

# Transformation loading...

The digital economy is fast impacting business across the globe. In Africa, AYO wants to ensure it impacts people too.

By Ayanda Mdluli

“We believe that transformation is much more than a compliance exercise; it is a business imperative.”

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is heading to Africa and, with it, the transformation of information and communications. As SA’s leading ICT company, with a large African footprint, AYO Technology Solutions (AYO) is driving the socio-economic future of the country and the rest of the continent through specific digital transformation and technological-disruption strategies.

CEO Howard Plaatjes is excited to be involved in AYO at a time when the business is at the forefront of transformation. “We are partnering with forward-thinking businesses to deliver innovative and trusted

end-to-end networking infrastructures and ICT solutions that South Africa – and the continent – need in order to play a meaningful role in 4IR,” he says.

The company not only digitally empowers other organisations but equips these businesses to be key drivers of the economic and social transformation of the industries and countries in which they operate.

Placing a strong focus on Africa, AYO is spearheading technological growth and innovation through its various subsidiaries, which have a presence in East and West Africa, Mauritius, and SADC. “We like to look at ourselves as an African player with global ambitions,” says Plaatjes. “We are focused on building and developing 4IR skills to embrace the future, specifically around AI and robotic-process automation.”

AYO listed on the JSE in December 2017. However, the company’s ICT roots stretch back more than two decades – to 1996. Over the past 23 years, AYO has been steadily growing, transforming, and evolving into one of the largest B-BBEE ICT companies in SA.

For AYO, transformation is not a compliance exercise; it is a business imperative. While AYO is committed to aligning to the industry’s B-BBEE requirements, it does so, not just because it believes this is the moral responsibility of business today, but also because it has first-hand experience of the value that embracing equality and diversity unlocks for any organisation, its people, and the communities in which it operates.

“We absolutely believe in the power of digital to transform people, business, and the world; and we are determined to pass on to our clients, our sector, and our country, the many benefits and competitive advantages that we have experienced as a result of our own transformed position,” says Plaatjes. In fact, this commitment to helping drive socio-economic transformation through the power of digital change is enshrined in the company’s purpose and brand promise: Digital Economy. Transformed. 🌱

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