OPEN DATA FOR GOVERNMENT

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DATA

Information is power, the more information you have the more powerful you are. Information is obtained from DATA.

When discussing data in government administration, two notions come up:

1 – Open Data

2 – Open Government Data

What is Open Data?

Open data is data that should be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike.

Government and many development partner are encouraging and participating in Open Data collection as well as dissemination.

What is Open Government Data?

Open government data means:

❑ **Data produced or commissioned by government or government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)** which is **open** – that is, it can be **freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone**.

Nations around the world are opening up a wide variety of data for citizens and businesses.

Not all government data is open data. Some data is **classified**, **restricted** or **top secret** data especially due to security reasons or other reasons. This kind of data will not be released to the general public.

Data Sources

Data has many sources, the **administration of surveys** and the monitoring of transactional flows and registers are some of the most common used by government and other organizations.

Why Open Government Data?

❑ **Transparency:**

Citizens should know what the government is doing, thus they must be able to freely access government data and information.

❑ **Participatory Governance:**

By opening up data, citizens are enabled to be much more directly informed and involved in decision-making.

❑ **Social and commercial value:**

By opening up data, government can help drive the creation of innovative business and services that deliver social and commercial value

UBOS and OPEN DATA

UBOS is mandated by the UBOS Act No. 2, 1998 to set the legal framework for the development and maintenance of the National Statistic System in Uganda.

UBOS is championing the cause of Open Data in Uganda, supporting all organizations collecting data in the country.

The Division of GIS at UBOS is employing and encouraging the use of Open Source Software and tools in its day today data operations.

Software such as QGIS are used in Data analysis and visualization.

Tools and Platforms such as OSM are used in mapping and data collection.

The Future of Open Data

The Future is very clear and bright for the way data is collected and disseminated.

The traditional ways of selling data are fast phasing out paving way and giving room to open data.

UBOS has establish the Geo-Information Management Working Group (Geo-IMWG) in Uganda bringing together all GIS team for deeper collaboration.

UBOS operates on the principal that Data is a common good and is promoting this through its out spread reach to other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

We must all invest heavily and strategically in the creation of this free and Open Data by participating in programs that promote Open Data, especially mapping with OSM.

The Future of Open Data

❑ Web mapping is top of the planning list for mapping of administrative units and social economic facilities such as schools, Health Facilities, roads among others.

❑ Encouraging and supporting research makes the future of Open data even more promising. Government/UBOS is committed to aiding and backing the data collection programs.

Opportunities for OPEN Data in Gov't

There are vast opportunities in working with Open data in Government and other organizations. Students and the academia are encouraged to develop more interest and harness this ever growing newer field of operation, research and implementing developmental programs globally.

References:

1- http://opengovernmentdata.org/

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5 - http://opendatahandbook.org/

6 – http://www.ubos.org