

**KENYA NETWORK INFORMATION CENTER****STATEMENT FROM THE CEO**

"I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the strides we have made together as the KeNIC family. The theme for this year is "Winning Together," a reflection of our commitment to shared success, collaboration, and sustainable growth.

Our journey in 2024 was marked by resilience, innovation, and unwavering dedication to our mission. We celebrated key milestones, including surpassing 110,000 registered domains, strengthening our sustainability initiatives, and enhancing customer engagement. This year, our focus remains clear—delivering excellence, prioritizing customer experience, and building a resilient, future-ready registry.

Sustainability continues to be a core pillar of our strategy. We are making conscious efforts to implement environmentally friendly practices, streamline our operations, and ensure financial sustainability.

Our goal is to create lasting value, not just for KeNIC but for the broader internet ecosystem in Kenya.

As we work towards our ambitious 3X growth target, I encourage each of you to take ownership of your role in this journey. Let us embrace a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and accountability. Every contribution—big or small—counts in building a stronger, more impactful KeNIC.

I look forward to a year of transformation, progress, and shared victories. Together, we will win big and set new benchmarks for success!

Let's make 2025 a year of impact and collective achievement."

Andrew Lewela Mwanyota,
.KE Chief Evangelist & CEO,
at the internal January Townhall meeting.

Dear Members & Partners

Welcome to Our Q1 2025 Newsletter!

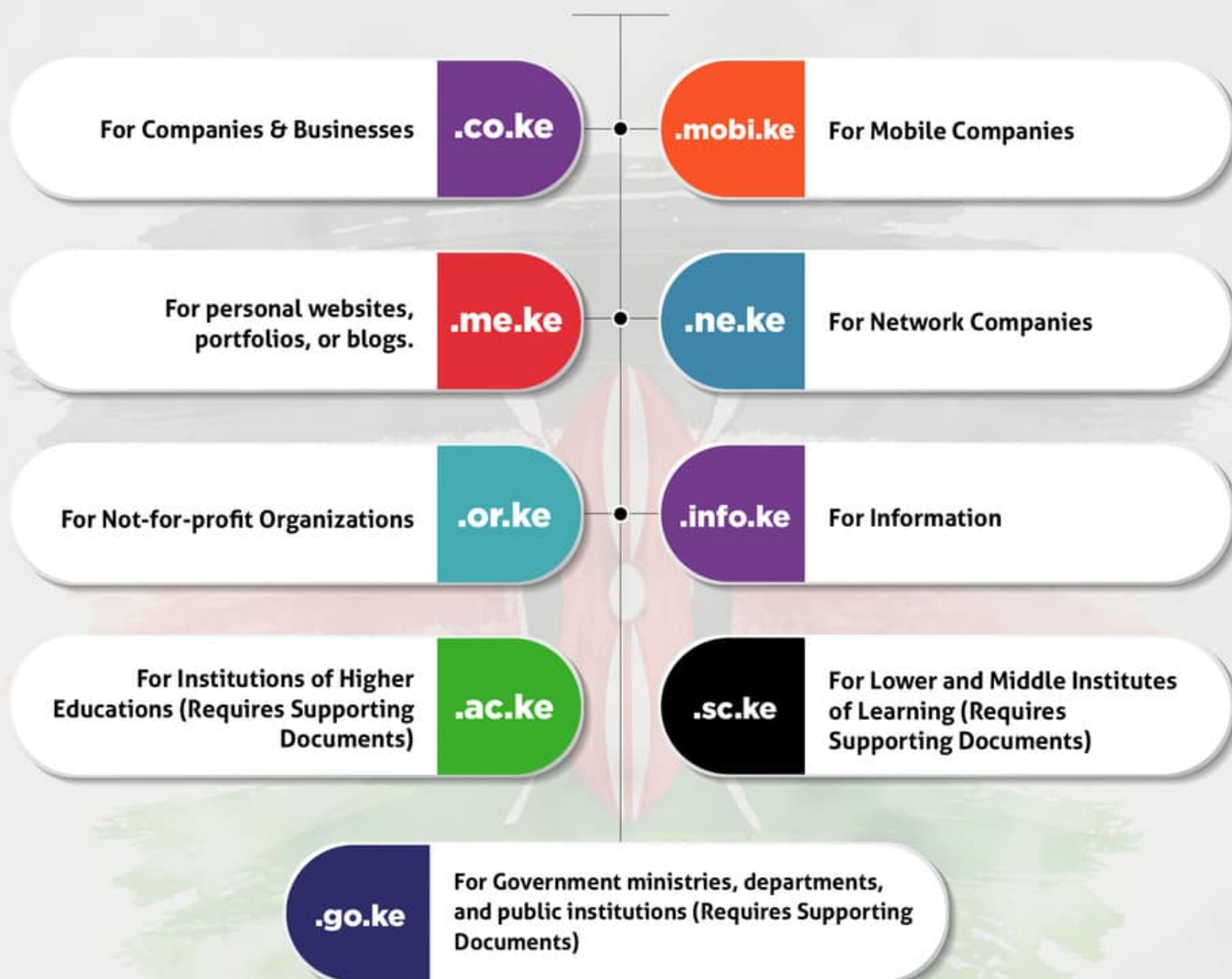
We're thrilled to bring you the latest edition, filled with insightful articles, expert tips, key event highlights, and the most recent updates from our community.

At KeNIC, your privacy remains our top priority. If you've shared your information with us—whether at events, during purchases, or through other interactions—we want to assure you that we do not sell, rent, trade, or share your contact details with third parties. However, we may use your information to keep you informed through newsletters, marketing updates, and other valuable content tailored for you.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We hope you enjoy this issue!



Domain Extensions for your Business



KENIC TOP NEWS

The logo for NGOsource is displayed within a blue rectangular border. The word "NGOsource" is in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with "NGO" in all caps and "source" in title case. Below it, the phrase "Equivalency Determination on File" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

NGOsource
Equivalency Determination on File

KENIC RECEIVES EQUIVALENCY DETERMINATION CERTIFICATION FROM NGOSOURCE

KeNIC is pleased to announce that it has been determined by NGOsource to be equivalent to a U.S. public charity or government instrumentality for a specific funder during a designated period.

This Equivalency Determination (ED) certification is valid through December 31, 2025, reinforcing KeNIC's commitment to transparency, governance, and global collaboration. The certification simplifies the process for U.S.-based donors and grantmakers to support KeNIC's initiatives with confidence, ensuring compliance with international philanthropic standards.

KENIC JOINS THE BLUE COMPANY PROJECT TO REINFORCE ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES



As a Blue Company member, KeNIC upholds the highest standards of corporate ethics. All employees are required to act with honesty and integrity, strictly adhering to applicable laws and regulations when conducting business on behalf of the organization.

KeNIC maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards bribery and corruption in all its forms, ensuring that all transactions and engagements align with ethical governance and compliance frameworks.

We are committed to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. Joining the Blue Company Project strengthens our dedication to ethical business conduct and reinforces trust among our stakeholders.



Running a business without a website is like winking at a girl in the dark - you know what you're doing, but no one else does.

Your trusted registry for
.KE Domains

GET SMART.

REGISTER A **.KE** DOMAIN TODAY!

www.kenic.or.ke

.ke
.co.ke
.or.ke
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.ac.ke
.me.ke
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.ne.ke
.mobi.ke
.info.ke



Kenya Network Information Centre
CAK Centre along Waiyaki Way, Opposite Kianda School
P.O Box 1461-00606
0715 275483 / 0702 693515
info@kenic.or.ke | www.kenic.or.ke
JOIN THE CONVERSATION      KenicTLD

JANUARY – MARCH 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

1. KeNIC & Dynadot Partner to Offer Premium .KE Domains – More Auctions Coming Soon!

January: KeNIC partnered with Dynadot, a leading international registrar, to offer an exciting opportunity to invest in premium .KE domain names—Kenya's official country code top-level domain.

With bids starting at just \$140, the auction successfully concluded on January 20, 2025. But this is just the beginning!

KeNIC is committed to expanding access to premium .KE domains and will be hosting more auctions in collaboration with Dynadot and additional international registrars. Stay tuned for more opportunities to secure your perfect .KE domain!

Follow us for updates on upcoming auctions!

.KE Registry Premium Auction

Connect with audiences in Kenya, Africa's fastest-growing economy.
Secure premium domains starting at just \$140! Auction ends 1/20/2025.

auction.ke ad.ke land.ke
forex.ke safari.ke buy.ke

dynadot

2. KeNIC team kicked off 2025 with a Performance Scorecard Development Workshop



January: KeNIC held a Performance Scorecard Development Workshop to define key priorities and set measurable goals for the year 2025.

KeNIC reaffirmed its vision, mission, and core values, emphasizing excellence, innovation, and integrity. Leadership and staff collaborated to establish performance benchmarks and reinforce KeNIC's role in enhancing internet access and digital identity in Kenya.

This workshop set a strong foundation for 2025, ensuring KeNIC remains adaptive, customer-focused, and forward-thinking in delivering domain registry solutions.

3. KeNIC joined the Kenyan business delegation group that visited Estonia to explore the country's innovation, technology, and financial sectors.

February: KeNIC participated in flagging off a dynamic group of SMEs on a business expedition to Estonia and Finland. This initiative was made possible through the Business Club platform in partnership with the Estonian Embassy, Golden Connections International, and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Recognizing that SMEs are the backbone of Kenya's economic growth, this initiative went beyond traditional support by providing access to knowledge, networks, and global opportunities to foster long-term success. During the Kenya-Estonia Trade Mission in Tallinn, Estonia, KeNIC was represented by Gitau Muraguri, Marketing & Communications Manager.



This engagement reinforced KeNIC's role in supporting businesses through .KE domains, promoting Kenya's digital presence on the global stage. This expedition demonstrated KeNIC's commitment to empowering African businesses by supporting initiatives that drive growth and international expansion. [Read more.](#)

4. KeNIC Partners with NameBlock to Enhance Domain Security & Brand Protection

February: KeNIC is proud to announce its partnership with NameBlock as a Registry Partner for AbuseShield and BrandLock. This collaboration marks a significant step in enhancing domain security and brand protection within Kenya's digital ecosystem.

Through AbuseShield, KeNIC will help mitigate domain abuse, ensuring a safer online environment for businesses and individuals. Meanwhile, BrandLock offers brand owners enhanced protection against cybersquatting and unauthorized domain registrations, safeguarding their digital identity.

We are committed to fostering a secure and resilient online space for .KE domain users. Partnering with NameBlock enables us to offer advanced security solutions that protect businesses, brands, and internet users from online threats. For more details on AbuseShield and BrandLock, visit www.nameblock.com.



5. KeNIC Celebrates Safer Internet Day 2025 with Communications Authority of Kenya



February: KeNIC joined the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) in marking Safer Internet Day 2025, a global initiative promoting safe and responsible digital technology use celebrated 11th of February each year. This year's theme, *"Empowering Digital Transformation: Amplifying Technical Tools for a Safer Online World,"* underscored the role of digital solutions in safeguarding online spaces.

PS Edward Kisiang'ani, representing CS William Kabogo, reaffirmed the government's commitment to a secure digital environment, citing key initiatives like the National Cybersecurity Strategy (2022-2027) and the Kenya National Digital Master Plan (2022-2032) as crucial roadmaps for enhancing cybersecurity and digital transformation.

David Mugonyi, Director General of CA, highlighted the dual nature of the internet—a powerful tool for progress yet fraught with risks like cyberbullying, fraud, and online abuse. He emphasized Kenya's digital infrastructure expansion, including a 100,000km fibre optic network and 1,450 digital hubs, aimed at boosting connectivity while ensuring online safety.

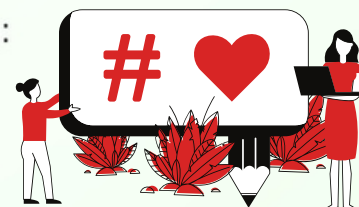
Parents were urged to play an active role in monitoring children's online activities, reinforcing the importance of digital literacy and online responsibility.

The event convened industry leaders and cybersecurity experts, focusing on emerging threats and innovative safety solutions to protect users—especially children and vulnerable groups—in Kenya's evolving digital landscape.



Social media is great, but a **.KE** website gives you:

- Ownership** – No algorithms deciding your reach!
- Security** – Your data, your rules.
- Credibility** – A website builds trust.
- 24/7 Availability** – Your business never sleeps.



Build a safer, stronger brand with yourname.ke today!

6. KeNIC was honored to welcome a delegation from Libya Network Information Center (.ly)

February: As part of Libya NIC visit to AfTLD offices in Nairobi. Led by Mr. Talhah Saad Abdulsalam, alongside Mr. Shuran Omar Abdunabi and Mr. Mohamed Ahlal Montaser, their visit aimed at understanding AfTLD's role in the African domain space and exploring opportunities for ccTLD growth.

Since, the AfTLD offices are part of KeNIC, this visit was extended to KeNIC's offices. The delegation was received by Eric Ndungu, our Commercial and Partnership Manager, who provided an in-depth overview of KeNIC's operations, sharing practical insights into registry management and best practices in ccTLD administration.



This engagement reinforced KeNIC's role in fostering collaboration and capacity building within Africa's domain industry.

KeNIC remains committed to strengthening the African ccTLD landscape and looks forward to continued partnerships with Libya NIC and other regional stakeholders!



6. KeNIC Engages in Kenya Stakeholders Meeting on ICANN's Next Round of ngTLDs

February: KeNIC actively participated in the Kenya Stakeholders Breakfast Meeting focused on ICANN's upcoming Next Round of New Generic Top-Level Domains (ngTLDs) and the Applicant Support Program (ASP). This session aimed to raise awareness and provide visibility into these transformative initiatives shaping the future of the Domain Name System (DNS).

As a key player in Kenya's digital ecosystem, KeNIC emphasized the importance of expanding the DNS landscape, encouraging local businesses, organizations, and entrepreneurs to explore opportunities within the ngTLD program.



The discussion highlighted how ASP can support eligible applicants in securing new domain extensions, fostering greater innovation and inclusivity in the global digital space.

KeNIC remains committed to empowering Kenyan stakeholders with insights on domain expansion opportunities, reinforcing Kenya's position in the global internet governance dialogue.



7. KeNIC Bids Farewell to Esteemed Leaders from it's Board & Committee Members



March: KeNIC bid a heartfelt farewell to two esteemed members of our community: Lillian Ngala, a dedicated Board Member, and John Saruni, a valued member of the ICT Committee. The intimate luncheon at Pan Pacific Serviced Suites was a celebration of their contributions, leadership, and the impact they have had on KeNIC's journey.

As a token of appreciation, Lillian received a sunset-themed picture, symbolizing her warm and impactful journey, while John was gifted a sunrise-themed picture, representing the new paths he illuminated. Their dedication will be fondly remembered. KeNIC wishes them all the best in their future endeavors!

Lillian Ngala, served five incredible years—including as Vice Chair of the Board, Chairperson of the HR Committee, and Chairperson of the Audit Committee, while John Saruni served as an ICT committee member for 5 years. They leave behind a legacy of leadership, integrity, and innovation. Under their tenure, KeNIC achieved significant milestones, including forging strategic partnerships, expanding the .KE domain, hosting the Kenya Internet Summit & .KE Awards, strengthening governance structures and growing the .KE domain, making it more accessible and widely adopted.



8. KeNIC Celebrates Entrepreneurial Excellence at Somo KIEP-SKIES Capstone Ceremony



March: KeNIC had the privilege of attending the Somo KIEP-SKIES Capstone Ceremony, where we proudly awarded certificates to entrepreneurs who successfully completed their training.

Somo, an NGO dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs to create lasting change, has provided graduates with comprehensive technical training in agro-processing and manufacturing.

Beyond education, these entrepreneurs have gained access to funding and cutting-edge production facilities at TengenezaNaSomo, equipping them to make a significant impact on Kenya's economy.



9. KeNIC's Impact in Nakuru County: Driving Digital Transformation.

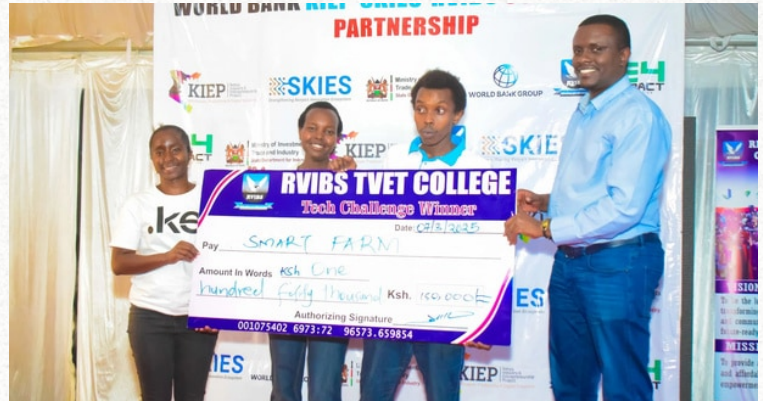


March: KeNIC team actively engaged key stakeholders in Nakuru County to drive digital transformation:

- Partnered with Lish AI Hub to explore .KE Registrar opportunities.
- Held high-level discussions with Nakuru County leaders & ICT players to boost digital adoption.
- Educated Rift Valley Institute of Business studies College (RVIBS) students on DNS, Cybersecurity, .KE domains & Data Protection.

KeNIC Team also engaged at the RVIBS College Tech Innovation Hackathon Event.

- Speaking Engagement – Eric Ndungu, our Commercial & Partnerships Manager.
- Judging Panel – Beth Njau, our Data Protection Officer.
- Tech Panel – Landi Ahmed, our Head of Technology.



With 250,000 KSH for first place, 150,000 KSH for second place & 100,000 KSH for third place, this hackathon, backed by Rift Valley Institute of Business Studies, World Bank, Ministry of Education, and Africa Tech Space, aimed to foster innovation and problem-solving in Kenya's tech ecosystem.

10. KeNIC CEO Participates in Internet Governance Dialogue at ICANN82, Seattle, USA



March: KeNIC CEO contributed to the discussions on strengthening the multi-stakeholder engagement model in Internet Governance.

During the Technical Community Summit organized by CIRA (Canadian Internet Registration Authority) on the sidelines of ICANN82 in Seattle, he had the pleasure of presenting a .KE tee to Byron Holland, MBA, ICD.D—his friend, coach, and newly elected ICANN board member.

KeNIC remains committed to fostering global collaborations and advancing a more inclusive and effective Internet governance framework.



11. KeNIC at the 6th Edition of the SMEs Expo & Conference: Empowering Businesses with .KE Domains



March: KeNIC exhibited at the 6th Edition of the SMEs Expo & Conference, organised by Nation Media Group which took place from March 26th to 28th, at KICC Courtyard, Nairobi. This premier event brought together SMEs, industry leaders, and innovators to explore opportunities for growth, collaboration, and digital transformation.

We facilitated .KE domain name registrations on the spot in partnership with our accredited registrar, Hospinnacle. A strong online presence is essential for SMEs looking to expand their reach, build credibility, and stay competitive in today's digital economy.

Having great products and services is just the beginning —businesses also need strong visibility, credibility, and easy accessibility to thrive. A .KE domain serves as a powerful tool for brand recognition, making it easier for businesses to connect with both local and international customers.

By acquiring a .KE domain, businesses can:

- Build a professional and trustworthy online presence
- Increase their visibility in both local and global markets
- Strengthen their brand identity with a Kenya-focused domain



12. KeNIC Hosts Ethiopian Communications Authority for Benchmarking Visit



March 2025: Ethiopian Communications Authority Lead Executive Officer in charge of Infrastructure Security and Internet Resource Management, Asfaw S. Biratu led his team on a benchmarking visit to Kenic offices on 11 March 2025. The panel was looking to understand our Registry operations as they seek to build theirs back in Ethiopia.

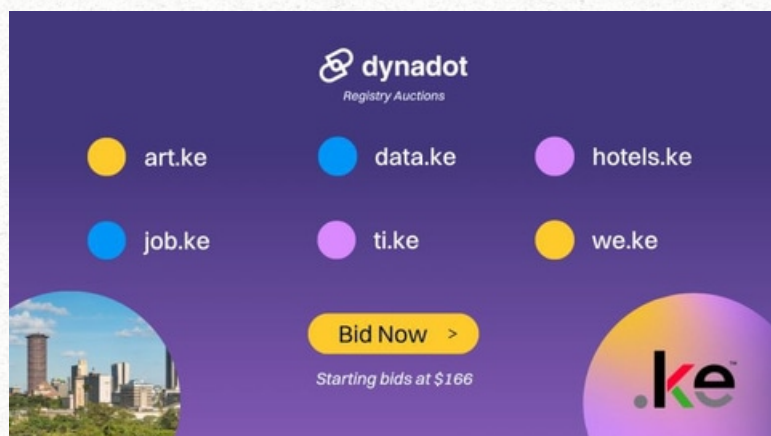
[KeNIC will continue to engage and support them in their efforts in order to strengthen the regional internet ecosystem for mutual benefit and growth.

13. KeNIC & Dynadot March - April Premium .KE Domain Auction – Now Closed!

March 2025: KeNIC, in partnership with Dynadot, offered exclusive premium .KE domains to help businesses and individuals establish a powerful online presence. With bids starting at \$166, these domains were a valuable investment for those looking to stand out.

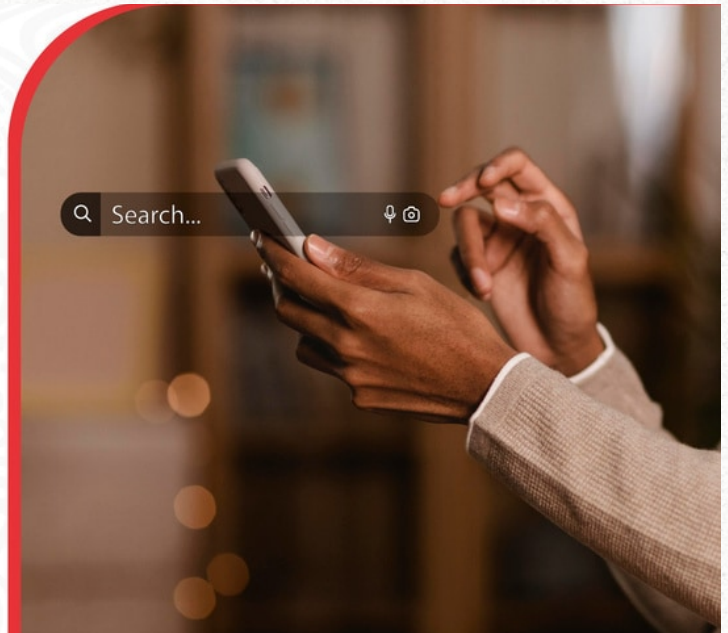
The auction officially closed on April 3, 2025, at 8 PM EST.

Thank you to everyone who participated! Stay tuned for future opportunities to secure premium domains.



Google loves, .KE, and
why you should too 🤔

Exploring the **SEO Benefits** of **.KE**



Google recognizes .KE as a trusted, locally relevant domain—making it a powerful asset for businesses targeting Kenyan audiences and beyond.

- Better Local SEO – Rank higher in searches within Kenya
- Stronger Brand Trust – Show commitment to the local market
- More Keyword Opportunities – Shorter domains mean better visibility

💡 Want to know why Google partnered with KeNIC and how .KE can give your website a competitive edge?

👉 [Read the full article on our blog](#)

A Guide to Avoid Domain Expiration

The Day Sarah's **www.herbrandname.ke** Almost Disappeared



Could this happen to you?

- How do you check your domain's expiration date?
- What happens if you wait too long to renew?
- How can you avoid losing your domain forever?

💡 Learn from Sarah's experience and get expert tips to protect your website.

👉 [Read the full article on our blog.](#)

KENIC CEO'S PICTORIAL

KeNIC CEO Welcomes Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo for a Familiarization Tour

February: Hon. William Kabogo, Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, visited the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) for a familiarization tour. During his visit, he met with Director General David Mugonyi and the senior management team, touring CA's Cybersecurity Centre and Multimedia Monitoring sections, where he was briefed on critical systems supporting the Authority's mandate.

As KeNIC operates within the CA Complex, the visit was extended to our offices, where CS Kabogo met with our CEO, Andrew Mwanyota Lewela. Discussions focused on KeNIC's role in managing the .KE domain, our efforts in enhancing cybersecurity, and our commitment to supporting Kenya's digital transformation agenda.

KeNIC remains dedicated to fostering a secure, inclusive, and innovative digital ecosystem, working closely with government stakeholders to drive Kenya's digital economy forward.



INTERNAL REWARDS AND RECOGNITION AWARDS

1. Employee of the Year 2024 Awards!



HILDAH MAINA

1st Place: our Finance and Strategy Manager got a well-deserved holiday package, a trophy, and a certificate of recognition.



ROBERT MWANZIA

2nd Place: our Systems Administrator got a shopping voucher, trophy, and a certificate of recognition.



JOEL LUMUMBA

3rd Place: Our Former Relationship Office got a shopping voucher, medal & certificate of recognition.

**Celebrating Excellence:
Recognizing High
Performers and Dedication.**

These awards are a testament to our commitment to nurturing high performers, appreciating hard work, and creating an engaged, motivated workforce.





Celebrating Excellence:

2. Committee Contributions & Service Awards!

KeNIC proudly celebrated the dedication of its employees who have gone above and beyond in enhancing workplace engagement and collaboration. These outstanding team members were recognized for their contributions in:

- ✓ Active participation in 2024 internal committees, including Staff Welfare, Occupational Safety & Health, Rewards & Recognition, and Employee Engagement.
- ✓ Employee Service Awards, set for Q1 2025, honoring their commitment and service.

And the best part? You get a shopping voucher! You get a shopping voucher! Everyone gets shopping vouchers!

A huge round of applause to our amazing team members:

L-R: June Ogana (Customer Care Executive), Evans Muleka (Company Driver), Maureen Fedha (HR & Administrative Assistant), Zipporah Muchiri (Accountant), Abigael Omwenga (Office Assistant), Doreen Khamala (Marketing & Communications Executive), Joel Lumumba (Former Relationship Officer), Gachoki Anne (Relationship Officer), Robert Mwanzia (Systems Administrator), and Fiona Ongeso (People & Administration Manager)

.KE Customer Data Protection Q1 Byte

Data protection refers to the practice of safeguarding personal, sensitive, or business information from unauthorized access, misuse, loss, or breaches.

1.Importance of Data Protection

Data protection is crucial in safeguarding personal and business information from unauthorized access, misuse, or breaches. For .KE domain owners, protecting data ensures business continuity, customer trust, and compliance with legal frameworks. With increasing cyber threats, raising awareness of data security practices is essential for maintaining a secure digital environment.

2.Understanding Personal Data in the .KE Domain Space

When registering a .KE domain, personal data such as names, email addresses, phone numbers, and business address details are collected. This information is vital for domain management but must be handled responsibly. Customers should be aware of how their data is stored, processed, and shared, ensuring they take necessary precautions to safeguard their information.

3.Compliance with Kenya's Data Protection Act

The Kenya Data Protection Act (2019) establishes guidelines for handling personal data. .KE domain registrants must comply by:

- ▶ Understanding their rights as data subjects.
- ▶ Ensuring data minimization and lawful processing.
- ▶ Granting consent for data collection and knowing how to withdraw it.
- ▶ Reporting data breaches to relevant authorities.
- ▶ Ensuring their businesses comply with data protection regulations.

4.Safe Domain Registration and Management Practices

To enhance security during domain registration and management, .KE customers should:

- ▶ Choose accredited and compliant .KE registrars.
- ▶ Use strong passwords and two-factor authentication (2FA) for domain accounts.
- ▶ Regularly update WHOIS information while minimizing public exposure.
- ▶ Enable domain locking to prevent unauthorized transfers.

5.Avoiding Domain-Related Scams and Cyber Threats

Cybercriminals often target domain owners through phishing, impersonation, and domain hijacking. To stay protected:

- ▶ Verify emails and communications claiming to be from registrars before clicking links.
- ▶ Avoid sharing sensitive domain account details.
- ▶ Report any suspicious activity related to domain renewals or transfers.
- ▶ Educate employees on recognizing and avoiding cyber threats.



6. Privacy Protection Measures

To enhance privacy and limit exposure of personal data:

- ▶ Utilize WHOIS privacy services where applicable.
- ▶ Restrict the visibility of personal information in domain records.
- ▶ Manage data-sharing preferences with third-party service providers.
- ▶ Regularly audit who has access to domain management credentials.

7. Secure Digital Practices for Businesses & Individuals

A secure digital presence extends beyond domain management. Businesses and individuals should:

- ▶ Implement SSL certificates for secure website transactions.
- ▶ Use secure email protocols to prevent phishing attacks.
- ▶ Regularly update website software to patch security vulnerabilities.
- ▶ Secure customer data by following best practices in data storage and access control.
- ▶ Use 2FA/MFA.



Kenya Network Information Center (KeNIC)

CAK Centre along Waiyaki Way, Opposite Kianda School

ADMIN SUPPORT: **admin@kenic.or.ke / Info@kenic.or.ke**

MARKETING SUPPORT: **marketing@kenic.or.ke**

CUSTOMER CARE SUPPORT: **customer@kenic.or.ke**

FINANCE SUPPORT: **billing@kenic.or.ke**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: **support@kenic.or.ke**

 **0715 275483**

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HOME OF EVERY **.KE** DOMAIN