

**COMMUNIQUE PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR FEDERAL MINISTRIES,
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES ON DOMAIN NAME REGISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
HELD AT THE SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, ABUJA ON
WEDNESDAY, 4TH APRIL, 2012**

A one-day National Workshop for Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on Domain Name Registration and Management was organized by the Nigerian Internet Registration Association (NIRA) in collaboration with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and Galaxy Backbone Plc. The event took place at the Shehu Musa Yar'adua Centre, Abuja on April, 4th, 2012. The theme of the workshop was **"Switch to .gov.ng"**.

2. In attendance at the event were the Honourable Minister of Communication Technology, Mrs Omobola Johnson represented by the Deputy-Director, e-governance, Federal Ministry of Communication Technology, Mrs. Moni Udoh; the Director-General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Prof. Cleopas Angaye; Director, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF), Mr. S. Akinnusi; Director, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), Mr. Ibrahim Aliyu; Special Adviser on National Security, Mr. Hakeem Ajijola amongst others.

3. The Honourable Minister in her keynote address stated that the Domain name ending with ".ng" is a natural Resource which is a unique identifier for every Nigerian on the World Wide Web while ".gov.ng" is exclusively preserved to be used by all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). She stated that mass migration to the .ng domain by MDAs and other Nigerians will ensure the implementation of the first step in the e-government strategy aimed at connecting government within itself and with the citizens of Nigeria on a safe common platform that will increase local traffic and thus reduce the overall cost of governance.

4. Presenting the welcome address, the Director-General, NITDA, Prof. C. Angaye said the issue of increasing local content and advancing the patronage of "Made in Nigeria" ICT products and services cannot be over-emphasized. According to him, the workshop is therefore expected to come out with strategies that could further enhance and consolidate on the gains of ICT development in the country. He further said that necessary strategies for enhancing the use of .ng domain name must be proposed while MDAs that are yet to migrate should be encouraged to comply.

5. The event featured two technical sessions, where eight papers were presented. These were followed by questions and answers. After exhaustive discussions, the Workshop observed that:

- a. The domain name .gov.ng creates a unique identity for the country;

- b. MDAs are created to render services, and essential that it promotes same through the digital environment through websites, and thus recognizes the need to migrate to the gov.ng domain;
 - c. There is low level of awareness of the importance of official of domain;
 - d. It is important that official transaction of government be done true secured e-mails with domain name .gov.ng rather than unsecured ones like yahoo, hotmail, gmail etc;
 - e. NIRA has put in place a robust, distributed, secured and stable registry infrastructure for the country;
6. The Workshop thus recommended as follows:
- i. All MDAs should use .gov.ng domain name string for their websites and email addresses; while all civil servants should have email addresses with domain name that ends with .gov.ng;
 - ii. There is need for Federal, States and Local Governments to establish e-Communication Centres for building the literacy levels of the citizens;
 - iii. There is need for all government officials to have designated e-mail addresses and also personal e-mails with .gov.ng; however forwarders be set to the private emails, and then cut off when such officials leaves the office;
 - iv. MDAs should Access Staff ICT Literacy Levels at all times and conduct Staff ICT Literacy Improvement Plan;
 - v. By the year 2020 an MSME based Cyber Security Solutions economic sub-sector should be in place principally driven by suitably empowered knowledge workers below 35 years of age;
 - vi. The Federal Government should set up a committee to review the various cyber threats and how to address them;
 - vii. Galaxy backbone should utilize its existing relationships with the MDAs and work specifically with the Ministry of Communication Technology on Sensitization as well as Change Management for DNS and registry migrations. The benefits of utilizing a common and uniform domain(.gov.ng) for transacting business should also be communicated effectively to stakeholders;
 - viii. Access to unsecured emails such as Yahoo, Hotmail, Facebook etc. in government establishments should be blocked in due course because they are time wasters;
 - ix. Federal Government should consider putting in place the Office of the IT General of the Federation to manage issues of IT, capacity building, posting and deployment of staff of MDAs amongst others;

- x. NITDA should as a matter of necessity publish the compliance guideline on the .gov.ng for awareness creation; and
- xi. All MDAs should register their domain names through the Galaxy Backbone Plc.