

Connectivity and growth in Sub Saharan Africa : the role of communication satellites

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Propositions accompanying the thesis

CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA:

The Role of Communication Satellites

Evans Mupela

Maastricht, March 31, 2011

1. Connectivity over a shared satellite infrastructure can positively benefit the growth rate of connected regions. Satellites can be a useful infrastructure enhancement technology in infrastructure-poor regions of sub Saharan Africa if they are implemented on a shared local basis to support the meager terrestrial physical and wireless infrastructure in the region.
2. The high cost of international calls in sub-Saharan Africa is primarily caused by the fact that international companies have a monopoly over satellite dominated international gateways and by the lack of competition in the operation of optical fiber international gateways.
3. The high cost of international connectivity is a significant barrier to trade in sub Saharan Africa.
4. Access to telecommunications has a positive impact on per capita household income in municipalities in South Africa.
5. The idea of free and open source software should be extended to the idea of free connectivity over public infrastructure for both private and public business enterprise.
6. African governments should find local African solutions to the problems of hunger and poverty that have continued to plague the continent almost fifty years after the colonial era ended.
7. Food security in Africa can be achieved by harnessing the vast natural resources of the continent and encouraging trade and exchanges amongst African countries. African food security should not depend on what European countries decide to do to feed their own people.
8. The benefits of ICTs in Africa will only be meaningful if the perpetual problems of hunger, poor education and shelter are addressed.
9. In the end you are not measured by how much you undertake but by what you finally accomplish. *-Donald Trump*