

**'ng' registrations on the up, but government agency urges cyber patriotism
Nigeria - Hogan Lovells**

**Internet issues
Domain names**

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- Registrations under '.ng' passed the 100,000 mark in 2017, but new registrations and renewals slowed down in last quarter
- NITDA called upon government and private sector organisations to use Nigerian data centres
- Hosting data locally would help boost local economy

The [Nigeria Internet Registration Association](#) (NiRA), the registry responsible for running the '.ng' domain name space, has announced that domain name registrations under '.ng' passed the 100,000 mark in 2017. At the same time, NiRA noted a slowdown in new domain name registrations and renewals over October, November and December 2017.

According to NiRA, one of the reasons for this slowdown is the general decrease in (Nigerian) consumer spending, as consumers prioritised spending on essentials. Nonetheless, the number of active '.ng' domain names increased by almost 25,000, from 76,907 active domain names in December 2016 to 101,695 active domain names in December 2017.

Whilst the increase in the number of '.ng' domain names was welcomed, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) (a Nigerian federal government agency created in April 2001 to implement the Nigerian Information Technology Policy and coordinate general IT development and regulation in Nigeria) called upon government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as private sector organisations to use Nigerian data centres.

In a statement issued in December 2017 by the director general of NITDA, Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Panta, NITDA recognised that the need for hosting data and information was an inevitable consequence of the progress made with regards to the use of information and communication technology (ICT). However, NITDA noted its disappointment that there is a general practice amongst both public and private sector organisations of hosting data "offshore", despite, in the view of NITDA, there being available local and highly reliable data centres, which have been "certified by various international organisations".

In addition, NITDA believes that hosting data locally will facilitate "reductions in cost and capital flight", as well as help stimulate digital job creation, increased security and an increase in tax revenues, all of which will help boost the Nigerian economy. The NITDA statement also quoted Section 14.1 of the Guidelines for Nigerian Content Development in ICT, which stipulates that it is a mandatory requirement for data and information management firms to "host government data locally within the country and shall not for any reason host any government data outside the country without an express approval from NITDA".

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