

LEGAL NOTICE NO.

THE KENYA INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ACT
(Cap. 411A)

**THE KENYA INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOMAIN NAMES
ADMINISTRATION) REGULATIONS, 2026**

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THE KENYA INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ACT
(Cap. 411A)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by sections 27(1) and 83F of the Kenya Information and Communications Act, the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy makes the following Regulations—

THE KENYA INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOMAIN NAMES ADMINISTRATION) REGULATIONS, 2026

PART I—PRELIMINARY	
Citation.	1. These Regulations may be cited as the Kenya Information and Communications (Domain Names Administration) Regulations, 2026.
Interpretation. <i>Cap. 411A.</i>	2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires— “Act” means the Kenya Information and Communications Act; “accredit” means to identify and set standards for the performance of registration functions, to recognise entities meeting those standards, and to enter into an accreditation agreement setting out the rules and procedures applicable to the provision of registrar services; “administrative contact” means the person responsible for the maintenance of a domain name; “Authority” means the Communications Authority of Kenya established under section 3 of the Act; “contact address” means a physical address, an active telephone number and an electronic mail address, and includes a facsimile number where applicable; “.ke ccTLD” means Kenya’s country code top-level domain; “domain name” means an alphanumeric string registered under the .ke country code top-level domain in accordance with these Regulations; “Domain Name System” means the hierarchical naming system in which internet domain names are located and translated into internet protocol addresses; “establishment documents” includes a charter, a certificate of registration or incorporation, a trust deed by which a trust is established, or any other instrument by which a body is established, including its governing and administrative structure; “ICANN” means the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; “registrant” means a person to whom a domain name is registered;

	“registrant agreement” means the agreement between a Registrar and a registrant governing the registration and use of a domain name and compliance with the Act and these Regulations; “Registrar” means an entity licensed by the Authority under section 83F of the Act to register, manage or modify domain names on behalf of registrants; “registrar fees” means the fees charged by a Registrar to a registrant in accordance with the pricing frameworks or determinations approved by the Authority; “registrar services” means the services performed by a Registrar for the registration and management of domain names within sub-domains; “registration” means the allocation and activation of a domain name to a registrant pursuant to a licence issued under section 83F of the Act; “Registry” means an entity licensed by the Authority under section 83F of the Act to operate and administer the .ke ccTLD or a delegated sub-domain; “registry data” means all the data maintained in the Registry database by a Registry, including— (a) domain names; (b) Registrar names and contact information; (c) registrant names and contact information; (d) zone records; (e) registration and renewal dates; and (f) all other data submitted by the Registrars concerning particular domain names, as may be specified in the registrar agreement; “Registry database” means a database comprising registry data; “registry services” means the services performed by the Registry in accordance with these Regulations, including the generation of DNS resource records published authoritatively, and responses to domain name availability lookups or WHOIS requests for some or all of the domain names; “reseller” means an appointed agent or representative of a Registrar; “technical contact” means the entity responsible for maintaining the primary name server for a domain name and for effecting technical changes to a domain name; and “WHOIS” means an enquiry and response protocol used to query databases which store the registered users or assignees of an internet resource.
Objects of the Regulations.	3. The objects of these Regulations are to— (a) provide a framework for the administration and management of the .ke ccTLD; (b) specify the requirements for the licensing of Registrars and the Registry; and

	(c) promote security, stability, integrity and accountability in the administration of domain names in Kenya.
PART II—LICENSING AND REGISTRY GOVERNANCE	
Application for a licence.	4. (1) A person who intends to provide registry services or registrar services shall apply to the Authority for a licence for the relevant category of licence. (2) The procedure for the making, the fees payable, evaluation and determination of an application under sub-regulation (1), is that set out in the regulations made under the Act relating to general licensing. (3) An applicant shall maintain a physical address in Kenya, or an agent in Kenya, and shall provide all the relevant details thereof. (4) A licence issued under these Regulations may be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Authority may specify in writing.
Eligibility requirements of a Registry.	5. (1) An applicant intending to operate and administer the .ke ccTLD or a delegated sub-domain shall apply to the Authority for a Registry licence in accordance with these Regulations. (2) In addition to the requirements for an application under regulation 4, an applicant for a Registry licence shall submit the policy documents specified under regulation 6(1). (3) Subject to the Act and these Regulations, where the Authority determines that a Registry does not have the requisite capabilities, or is in contravention of the Act or these Regulations, the Authority may— (a) suspend the services of the Registry; (b) revoke the licence issued to the Registry; or (c) appoint an alternative Registry or an interim administrator to continue providing registry services. (4) In making a determination under this regulation, the Authority shall act in accordance with the Fair Administrative Action Act.
Registry policy documents.	6. (1) A Registry shall develop and implement the relevant administrative and operational policies to facilitate the effective discharge of its obligations under these Regulations, including— (a) an accreditation policy for Registrars and resellers; (b) a dispute resolution policy; (c) a code of practice for Registrars and resellers; (d) a data and information sharing policy; (e) a policy governing registration requests, verification procedures, the prevention of speculative and abusive registrations, and the identification of bad-faith registrations and use;

	(f) a policy on the protection of intellectual property rights; (g) a Registrar agreement and a registrant agreement governing registration services and access to the Registry database; and (h) a WHOIS policy. (2) The policy documents referred to in sub-regulation (1), together with any revisions thereto, shall be furnished to the Authority for its records and made publicly available on the official website of the Registry.
Validity and renewal of a Registry licence.	7. (1) A Registry licence is valid for the period, not exceeding twenty-five years, specified in the licence. (2) The procedure for the renewal of a Registry licence is as set out in the regulations relating to general licensing made under the Act.
WHOIS database.	8. (1) The Registry shall establish and maintain a WHOIS database to promote the security, stability and resilience of the .ke ccTLD, and shall ensure that the registration information for the domain names in the database is accurate and up to date. (2) The WHOIS database shall contain the necessary and relevant information about the points of contact administering the domain names under the .ke ccTLD and about the registrants. (3) The information on the WHOIS database referred to in sub-regulation (2) shall be limited to the purpose of the database.
Oversight by the Authority.	9. (1) The Authority shall monitor and supervise the administration, financial soundness and management of the .ke ccTLD to ensure compliance with the Act and these Regulations. (2) For the purposes of sub-regulation (1), the Authority may request additional information or documentation from the Registry, and issue directions to the Registry for correcting or improving the organisation, administration and management of the .ke ccTLD.
General obligations of the Registry.	10. A Registry shall, for the duration of the licence— (a) accredit Registrars; (b) receive, process and register domain name applications; (c) receive payments for, and renew, domain name registrations; (d) accept, process, store and disseminate registry data; (e) implement, maintain and enhance the technical and administrative infrastructure to ensure that suitable service levels are met, including the maintenance of a system which is resilient, robust and available; (f) provide support services to the Registrars; (g) implement the domain name dispute resolution decisions applicable to its sub-domain;

	(h) notify the Authority, within twenty-four hours of becoming aware of an issue which may significantly impede the operations of the Registry; (i) convene consultative forums to promote compliance with the Act and these Regulations and to promote information sharing; and (j) advise the Authority on policy, operational requirements and other considerations with respect to the sub-domain of the Registry.
Specific terms and conditions applicable to the Registry.	11. (1) In addition to the general obligations under regulation 10, the Registry shall— (a) preserve the security and stability of its delegated sub-domain, the .ke ccTLD and the Domain Name System in general; (b) comply with the Act, these Regulations and the applicable policies and procedures approved by the Authority; (c) operate in accordance with internationally accepted technical standards, to the extent consistent with the Act and these Regulations; (d) provide all accredited Registrars with access to the Registry domain platform in accordance with the Registrar agreement; and (e) meet any technical and operational standards set by the Authority. (2) Subject to the notification to the Authority, the Registry may develop and implement additional policies and procedures for the effective administration of the Domain Name System.
Change or modification of domain names.	12. (1) The Registry may change or modify domain name data in the Registry on the written request of a registrant through the Registrar, within five days of receipt of the request. (2) Despite sub-regulation (1), a Registrar may submit to the Registry a request to change or modify data. (3) Where the Registry makes a change or modification of domain name data under this regulation, the Registry shall record and keep the particulars of the change or modification. (4) A change or modification of domain name data shall not affect the original expiry date of a registered domain name.
Application of international standards.	13. A Registry shall operate in accordance with internationally accepted best practices, including the relevant ICANN standards, to the extent consistent with the Act and these Regulations.
PART III—REGISTRARS	
Validity and renewal of a Registrar licence.	14. (1) A Registrar licence is valid for the period, not exceeding twenty-five years, specified in the licence.

	(2) The procedure for the renewal of a Registrar licence is that set out in the regulations relating to general licensing made under the Act. (3) A Registrar licence may be subject to such terms and conditions as the Authority may specify.
Application for a domain name registration.	15. (1) A person may apply for a .ke ccTLD domain name through a Registrar by— (a) submitting a completed application through the official website of the Registrar, or through such other channels as are approved by the Registrar; and (b) paying the applicable registration fees and any charges related to the registration. (2) A Registrar shall, on receipt of a complete application under sub-regulation (1), verify the identification details of the applicant and notify the applicant of the outcome within five working days. (3) On being satisfied with the details of the applicant, the Registrar and the applicant may enter into an agreement for the registration and management of the domain name. (4) The registrant agreement referred to in sub-regulation (3) shall include— (a) the consent of the applicant for the Registry to access the data of the registrant for the purposes of registration and management; (b) termination provisions for a material breach; (c) the conditions under which a registrant may change the Registrar at no cost; and (d) provisions requiring compliance by the parties, where applicable, with the Act, these Regulations, the technical specifications issued by the Authority and the Registry, and the relevant laws, policies or guidelines. (5) On the execution of the registrant agreement, the Registrar shall submit the accurate and verified details of the applicant to the Registry for the activation and registration of the domain name. (6) On activation and registration, the Registrar shall assign the use of the registered domain name to the registrant.
Transfer of domain names.	16. (1) A domain name may be transferred to a new registrant on a written request to the Registry through the Registrar. (2) The Registrar shall, within five days of receipt of a request for the transfer of a registered domain name, submit the request for the transfer to the Registry. (3) The transfer of a domain name shall not affect the original expiry date of the domain name.
Validity and renewal of a domain name	17. (1) A registered domain name is valid for a period of one year.

	(2) A registered domain name may be renewed for periods not exceeding five years in the aggregate at any one time, on payment of the applicable renewal fees. (3) A registrant may apply for the renewal of a domain name to the Registry, through the Registrar, before the expiry of the domain name, in the manner specified by the Registry and on payment of any applicable fee. (4) A Registrar shall give a registrant at least sixty days' notice before the expiry of a domain name. (5) Where a registered domain name is not renewed before its expiry date, it shall enter a protection period of ninety days from the date of expiry. (6) Where a domain name is not renewed within the protection period under sub-regulation (5), the domain name shall be deleted.
Deletion of a domain name.	18. A registered domain name may be deleted where— (a) a request for deletion is submitted to the Registry by the registrant through the Registrar; (b) the domain name has expired and is not renewed within the protection period; (c) it is identical or confusingly similar to a name the right to which is recognised under national or international law; (d) it has been registered by a domain name holder who has no right or legitimate interest in it; (e) it was registered primarily for the purpose of being sold to a person whose right is legally recognised or established in Kenya; (f) it has been registered for the purpose of preventing its legitimate owner, who is legally recognised or established in Kenya, from reflecting that name in a corresponding domain name; (g) it was registered primarily for the purpose of disrupting the business of a competitor; (h) it was intentionally registered to attract internet or website users for commercial gain by creating a likelihood of confusion with a domain name corresponding to a rightful holder who is legally recognised or established in Kenya; (i) it is a personal name for which there is no demonstrable link between the domain name holder and the domain name registered; or (j) the information kept in relation to the domain name in the Registry is false, inaccurate or misleading.
General obligations of a Registrar.	19. (1) A Registrar shall, in exercising its duties under these Regulations— (a) register domain names on behalf of its registrants in compliance with these Regulations;

	(b) submit to the Registry all the necessary information on the registrants; (c) maintain accurate records with regard to the domains issued; (d) ensure that the information and data provided by a registrant are submitted to the Registry in a complete and accurate manner; (e) take all reasonable steps to verify the information and data, and notify the registrant of the consequences of submitting false information or data; (f) on request by the Registry, submit, within the time specified in the notice or in any case not later than fourteen days of receiving the request, the documents which may be used to verify the completeness and accuracy of the submitted registrant data; (g) implement, maintain and enhance the technical and administrative infrastructure to ensure that suitable service levels are met, including the maintenance of a system which is resilient, robust and available; (h) update the Registry database with the sub-domain registration information; (i) register domain names where the registrant has complied with the requirements of the Act, these Regulations and the registrant agreement; (j) ensure the non-disclosure of the personal data of the registrants to a third party, unless required by law enforcement agencies pursuant to a court order or statute; (k) ensure that a correct configuration of the technical infrastructure is used in communications with the Registry; (l) provide to the Registry an active contact telephone number, staffed on a twenty-four-hour basis, for the resolution of technical and operational issues; and (m) process the personal data of persons kept in the Registry in compliance with the data protection law. (2) A Registrar shall ensure that the registrants submit the following information in relation to each domain name— (a) identification details; (b) a physical address; (c) an electronic mail address; (d) a telephone number; (e) the contact details of the Registrar; (f) the contact details of the technical and administrative contacts; and (g) zone records. (3) A Registrar shall ensure that the information submitted under sub-regulation (2) complies with the requirements of these Regulations.
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	(4) On the registration of a domain name, the Registrar shall update the Registry database with the information which the Registrar collects from the registrant during the registration process.
Specific terms and conditions for a Registrar.	20. In addition to the general obligations under regulation 19, a Registrar shall— (a) ensure that its information system is interoperable with that of the Registry; (b) ensure that the registry data stored in the Registry database is kept accurate and up to date; (c) pay any applicable regulatory and Registry fees to the Authority and the Registry, as the case may be; (d) register domain names and, where necessary, update the information associated with each registered domain name in the Registry database; and (e) comply with any technical and other operational standards prescribed by the Authority from time to time, including the implementation of new technologies and advances.
PART IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS	
Winding up of operations.	21. (1) Subject to the approval of the Authority, where a Registry or a Registrar intends to discontinue its operations, the Registry or Registrar shall— (a) give the Authority and its Registrars or registrants, as applicable, a minimum of six months’ notice, in writing, of its intention to discontinue its operations; and (b) publish its intention to discontinue its operations in at least two newspapers of nationwide circulation. (2) In addition to the requirements set out under sub-regulation (1), a Registry or a Registrar shall— (a) arrange for its Registrars or registrants to be on-boarded by another licensed Registry or Registrar; (b) make arrangements for its records to be archived in a secure manner; and (c) with the written approval of the Authority, transfer its records to another Registry or Registrar in a secure manner. (3) A Registry or a Registrar which contravenes this regulation commits an offence.
Obligations of registrants.	22. Every registrant shall— (a) have the right to use the domain name during the validity of the registration; and (b) provide the Registrar with accurate and reliable information on the domain registration, and update it as necessary.

Records.	23. (1) A Registrar shall keep records of the registered domain names and all the details of the holders, and shall provide the records to the Authority or the Registry on request. (2) A Registry or a Registrar shall archive all the relevant information and data, as specified by the Authority, in at least electronic and paper form, for a period of at least seven years after the end of the contractual relationship with a Registrar or a registrant, as the circumstances may permit.
List of reserved names.	24. The Registry shall publish on its website a list of reserved domain names, including government names, the names of international internet bodies, one-character names and two-character names.
Data protection. <i>Cap. 411C.</i>	25. (1) The Registry and the Registrars shall keep the personal information of the registrants in the Registry database confidential, and shall not provide access to the personal information of the registrants to a third party, except as provided by law or a court order. (2) The Data Protection Act applies to the processing of personal data under these Regulations.
Security procedures.	26. (1) The Registry and the Registrars shall comply with any relevant security procedures, in addition to their internal security procedures. (2) The Registry and the Registrars shall retain a backup copy of the data in the system, and shall establish security procedures in a manner which ensures the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the information system and the ability to restore the information in the case of loss, alteration or destruction.
Periodic audits.	27. (1) The Authority, or its appointed agent, shall, at least once every financial year, audit the operations of the Registry and the Registrars to evaluate compliance with the Act and these Regulations. (2) A Registry or a Registrar shall, when requested to do so by the Authority— (a) provide such assistance as may be required; (b) respond, in writing, to enquiries; and (c) provide the information, resources or data in its possession or control which is reasonably required for the purposes of an audit under sub-regulation (1).
Dispute resolution mechanisms.	28. Where a dispute arises in relation to the registration of a domain name, the aggrieved party shall seek redress through the dispute resolution mechanisms established by the Registry.
Sanctions.	29. A person who contravenes these Regulations commits an offence and is liable, in addition to the penalty provided under the Act, to a fine not exceeding one million shillings.
Application of the General Licensing Regulations.	30. The regulations relating to general licensing made under the Act apply, with the necessary modifications and to the extent that they are not inconsistent

	with these Regulations, to any matter concerning a licence under these Regulations for which these Regulations do not otherwise provide.
Revocation. <i>L.N. No. 116 of 2010.</i>	31. The Kenya Information and Communications (Electronic Certification and Domain Name Administration) Regulations, 2010 are revoked, to the extent that they relate to the administration of domain names.
Savings and transitional provisions.	32. (1) Despite regulation 31, a licence held by the entity in continuous operation as the administrator of the .ke ccTLD at the commencement of these Regulations continues in force for the remainder of its term. (2) A right, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the revoked Regulations continues as if acquired, accrued or incurred under these Regulations. (3) Proceedings, instruments and rights of review or appeal subsisting immediately before the commencement of these Regulations continue as if instituted or made under these Regulations. (4) A period of time which began to run under the revoked Regulations and had not expired immediately before the commencement of these Regulations continues to run as if it had commenced under these Regulations.

Made on the, 2026.

WILLIAM KABOGO GITAU,
Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy.