CURRENT DATA GOVERNANCE TRENDS AND INITIATIVES IN THE GAMBIA
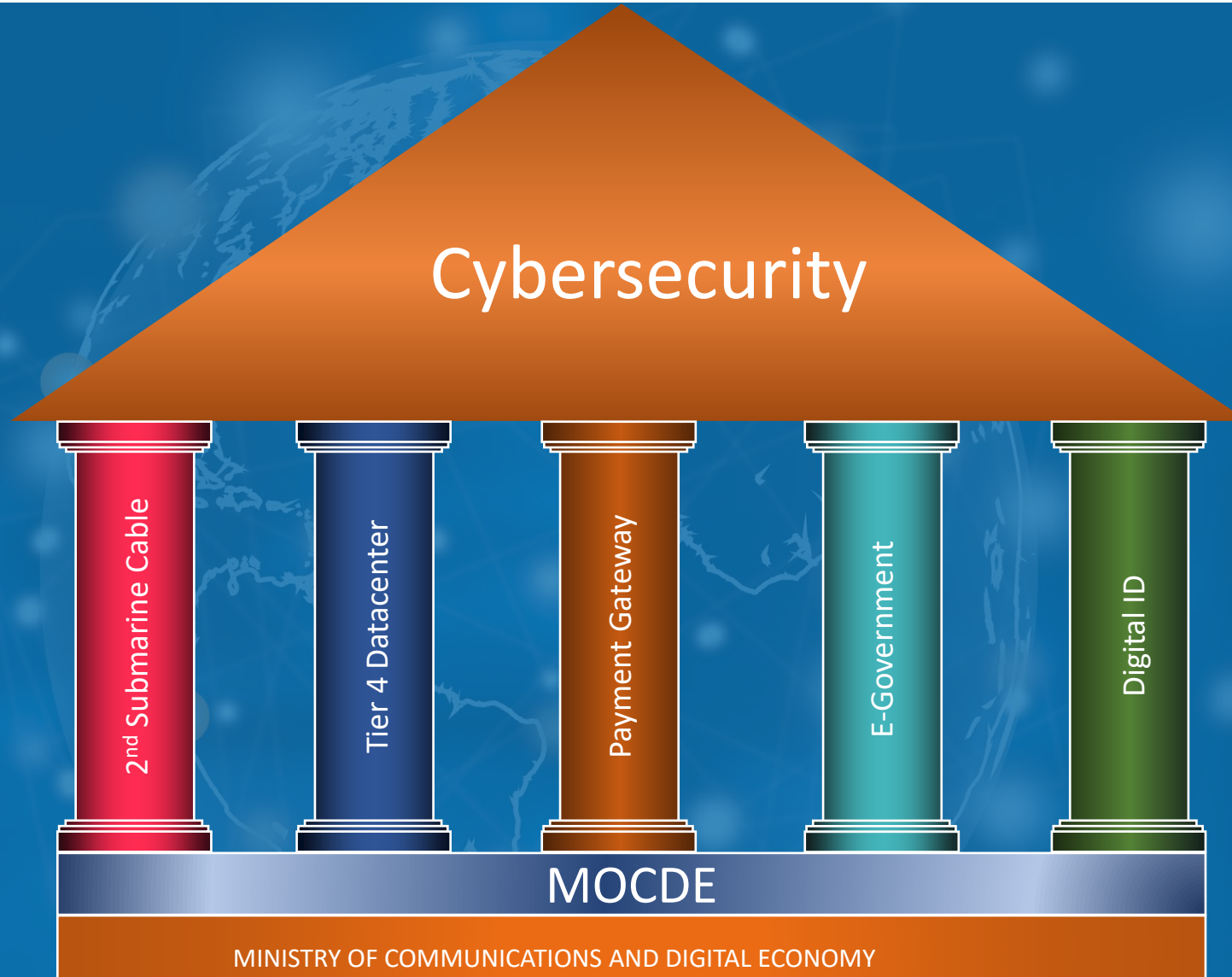
PRESENTER

MS. AMIE NJIE , ACT. Director of E-government

OUTLINE

MOCDE's FIVE (5) PILLARS

Cybersecurity

2nd Submarine Cable

Tier 4 Datacenter

Payment Gateway

E-Government

Digital ID

MOCDE

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

INTRODUCTION

Overview of Data Governance

- **Data governance** refers to the overall management of the availability, usability, integrity, and security of data

- It includes a set of practices, policies, and standards that ensure data is managed effectively throughout its lifecycle.

- Key components: Data Quality, Data security, compliance

IMPORTANCE OF DATA GOVERNANCE IN MODERN GOVERNANCE

- Enhances Transparency and Accountability

- Data-Driven Decision Making – Effective data governance enables governments to make informed, evidence-based decisions. Accurate and reliable data helps in policy formulation, resource allocation, and performance monitoring.

- Efficiency and Cost Savings – Streamlined data management processes reduce redundancy and improve efficiency.

- ensures compliance with legal and regulatory requirements – This mitigates risks associated with data breaches, privacy violations, and misuse of information.

IMPORTANCE OF DATA GOVERNANCE IN MODERN GOVERNANCE

- **Public Trust** – Transparent and accountable data practices build public trust in government institutions.

- **Innovation and Economic Growth:** Open data initiatives and effective data governance can drive innovation and economic growth. Accessible data enables businesses, researchers, and developers to create new products, services, and solutions.

POLICIES , STRATEGIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

- E-government Strategy 2021-2024

- Gambia National Cybersecurity Strategy and policy -2020-2026

- ICT4D Policy Statement 2018–2028

- National Digital Economy Masterplan 2024 - 2034

- Government Cloud Policy, Strategy and implementation plan 2023

- Government Open Data Strategy 2024 -2027

- Digital Addressing policy 2023-2027

- Data protection and privacy bill

CURRENT DATA GOVERNANCE TRENDS AND INITIATIVES IN THE GAMBIA

THE GAMBIA ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT (ICT4D) POLICY [2018-2028] Priority areas;

- Human Capital Development
- Electronic Government Development
- Promoting Technology-Enabled Education and STI Development
- Agricultural Development and Modernization
- Private Sector Development & Empowerment
- Promoting Technology-Driven Social and Community Services Provision & Delivery
- Youth & Women Development and Empowerment
- Promoting Technology-Neutral Legal, Regulatory Regime, Advanced Broadband ICT
- Infrastructure Development, Universal Access and Service (UAS), and Cyber Security Capability

CURRENT DATA GOVERNANCE TRENDS AND INITIATIVES IN THE GAMBIA

National Digital Economy Master Plan 2024 - 2034

The digital economy master plan is a comprehensive countrywide plan with flagship digitization projects that

- leverage technology digital solutions and services
- Spur the development and adoption of digital services in critical sectors such as education, health, transportation, agriculture, trade etc.,
- Create jobs and innovation, and develop the economy towards a skills and knowledge-based economy

CURRENT DATA GOVERNANCE TRENDS AND INITIATIVES IN THE GAMBIA

Digital Economic Master plan
Pi llar 7
Cybersecurity Data protection and Privacy

Inline with the National Cybersecurity Policy 2020-2026

- Improving legal and regulatory framework cross boarder cybersecurity cooperation Enhancement of the GMCSirt
- Development of National incident response plan reinforce capacity building programs encourage Public Private Partnerships
- Establishment of National Cybersecurity Authority Capacity building for Law Enforcement and Judiciary Authorities for combating cybercrime
- Standards for critical infrastructure Reporting platform for cyber incident/ Crime

CURRENT DATA GOVERNANCE TRENDS AND INITIATIVES IN THE GAMBIA

Open Data Strategy (2023-2026)

- Developed in collaboration with the e-Governance Academy of Estonia supported by the African Union–European Union Digital for Development Hub(D4D) Project

- Goals: Enhance data management, data exchange, and secure data sharing

CURRENT DATA GOVERNANCE TRENDS AND INITIATIVES IN THE GAMBIA

Government Cloud Strategy (2023-2027)

- Building on the cloud policy, the Government Cloud Strategy for 2023-2027 aims to modernize government service delivery through cloud adoption.

- The strategy includes goals, objectives, and expected outcomes, focusing on enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance.

- It also addresses challenges and opportunities in cloud adoption, aiming to create a sustainable and forward-looking e-government framework.

GOVERNMENT WEB PORTAL & MOBILE APP

- Provide one stop shop web portal for government information

- up to date information about The Gambia , access to government services through links, featuring tourism and culture for citizens, travelers etc..

- Launch citizen feedback platform(C2G) to request for information with the integration of AI (chatbot)

- Conduct awareness campaigns on e-services

- Ongoing development of mobile application to provide citizens with convenient access to government information on their mobile devices.

ONGOING PROJECT WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM ECOWAS FOR MOBILE APP DEVELOPEMENT
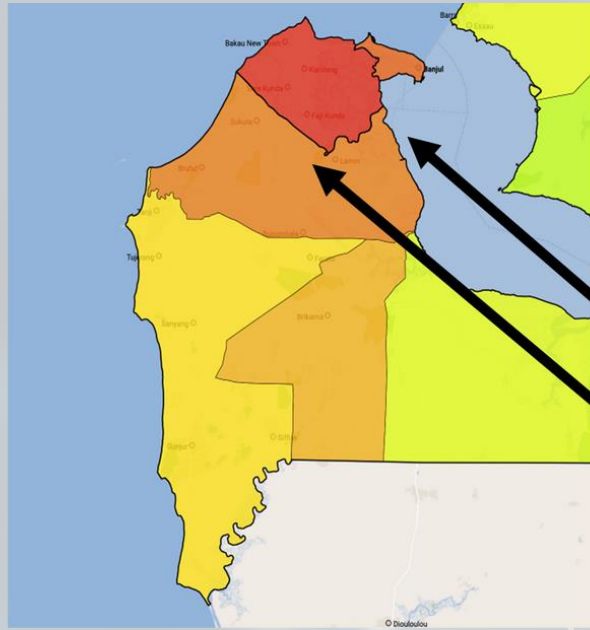
MYGOV – DIGITAL GAMBIA PLATFORM

- South–South cooperation with the Bangladesh Government to replicate MYGOV in The Gambia, through support from UNDP (through A21) and ECOWAS
- Centralized (One stop) platform that allows citizens to digitally access government services starting with the five pilots
- For transparency and efficiency and Citizen Engagement

DIGITAL ADDRESSING

- **Banjul: 2532** houses addressed

- **Kanifing: 31,903** houses addressed

- **Kombo North: 98,502** houses addressed

- **TOTAL HOUSES ADDRESSED: 132,937**

Impact
- Banjul and KMC are already using the addresses
- **Kombo North estimated 24,000** houses but with use of the addresses the estimate **grew to over 90,000**
- **WCR was estimated to 120,000** houses but only **Kombo North** is almost to that **value**

CHALLENGES

Open Data Strategy (2023-2026)

- Infrastructure Deficit

- Limited access to reliable broadband in rural areas continues to
  - hamper widespread adoption of e-government services.

- Underdeveloped data centers and limited cloud infrastructure
  create bottlenecks for digital transformation.
  -

- 2. Underdeveloped digital payments platform

- 3. Inadequate Digital Skills

COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES IN DIGITAL ECONOMY

Conclusion

- Digital transformation offers immense potential to drive sustainable and inclusive growth.
- However, challenges like infrastructure gaps and capacity must be addressed through global cooperation
- The UN can play a pivotal role in supporting countries by providing infrastructure development and capacity-building initiatives, helping to ensure sustainable digital futures.
- Continue to encourage south-south collaboration initiative such as the a2i (myGov

THANK YOU