

## PRESS RELEASE

# **.tz domain name registration services**

### **Now available at the Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC)**

Many Tanzanians and institutions doing business in Tanzania use generic domain names such as **hotmail.com**, **yahoo.com** or **xyz-tanzania.com** to be able to send and receive e-mails or to have their content online (websites). Very few users and institutions in Tanzania have their domain names ending with dot tz (a unique identity on the Internet that is associated with Tanzania). As of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009, for example, there were about 5,200 dot tz domain names registered! This was just 1% of the Internet users in Tanzania as per International Telecommunication Union (ITU) statistics of June 2009 (<http://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm>).

Dot tz country code Top Level Domain (.tz ccTLD) is a National communication resource just like +255 – the Tanzania country code for phone usage. In simpler terms, .tz identifies our country on the Internet. This as all natural resources must therefore be managed in the public interest of the individual sovereign country. To this end the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in exercise of its mandate, teamed up with the local Internet community to set up a National Committee to advise on how best to manage this resource. Arising from the Committee's work, was the establishment of Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) whose key responsibility would be to manage the Internet Registry for .tz domain names.

Since its establishment, tzNIC has been busy setting up the .tz Registry system so as to have full control of the .tz ccTLD and also provide the .tz domain name registrations. tzNIC is now in a position to offer the domain registration services and has a target of taking full control of .tz ccTLD by end of December 2009.

Throughout this period tzNIC has been operating with support from its founding members, TCRA and TISPA (Tanzania Internet Service Providers Association). This support has been given with the understanding that tzNIC will in the medium to long term be able to operate sustainably. In an effort to meet this goal, the Centre will be providing registry services to the country at cost based fees ranging from TZS 5,000.00 to TZS 25,000.00.

For a smooth transition and to encourage new dot tz domain name registrations, tzNIC has resolved as follows:

- a) Existing domains will **NOT** be charged the registration fee.
- b) Annual maintenance fee will be charged to the existing domains when due (after one year period from the time when they were populated into tzNIC name servers). This will be in July 2010.
- c) Domain names that will be registered from **1<sup>st</sup> November 2009** to **31<sup>st</sup> December 2009** will **ONLY** be charged the **annual maintenance fee**.
- d) With effect from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2010** new domain names will be registered after paying **BOTH** the **registration** and **maintenance fees**.

Note should be made that in offering its services, the Centre has adopted a shared Registry-Registrar-Registrant operational model so as to effectively and competitively meet its clients' requirements. This model allows tzNIC to provide Registry services in parallel with other Registrars. The public will be advised on who the recognized Registrars are and their places of business.

Finally, tzNIC calls upon the country to take up this service for *nothing identifies Tanzania in cyber space like dot tz does.*

*dot tz for your identity.*

### About tzNIC

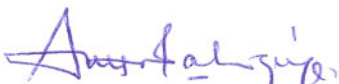
Tanzania Network Information Centre (tzNIC) is a not-for-profit organization established in 2006 for the purpose of managing the .tz ccTLD. It is registered as a company limited by guarantee. tzNIC strives to promote the utilization of .tz domain names; enhance its technical capacity in administering and managing the .tz registry; protect registrants' interests and harmonize the .tz ccTLD management policies at National and International levels. tzNIC facilitates e-commerce and e-governance, enhances creation and availability of local content online, ensures affordability of domain names and enables unique identity of Tanzania in cyber space.

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