



KENYA NETWORK INFORMATION CENTRE



She's got her
.KE Domain

What are you waiting for?
Join the movement

www.kenic.or.ke

STATEMENT FROM THE CEO

"I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the energy and dedication our team has brought into 2026. The theme guiding us this year, #WinningTogether — is not merely a rallying call; it is the spirit we have lived every single day in Q1, through collaboration, discipline, and shared purpose.

Our most defining moment this quarter was the successful execution of the Domain Summit Africa and the African Capacity Building Training, events that brought together 47 international guests from 19 countries, with approximately 150 participants in attendance.

The positive feedback from participants and the strong social media response affirmed what we already believe: KeNIC is a gold standard on the African continent. I am deeply proud of every team member who played a role in making those events a success

Building on 2025's record-breaking 28% business income growth, our focus remains clear, sustaining excellence, strengthening customer experience, and executing with precision across every department.

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

As we move into Q2, I encourage each of you to embrace continuous improvement every contribution, big or small, counts. Let us maintain the discipline and consistency that brought us this far.

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



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

FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS



KeNIC + AFRALTI | Supported by ICANN

P R E S E N T S

Capacity Building and Community Engagement in ccTLDs Management Across Africa

COHORT 2

Mon, 20 Apr 2026 – Fri, 15 May 2026

Mode: Fully Online | Duration: 20 Days

A comprehensive online programme equipping Africa's ccTLD leaders with registry operations, cybersecurity, DNS management, and community engagement skills. Offered in both English and French.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Fully Online
- Bilingual (ENGLISH / FRENCH)
- 20 Days
- For Africa's ccTLD Leaders

Register: kenic.or.ke/training

Training	Module	Duration
Module 1	Understanding a Registry Business	2 Days
Module 2	Operating a Registry Business	2 Days
Module 3	Securing the Registry Business	6 Days
Module 4	Registrar's Internet Infrastructure Management	5 Days
Module 5	Advanced DNS Implementation	5 Days

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Country code domain registries, Country code domain registrars, ISPs & Mobile Network Operators, Government ICT agencies, ICT regulators across Africa, SMEs & entrepreneurs in the domain space, Community network operators and Individuals interested in domain business

FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS



UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE DAY ANNOUNCEMENT - KENYA

In partnership with ICANN and USIU – Africa, we are proud to host the 2026 Universal Acceptance Day.

BACKGROUND OF UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE DAY

First introduced in 2023, Universal Acceptance (UA) Day is an opportunity to mobilize local, national, regional, and global communities and organizations to champion UA on a global scale.

As in past years, UA Day 2026 events will consist of a mix of in-person, virtual, and hybrid sessions held by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), global partners, and regional and local organizations.

The sessions will aim to engage and mobilize top technical and language communities, companies, governments, and Domain Name System (DNS) industry stakeholders to better understand the benefits of UA and how to make their own systems UA-ready.

WHAT IS UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE?

UA is a technical best practice that ensures all valid domain names and email addresses, regardless of script, language or character length, can be equally used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems. While the DNS has changed in recent years, the checks used by many software applications to validate domain names and email addresses remain outdated.

These domain names include new generic top-level domains (e.g., .photography), Internationalized Domain Names (e.g., एमईआईटीवाई.सरकार.भारत/, 红螺寺.网址, صحة.مصر, стопкоронавирус.рф), and country code top-level domains (e.g., .இய). In addition, not all online portals are primed for the opening of a user account with a related email address. That is why awareness of and support for UA is critical for a truly global, multilingual Internet.

BENEFITS OF UA

The current Internet population is made up of more than 6 billion active users, and at least one billion more are expected to come online. Achieving UA for all valid domain names and email addresses is crucial to enabling consumer choice online and achieving digital inclusivity for all of these users. Further, there are important economic and social benefits of supporting multilingual Internet users in their ability to access and connect to ecommerce, local communities and governments, as well as to embrace and proliferate cultural traditions through language.

UA DAY EVENT DETAILS

- 30 April 2026, USIU-A from 2pm – 630pm, available in both physical & virtual formats
- Students and Faculty in ICT and Information Systems
- Check for registration details on www.kenic.or.ke and more about UA here; [UA Day Messages Collation](#)

TOP SUCCESS STORY (Jan, Feb and March)



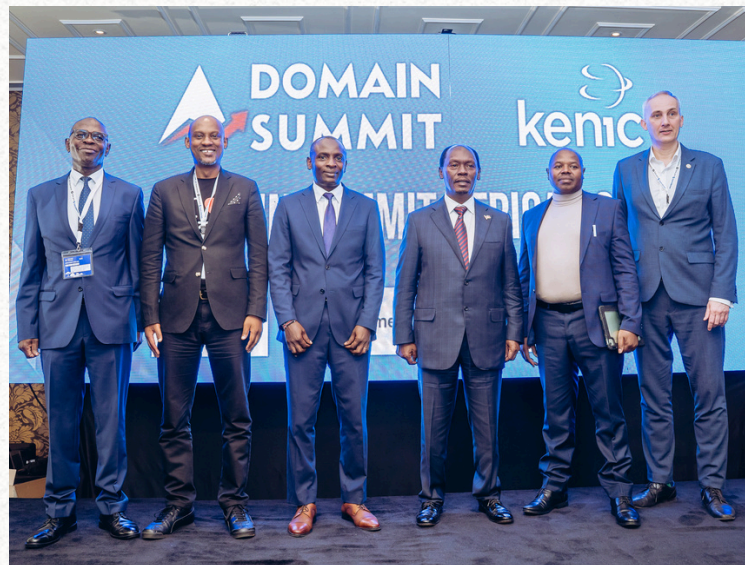
1. KENIC CO-HOSTED DOMAIN SUMMIT AFRICA 2026

The Domain Summit 2026 was successfully hosted by the Kenya Network Information Centre (KeNIC) on 23rd and 24th February 2026. The summit convened key stakeholders from the domain name industry, government, technology sector, and private enterprises to discuss developments, innovation, and opportunities within the domain ecosystem. The event was led by **KeNIC's CEO, Andrew Lewela Mwanyota**, alongside the **Domain Summit Founder, Helmut Meskonis**.

The summit achieved significant success in stakeholder engagement, media visibility, exhibitor participation, and digital growth across KeNIC's social media platforms.

Objectives of the Summit

- Strengthen collaboration within the domain name ecosystem.
- Enhance awareness of the .ke domain and digital identity opportunities.
- Foster partnerships between registry operators, registrars, businesses, and government.
- Increase KeNIC's brand visibility locally and regionally.
- Generate digital engagement and measurable social media growth.



Leaderships & Key Dignitaries

- Paul Kariuki - Chairman, KeNIC
- Thomas Odhiambo, KeNIC Board Vice Chairperson
- Hon. William Kabogo, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT & Digital Economy
- David Mugonyi, Director General Communication Authority of Kenya
- Jessy K Maruti, ICT Authority CEO

Global Partners of the event: Site.pro — AI Website Builder & ERP, it.com Domains LTD, Team Internet, and Freename.

Speakers highlights



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This summit provides an opportunity to reflect on how Africa governs its digital spaces and how we strengthen ownership of our digital future. Country top level domains are at the center of digital sovereignty and how nations manage and secure their online presence. This requires deliberate attention. They are not technical obstructions. They are sovereign digital assets are strategically important in today's economy - such as roads, sea ports and telecommunication infrastructure.

Hon. William Kabogo, EGH
Cabinet Secretary, ICT & Digital Economy

“

We have strengthened strategic integration through MOU with institutions such as the **Business Registration Services (BRS)** and ecitizen placing domain awareness closer to where citizens transact. A domain is not merely a technical term. It's a business address and a trust signature, a digital front door of the modern economy.

Paul Kariuki
Chairman, KeNIC



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The domain industry is entering a new phase. As we all know, security expectations are higher. Governance requirements are stricter. Commercial competition is stronger. The question is no longer just who can register domains. It is who can operate, secure, distribute and scale them responsibly. This is where our structure makes the difference."

Sara Rego
VP Commercial, Team Internet



“

We are in the business of trust and as KeNIC, that's how we see ourselves building the guardrails for our citizens to truly enjoy online identity. To our international delegates, as you go back into countries, you have to put your governments under pressure to deliver meaningful internet, not only access but also cost effective connectivity, reliable and secure. Only on this infrastructure can you lay in value for citizens like domains. Secondly, trust is about building a resilient infrastructure.

If you have a t-shirt, very nice, like mine with a .ke, and in the front of your t-shirt, you have the map of Africa and you touch your heart, you'll be touching Kenya. Kenya is the digital heart of Africa. Fellow countrymen, we have to uphold our leadership as we challenge other countries across Africa. We are the digital heart of Africa.

Andrew Mwanyota
CEO & Chief .KE Evangelist, KeNIC



“

The global internet community determined that it needs more names —creating a timely opportunity for countries, cities, brands, organizations and registered entities (not individuals) to apply for strings of their choice as ICANN opens the next application round this April. This portends significant strategic upside for the domain ecosystem through monetization, brand protection, tourism positioning and digital identity expansion.

Applications will span specialized types, including brand, community, geographic and internationalized domain names across diverse scripts beyond English.

ICANN's role is to facilitate these introductions into the DNS in a structured, secure and orderly manner. In summary, this marks a pivotal, inclusive step forward for the digital economy and the broader domain ecosystem.

Bob Ochieng
Snr Director, ngTLD Program, ICANN



Key Achievements Over The Summit Period

- Successful hosting of a two-day international-standard domain summit
- High-level government representation
- Strong exhibitor participation (18 exhibitors)
- Measurable social media growth and engagement
- Digital media mentions from reputable national platforms
- Structured feedback collection for continuous improvement



Domain Summit Africa 2027

The Domain Summit 2026 held a pre-summit engagement where delegates visited KeNIC offices for informal networking. Importantly, one partner offered to sponsor Domain Summit Africa 2027 event, to be held in Diani. This was a strong testament of the trust and positive perception of .KE that has built over time, and through ongoing engagements coupled with potential that the summit holds.



Conclusion

The Domain Summit 2026 successfully positioned KeNIC as a leader in the domain name ecosystem and reinforced its role in Kenya's digital transformation agenda. The event strengthened stakeholder engagement, enhanced brand visibility, and generated measurable digital growth. The combination of government participation, industry leadership, exhibitor engagement, media coverage, and social media impact demonstrates that the summit achieved both its strategic and communication objectives.

TOP SUCCESS STORY (Jan, Feb and March)



2. KENIC HOSTED COHORT 1:

Building Africa's Digital Backbone — One ccTLD at a Time

The KeNIC × AFRALTI ccTLD Capacity Development Programme, Cohort 1, has concluded — and the results speak for themselves.

36
Participants
Trained

17
African Nations
Represented

4 Weeks
Online + In-
Person Training

What began as an ambitious collaboration between KeNIC and AFRALTI has delivered its first cohort of trained country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) professionals — equipping registry managers and DNS operators across Africa with the skills needed to claim a stronger foothold in the global digital economy.

Cohort 1 ran from 2–27 February 2026, combining two weeks of online sessions with two weeks of intensive in-person training in Nairobi. The programme was officially opened by KeNIC CEO and Chief .KE Evangelist Andrew Mwanyota Lewela, and supported throughout by trainers from both KeNIC and AFRALTI, led by Stephen Gachogu.

Capacity Building and Community Engagement in ccTLDs Management Across Africa

What Participants Covered

The five-module curriculum took delegates from foundational registry concepts to advanced technical implementation spanning DNS fundamentals, domain registration workflows, regulatory and legal frameworks, the role of AI in modern registry operations, BIND configuration, DNSSEC, IPv6, and cloud integration. Delivered in both English and French, with 17 francophone participants supported by trainer Habib Houndekindo of Senegal, who led Module 5 on Advanced DNS.



Voices from the Cohort

Participants and trainers alike left Cohort 1 with more than a certificate — they left with a renewed sense of purpose for Africa's digital future.

Lanica Andreia Mendonça

NIC.gw / Horizon IT Services — Guinea-Bissau

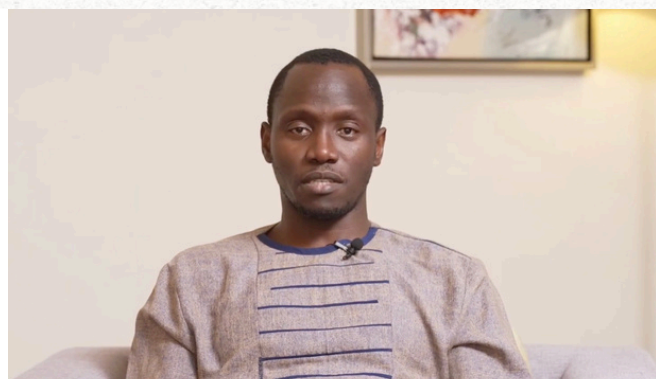
"This programme gave me both the technical foundation and the continental perspective I needed. The bilingual format meant every participant could engage fully, and the peer exchanges across 17 nations were just as valuable as the formal curriculum. I leave ready to lead change in Guinea-Bissau's registry operations."



Habib Houndekindo

French-language Trainer — Senegal

"Leading Module 5 on Advanced DNS for our francophone delegates was a highlight of my career. Seeing participants from Mali, Gabon, Cameroon and beyond master DNSSEC and IPv6 concepts in real time was extraordinary. This bilingual model is essential — it signals that Africa's digital future belongs to everyone."



Suzete Centeio Pereira

Registry Delegate — Cape Verde

"I travelled from Cape Verde expecting to gain technical skills, and I did — but what I didn't expect was the sense of community that formed across all 17 countries. We are not isolated registries; we are one connected ecosystem. I return home energised to share what I've learned and to push Cape Verde's digital presence further."



Vusi Sambo

Chairperson, Eswatini Domain Name Information Centre (EDNIC) — Eswatini

"This training couldn't have come at a better time. At EDNIC, we have just set up the entity mandated to manage the .SZ domain, and this programme has been invaluable — both from a policy perspective and on the technical side. We also had the privilege of meeting colleagues from across Africa and learning from their experiences. Knowing that our situation in operationalising .SZ is not unique to most African countries was itself reassuring. We are going back with a wealth of experience that will help us implement our strategic intent — and we are deeply grateful to KeNIC for this opportunity."



The programme concluded with an African-themed dinner that captured the spirit of the entire cohort. Traditional attire, music, dance, and rich cuisine from across the continent filled the evening with warmth. It was a vivid reminder that while delegates arrived from different nations, they leave as one connected community, united by a shared commitment to Africa's digital future.



COHORT 1 · FEBRUARY 2026 · CCTLD CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

Countries represented

Capacity Building and Community Engagement in ccTLDs Management Across Africa

 Algeria .dz	 Benin .bj	 Botswana .bw	 Burkina Faso .bf	 Cameroon .cm
 Cape Verde .cv	 Congo .cg	 Côte d'Ivoire .ci	 Eswatini .sz	 Gabon .ga
 Gambia .gm	 Guinea .gn	 Guinea-Bissau .gw	 Mali .ml	 Nigeria .ng
 Senegal .sn	 South Sudan .ss			

JANUARY – MARCH 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

1. KeNIC Leads Digital Awareness Initiative at St. Christopher's International School

February: KeNIC participated in a parent engagement session at St. Christopher's International School as part of Digital Citizenship Week, aligned with #SaferInternetDay observed on February 11. Emmanuel Malusi, Cyber Security and Application Analyst, led discussions on the importance of secure and verified digital identities, highlighting how .KE domains support safer and more accountable online spaces. Key focus areas included AI and authenticity, combating misinformation, and protecting digital identity.

KeNIC continues to promote domain verification as a practical trust tool for families and school communities navigating today's digital environment.



2. KeNIC Explores Collaboration with Judiciary Mediation Secretariat



February: KeNIC held a courtesy call with the Mediation Secretariat of the Judiciary to explore potential areas of collaboration and partnership.



3. KeNIC Champions Partner Engagement Ahead of Connected Africa Summit 2026

February: KeNIC was represented by CEO and .KE Chief Evangelist, Andrew Mwanyota Lewela, at the Rallying Partners engagement held on February 20 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in preparation for the Connected Africa Summit 2026.

He delivered brief remarks on behalf of attending CEOs, encouraging partners to invest in and actively participate in the upcoming Summit. The 15th Annual Connected Africa Summit will take place from April 27–30, 2026, under the theme: "Uniting Africa's Innovation for an Inclusive Digital Market."



4. KeNIC Strengthens Cybersecurity Capacity Through National Training Initiative

March: KeNIC joined other cybersecurity stakeholders in marking the conclusion of a five-day training (March 2–6) on Information Sharing & Building Trust Networks organized by the Communications Authority of Kenya.

Represented by Emmanuel Malusi, Cyber Security and Application Analyst, and Brian Anikayi, System Administrator, the team participated in sessions focused on strengthening collaboration in cyber threat intelligence sharing and coordinated incident response. The training included hands-on use of platforms such as MISP and Pinpoint, enhancing capacity for early threat detection and response coordination.

Supported by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office through the Africa Cyber Programme, the initiative underscored the importance of trusted information-sharing networks in addressing evolving cyber threats. KeNIC remains committed to applying these insights to strengthen the security of its network and critical internet infrastructure.



5. KeNIC in Partnership with Site.pro: Why .KE Domains Are Outperforming .COM in 2026



For decades, .COM has been the default domain choice for businesses everywhere — but in 2026 things are changing. According to the latest insights from [Read Kenic's full article on local domains vs .COM](#), local domains like .KE are increasingly outperforming .COM for businesses targeting the Kenyan market.

(.KE) are emerging as a smarter choice for Kenyan businesses — offering advantages in trust, SEO, availability, intent matching, and cost efficiency.

Kenya's leading brands are already making the switch, including [safaricom.co.ke](#), [standardmedia.co.ke](#), and [money.ke](#).

Here's why local domains are gaining ground:

- Cost-effective – .KE domains are generally cheaper to register and renew than .COM, helping businesses save money while securing a strong digital identity.
- More name options – Popular .COM names are often unavailable, whereas .KE unlocks short, brandable domains without compromises.
- Local trust – Users prefer domains aligned with their region, which boosts credibility, conversions, and customer confidence.
- SEO and click-through advantages – Search engines geolocate ccTLDs automatically, helping your site rank higher in Kenya-focused searches.
- Strong local brand identity – A .KE domain signals your business belongs to the Kenyan market, improving memorability and alignment with customer expectations.

Maximize the impact of your .KE domain:

- Use local languages (English and Swahili) on your website.
- Include local contact details and maps.
- Optimize for local SEO.
- Use tools like Site.pro, which combine domain registration, AI-assisted website building, e-commerce features, and fast hosting — all tailored for local businesses.

Bottom line: For most Kenyan businesses targeting local customers, a .KE domain now offers stronger performance, trust, and value than .COM.

[Read the full article](#)



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FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION

f x y t i n d KenicTLD



Kenya Network Information Centre (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**
 **0702 693515**

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