

# **Legal Implications of Greater Proliferation of Internet Use in Uganda**

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Guest of Honor; Prof Tim Berners-Lee

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# **Presentation outline**

1. Legal Implications of greater internet proliferation in Uganda.
2. Proposals – how can we make the most of the opportunities.
3. Conclusion.

# Implications of greater internet proliferation

- There is likelihood of a rise in copyright and trademark infringement disputes largely around software, music and art. This will be more so when service marks are incorporated under the amended Trademarks Act.
- As the internet becomes a well recognized forum for commerce, conclusion of electronic contracts will lead to greater business as well as new disputes.
- There will be greater convergence in the media industry as TV moves from analogue to digital and blogging becomes more

# More implications

- Identity theft, computer crime and its associated evils will pose a greater challenge, especially for those who conduct business online.
- There will be greater convergence between traditional financial services and IT/telecoms services through paperless money transactions(e-payments) and mobile money transfer – MMT.
- Faster internet and wider access will create unprecedented opportunities for Ugandan brands to showcase themselves to the region and the world in the new knowledge

## 2. Some proposals

- Creation of local content needs to be encouraged and given specific incentives as there are tremendous spill over effects on the wider economy.
- Data protection and privacy are not explicitly provided for under the new proposed 'cyber laws'. There is need for this area to be urgently addressed and for any new legislation to contain flexibilities that are technology neutral.

# More proposals

- Need for a new governance framework for the country's Top level domain that is steered by users and determines pricing for domain registration.
- The competitive pricing of Uganda's TLD resources will tremendously increase local businesses and brands using the Uganda TLD, thereby making it more possible for internet related disputes to be resolved through local dispute settlement fora

# Conclusion

- Local enterprises need to understand the basic legal metrics for posting /handling, converting / modifying content online in a manner that is secure and profitable.
- This may include protecting their brands / trademarks locally and in foreign markets or giving direction on what permissions are required for use of their literary content ie through Creative commons licenses.

# Thanks a lot for listening!

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