

NITA-U, partners push for network resilience and reliability

By Simon Okitela

Government has taken a bold step towards reducing latency, lowering the cost of internet services, enhancing network resilience and strengthening Uganda's digital sovereignty with the launch of the National IP Peering Exchange (NIPX).

The NIPX is Uganda's first neutral and open Internet Exchange Point (IXP), a platform that enables Internet Service Providers (ISPs), content providers, cloud platforms, data centres and government networks to exchange internet traffic locally and efficiently within the country.

The platform was launched recently at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala, spearheaded by the National Information Technology Authority—Uganda (NITA—U),

in collaboration with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and partners.

The move represents a key deliverable under the Digital Uganda Strategy and Vision 2040 that seeks to address long-standing inefficiencies where even domestic internet traffic was routed through expensive international pathways before returning to Uganda, a situation that increased costs and reduced performance.

The NIPX operates on globally recognised best practices open peering, non-discriminatory access and shared governance.

INTERNET FOR EVERY UGANDAN

According to the director of technical services, Richard Obita, the move guarantees transparency, affordability and reliability of the internet much needed for economic growth.



Front row: Baryomunsi (right), Obita (second-right) with the NITA-U team and partners during the launch at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala recently

“The NIPX has been deliberately designed under neutral ownership where it is neither owned nor controlled by the government, hence ensuring that no single entity has controlling interest. This creates a genuine level playing field for all participants,” said Obita.

“It delivers three immediate benefits: significantly lower latency for faster user experience, reduced operational costs by minimising reliance on international bandwidth and greater reliability even during international link disruptions,” he added.

BETWEEN THE LINES
 For Ugandans, this means smoother video calls, faster access to e-government services, improved online learning, and more affordable data packages.

Dr Aminah Zawedde, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, in a speech read for her by Commissioner Kenneth Bagarukayo, described the platform launch as timely.

“For many years, even local internet traffic in Uganda has been forced to take long and expensive routes through international networks, only to return home. This practice has functioned as a hidden digital cost, increasing expenses for businesses and consumers while slowing down the delivery of digital services,” Zawedde said.

This move also enhances control over critical digital assets and strengthens national security by safeguarding sensitive information.

Godfrey Sserwamukoko, the chairperson of the Internet

FOREX RATES

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	3,755	3,790
EURO	4,380	4,450
POUND	5,050	5,130
KENYA SH	28.5	30.0
TZ SH	1.3	1.55
DHIRAM	970	1,050
S.A.RAND	231	250
JAPANESE YEN	18	30
RWANDESE FRANCS	2.0	3.1
DOLLAR OLDER & SMALLER	3,600	3,790

COMPILED BY MOSES KIGONGO
 RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Service Providers Association of Uganda, lauded the move.

“We look forward to active collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure maximum participation and to realise the full benefits of faster and more affordable internet services for businesses and citizens across Uganda,” he stated.