repayable over a three (3) year period. These repayable funds received by the entrepreneurs will be used to finance set-up costs and the required infrastructure (computers, printers, software etc).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: How can I acquire a Pasha Centre?

Step one: Apply for entrepreneurship training. The Kenya ICT board will facilitate training.

Step 2: Only those who have successfully completed training will be eligible to apply for ownership of a Pasha Center.

Step 3: Successful applicants will be eligible to apply for the revolving fund if required.

Step 4: Successful applicants will be eligible to apply for bandwidth support if required.

Step 5: Successful applicants will be eligible to apply for IT support if required.

QUESTION: Do I have to live in the area in which I want to open Pasha Centers?

Answer: it is the recommendation of the project that those running the Pasha Centers live and work in the area and therefore priority will be given to local residents.

QUESTION: Do I have to put in any money at all into the Pasha Centers or can I get 100% financing?

Answer: You will be required to invest a minimum of 10% of total cost. You will then be eligible to apply for the balance. However the specific criteria for financing will be communicated in due course.

QUESTION: What is the repayment period?

Answer: The repayment period is three (3) years.

QUESTION: What happens if I do not get any customers and wish to close down the Pasha centre after a few months/ a year?

Answer: We will try to mitigate this by offering sound business planning at the beginning hence our insistence on entrepreneurship training. The soft loans will have a repayment period of thirty six (36) months.

QUESTION: Can I designate someone else to run the Pasha centre if I want to, even if the person has not undergone the training?

Answer: No. The persons who will run the Pasha centers must be those who have undergone the training.

QUESTION: How will the ICT Board manage the channels of disbursing the funds to the entrepreneurs?

Answer: The funds will be disbursed through a financial intermediary that will assist the board in the disbursement of funds.

QUESTION: Must the Pasha Center be set up in the Rural Areas?

Answer: The concept of the Pasha Centers is a program that aims at delivering digital services to people in rural and peri-urban areas. Therefore all the Pasha Centers will be expected to be set up in the location mentioned in the applicants application form.

QUESTION: Will applicants from Nairobi also be considered for the DV program or does it strictly for the rural communities?

Answer: People from Nairobi will be considered. However, those living in rural areas will be given priority.

QUESTION: How will the loans be paid back by entrepreneurs?

Answer: The terms and conditions of the loan will be announced .However the loan is to be repaid over a period of 3 years with very easy payment terms.

QUESTION: What is the period of training and is it full- time or part time training?

Answer: The training program will be for a three (3) week period and on a full time basis.

QUESTION: Will the training be free of charge?

Answer: No levy will be charged for the training.

QUESTION: When will training be done?

Answer: The plan is to start the training program by end of July 2009.

QUESTION: How many people will be trained?

Answer: The board plans to train a minimum of 7500 people by 2012. It is from this pool of trained persons that entrepreneurs for the Pasha Centers will be selected on an ongoing basis.

QUESTION: Where will the training be conducted? Will it be in Nairobi (at a central place) or at Grass root level? (Conducted in different places)

Answer: The training will be conducted at grass roots level in order to make it accessible to applicants from across the country.