



Africa's map in the digital inclusion!

Ref: dotafrica/2011/12/19

December 19, 2011

The Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292-6601,
United States of America

Dear Sir,

Re: A Request for the Official Public Answer of ICANN to the Request Made by the African Union Commission to Include DotAfrica in the Top-Level Reserved Names List

We begin by extending our warmest compliments of the Christmas Season to the ICANN Board, Executives and Staff, and the entire global community that ICANN represents; and also use this opportunity to congratulate ICANN for yet another successful year – an important year that saw the conclusion/approval of the wide-ranging plan to expand the Internet Domain Name System (DNS) through the comprehensive global programme to introduce new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs). DotConnectAfrica wishes ICANN many more years of great successes based on its transparent multi-stakeholder model, even as we reiterate our continued support and cooperation with ICANN in its various activities for the maintenance and governance of a sustainable and secure Internet for our world.

You are probably aware that DCA intends to apply for the DotAfrica geographic top-level domain through the ICANN new gTLD programme when the application round commences on January 12, 2012. DCA is also aware that the African Union Commission had requested the ICANN Board via official Communiqué at Dakar Senegal to include DotAfrica in the List of Top-Level Reserved Names contrary to the present version of the new gTLD Applicant's Guidebook published by ICANN. We believe that if ICANN accedes to this extraordinary request by the African Union, this will automatically make the DotAfrica gTLD string unavailable, and could stop prospective applicants such as DCA from further participation in the process.

We had expected the ICANN Special Board Meeting that took place on 8th December 2011 to provide a public answer to the AU requests as indicated in the adopted ICANN Resolution of 28th October 2011 (**Re: - "Resolved (2011.10.28.35), the Board commits to reviewing and considering each of the 12 requests presented within that Communiqué."**)

Accordingly, since this is such an important matter, with grave implications for the availability of the DotAfrica gTLD string which DCA intends to apply for, we would like to know the outcome of that review, and hereby request that ICANN's official decision be made public as soon as possible to enable us further calibrate our efforts prior to the commencement of the new gTLD programme.

Thanking you in anticipation as we look forward to hearing from you soonest, as we once again wish a Merry Christmas to you and your team.

Yours sincerely,

Sbekele

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cc. Chairman of ICANN, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)