



c/o AfriNIC, 03B3, 3rd Floor, Ebene Cyber Tower, Rose Hill, Mauritius
Tel: +230 466 6616 Fax: +230 466 6758
Email: secretary@aftld.org

AfTLD Press Release

“Strengthening our Internet Institutions”

The Domain Name System (DNS) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses will continue to serve as the core Internet resources for the foreseeable future. These resources have supported the provision of Internet services to the current over 1 billion users. It's envisaged that the next billion users will be largely netted from the developing regions following their aggressive Internet adoption strategies. The resulting increase in the number of Internet users is expected to impact on these core resources from both the technical and governance perspectives.

The emergence of the Domain name secondary market where speculators have sold “hot” names for huge sums has caught the attention of resellers and users alike. The introduction of sponsored new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs), internationalized domain names (IDNs) and DNS Security (DNSSEC) will add on to the excitement experienced in the name space arena. The distribution of DNS Root Servers has been a subject of discussion at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) with progress being made to increase the number of installed mirror instances globally. Similarly, the IPv4 exhaustion projections and IPv6 adoption proposals have generated debate over the equitable distribution of the remaining IP resources, mitigation against IPv4 secondary market amongst other issues.

As the region braces for a perceived Internet revolution, strong national and regional institutions will play a vital role in addressing the policy, outreach, capacity and governance issues related to the core Internet resources. It's in this regard that AfTLD with the generous support of the South African Department of Communication (DOC) will hold the 2nd African ccTLD event in Johannesburg, South Africa from 7th – 11th April 2008 under the theme “Strengthening our Internet Institutions”. AfTLD believes that strong institutions will further the regions goal on ICT development. The event is set to discuss a variety of issues with a host of regional and global experts. The DOC will host the event with additional support from AfriNIC, .ZA DNA, Internet Solutions, NSRC, ICANN, and ISOC among others.

About AfTLD

AfTLD was established in 2002 to act as a focal point for African Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers in coordinating, formulating, developing and presenting a unified approach to issues related to the Domain Name System. AfTLD also presents a forum for sharing ideas between the regions Internet community with an aim of promoting the utilization of national country's Top Level Domains. Additional information regarding AfTLD and this event is available at www.aftld.org and can also be obtained from Mr. Vika Mpisane, Secretary & Treasurer of AfTLD, at +27 11 275 0082 and secretary@aftld.org.

Executive Committee: Michuki Mwangi (.ke) – President, Vika Mpisane (.za) – Secretary & Treasurer, Mohamed EL Bashir (.sd) – VP: Communications & Outreach, Souleymane Oumtanaga (.ci) – VP: Capacity Building, Dr. Paulos Nyirenda (.mw), Victor Ciza (.bi), Ali Drissa Badiel (.bf), Haja Ramboasalama (.mg)

About DOC

South Africa's Department of Communications (DOC) has as its legislative mandate "to create a favourable ICT environment that ensures South Africa has capacity to advance its socio-economic development goals, support the renewal of Africa and build a better world". To discharge this mandate, it has made significant strides and interventions in driving ICT development for the benefit of all South African citizens. For more information on DOC, please go to <http://www.doc.gov.za>.

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