

# Your data bundle will soon last longer

**F**or years, Ugandans have shared a common frustration: buying a data bundle at 8:00pm and finding it exhausted by midnight after just a few WhatsApp videos. While many blame service providers, a large part of the problem has been an invisible technical inefficiency – our data was “traveling abroad” just to reach someone across the street in Kampala.



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This week, the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, in partnership with NITA-U, officially launched the National IP Peering Exchange (NIPX). While the name sounds like technical jargon, for the average Ugandan, it represents the most significant step towards “digital sovereignty” and affordable internet in a decade.

## THE “TOURIST” DATA PROBLEM

Before the NIPX, if you sent a WhatsApp video to a friend in Wandegaya, that data often travelled through undersea cables to servers in Europe or North America before “flying” back to Uganda. This “international routing” acted like a hidden digital tax.

## ENTER THE NIPX: UGANDA'S LOCAL DIGITAL SHORTCUT

The NIPX acts as a central, neutral “roundabout” for all internet traffic in Uganda. Instead of your data taking a flight to London and back, it now stays within our borders. By allowing local networks to connect directly, we have created a digital shortcut that bypasses the expensive international route.

## HOW THIS IMPACTS YOUR WALLET AND EXPERIENCE:

- **Reduced data costs:** When ISPs no longer have to pay high international transit fees for local traffic, their operational costs drop. These savings are the “fuel” that enables more competitive and cheaper data bundles for the final consumer.
- **Faster speeds and no “lagging”:** Because the “trip” is shorter, video calls on WhatsApp or Zoom will be significantly smoother. By keeping traffic local, NIPX slashes “latency”.
- **Massive efficiency:** With a staggering peering capacity of 400 Gbps, the NIPX is built to handle the demands of Uganda’s growing digital economy, ensuring that more Ugandans go online.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

Beyond your wallet, this is a landmark win for national security. By localising our traffic, our national network becomes more resilient. Whether you are accessing e-government services at NIRA, checking your tax status, or participating in online education, the NIPX ensures that Uganda’s internet remains fast and accessible, even if international undersea cables face disruptions.

## THE ROAD AHEAD

The launch of the NIPX is a cornerstone of the Digital Transformation Roadmap. As content creators, government agencies and tech hubs plug into this exchange, we are finally building an infrastructure that is truly Ugandan – fast, local and affordable. The next time you load a bundle, remember: your data is no longer a tourist. It is finally staying home. ”

*The writer is a certified cybersecurity and digital expert*