**Use of Mobile Technology to Improve Education in South Africa**

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) recognises the centrality of E-education in the e-Education White Paper (2004) and the Action Plan to 2019, as an innovation to improve and diversify teaching and learning and to respond to teaching and learning in the 21st century. More specifically, the use of ICT has also been identified as a key strategy to promote and make teacher development more accessible in the Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development (ISPFTED) and white paper on e-education in South Africa 2011-2016. The ISPFTED has as one of its strategic deliverables, the establishment of the National Institute for Curriculum and Professional Development (NICPD) which also includes the integration of digital technologies as a key focus. Furthermore, the DBE is a lead agency in a Presidential Initiative known as the Operation Phakisa ICT in Education Lab, in which teacher development and the integration of ICT is considered a strategic focus area.

During 2016, the DBE and UNICEF partnered on a range of activities that promote integration of ICT. These included amongst others,

1. A study tour to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) in the USA;
2. Designing an Imagine Academy programme involving the first 10 pilot Teacher Centres in South Africa as a partnership with Microsoft, Vodacom, the DBE, MICT Seta and UNICEF.
3. A customised, university-accredited post graduate course was delivered by the University of Johannesburg for 165 Teacher Centre Managers and eLearning Specialists from all nine Provincial Education Departments;
4. The conclusion of an independent evaluation of the Ukufunda Virtual School which ranks among the first credible evaluations of an ICT in Education initiative in the DBE
5. A research project on South African teacher responses to digital technologies; and
6. The development of a Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning.

As a Chief Director in the Directorate of Strategy and Innovation in the DBE, you have been assigned by the Minister to spearhead the design of a new implementation framework / strategy that builds on the lessons from the above initiatives.

1. Give an outline of the broad steps you will take to realize this objective.
2. Propose the kind of institutional arrangements that would facilitate your work.
3. What would be your advice on innovation in large scale multi-stakeholder implementation of the framework, e.g. through discussion forums and stakeholder engagement?