# Introduction & Contribution Ringier Africa AG

eCommerce Week 2018 Development Dimensions of Digital Platforms

Leonard Stiegeler General Manager, Ringier Africa AG





We inform. We entertain. We connect.



### who we are

# Sub-Sahara Africa's leading media and marketplaces group outside South Africa.



# we are present in Smarkets with 15+ platforms

#### **Our Media**



+ Our Production Brands



Our Marketplaces

JOBS
pbberman
brightermonday
PROPERTY
Private property
MaMaison.sn
buyrentkenya.com



**Q**EFÎRA





what we look for The basis of our business is the explosion of mobile internet use in Africa in the past years especially by young people.

# Sub-Sahara Africa Internet Users in million 97.2 31.9 7.26 6.7 5.23 5 RADP



## Growth

Internet penetration is growing significantly across Sub-Saharan Africa. And users are eager for local content. This is a big opportunity.

# Sub-Sahara Africa

**Active Social Media Users in millions** 



# Social

African internet users are very social, want to share and express themselves. This is unique.

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Source: World Bank, 2016 | Pew Research Center, 2016 | Ghana National Communications Authority



Google's Consumer Barometer







We have often been surprised by the high growth and learnt a lot in Africa.



# Our Learnings



# The Sub-Sahara African digital eco-system (1)

#### **Users:**

- Hundreds of millions of young, aspiring, mobile internet users in Africa with still relatively low economic means.
- Internet and social media usage rates are continuing to grow rapidly with the proliferation of cheap smart phones and reducing mobile data rates **sophisticated use of mobile, video etc. en masse.**

#### **User Behavior:**

- Users are open to online opportunities to cover basic needs of communication, information and non-physical trade, and desires of entertainment and connection.
- They are still much less inclined to **physical eCommerce**, as the underlying infrastructure does not support large-scale local uptake.

# The Sub-Sahara African digital eco-system (2)

#### **Corporate Behavior:**

- Corporates are now thriving to move online and digitize. They lack behind in sophistication of data, availability of technology and tracking on the one hand, but naturally embrace the newest, natural forms of digital advertisement and other forms of digitization.

#### **Investors:**

- Primarily strategic Chinese and early-stage American investors are dominating the current VC scene in Africa, but newly-raised Africa-focused European **technology funds** are showcasing a growing European interest.
- However, overall **too little funding is present in the eco-systems** to embrace all opportunities and foster more digital entrepreneurship.

# Our Recommendations

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# What we see as crucial for SSA countries to embrace (1)

#### **Best Practices:**

- Active learning from other markets that have established thriving internet eco-systems and forward-looking corporates is crucial.
- → What have other countries done to attract high-growth technology companies and made them thrive?

#### **Understand Unique Advantages:**

With best practices in place, different markets have unique opportunities – embrace them!

→ For example, how can digital use a large single market economy or a well-positioned regional hub?

# What we see as crucial for SSA countries to embrace (2)

#### **Ease of Doing Business:**

- Entrepreneurship is difficult enough. It should be easy to start a company; **operate it in the legal and regulatory environment** and get it funded.
- → What are the basic needs for entrepreneurs & corporates and how can they be facilitated?

#### **International Investors:**

- International investors will be crucial both from a financial as well as from a knowledge-transfer perspective to boost the digital economy in SSA
- $\rightarrow$  Investors should be deliberately attracted to invest in SSA.



Contact

Leonard Stiegeler GM Ringier Africa AG

leonard.stiegeler@ringier.ch