



**CENTRE FOR INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY AND
DEVELOPMENT**



THE CAMPAIGN

The #SwiftandCheapNet campaign by the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) is part of an Africa wide campaign code named #FASTAfrica, standing for Fast, Affordable, Safe and Transparent internet for All in Africa. It is a campaign initiated first by the World Wide Web Foundation's Web We Want and Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) and involving over 30 groups across Africa. CITAD is one of these groups.

The objective of the campaign is to highlight the need to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the speed of internet is improved, safety mainstreamed in its use, cost is reduced and the level of affordability is enhanced such that more people, if not all, are able to access and use the internet in the country.

Nigerians access internet that is not only slow but also costly, thus making it difficult for many people to afford it. Internet service providers in the country often hardly keep to any quality of service agreements. This is because there has not been demonstrated capacity on the part of the regulatory to ensure enforcement of such agreements. The regulator itself is not proactive because there has not been sufficient demand from the public for faster and more affordable internet access in the country. This is the result of the fact that the public has poor understanding of the pricing of internet access as well on the working of grievance mechanisms in the sector.

We intend to during the week long campaign (1-7, May) raise public awareness through a series of public enlightenment programmes that will mobilize the public to demand for faster and more affordable internet access and to engage providers and the regulatory on the need to initiate processes that will improve the speed of internet access and make it cheaper in the country.

OUR DEMANDS

Governments

- Address obstacles for the expansion and deployment of network rings by the ISPs
- Review and implement the National Broadband network
- Ensure that the bridging affordability principle embedded in the establishment of the Universal Service Provision Fund is driven through diligent auditing of programmes, projects and initiative undertaken by the agency
- Improve power supply as key factor in determining the cost of service by service providers
- Ensure that all internet-related laws and policies are clear, transparent and in line with the principles contained in the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms
- Regulatory agencies ensure that all ISPs operate within the law and within acceptable limited of Quality of Service agreement



- Engage in proactive oversight to ensure compliance with quality of service agreement
- Engage government with a view to addressing obstacles to network expansion and rollout of addition networks by service providers
- There is need to license more ISPs over the current 25 to ensure good competition that can drive quality of service
- Direct USPF to drive connection in rural areas than just providing computers. While computers are important, without access to affordable bandwidth, these computers will remain underutilized

ISPs

- Take active steps to improve speedy and reduce cost of access to their services
- Ensure that they provide transparent quality service agreement that their clients can hold them accountable to
- Expand their network coverage and capacity to reduce congestion that reduce speed
- Internalize and apply the “Respect, Protect and Remedy” framework to fulfill their duties to uphold internet rights in line with African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedom

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Join the campaign for fast and affordable internet in the country
- Ensure that you report any degradation from standard quality threshold that you signed with your service providers
- Insist on compensation to lost service or from poor quality that you get from ISP
- Support and promote the adaptation of the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms by our governments

ABOUT CITAD

CITAD is an ICT-focused civil society organization that is committed to the use of information and communication technologies for development and promotion of good governance. The vision of the organization is A knowledge-based democratic society free of hunger with a mission that commits to using ICTs to empower citizens for a just and knowledge based society that is anchored on sustainable and balanced development. The organization sees internet as a key resource for which all citizens should have access to and consequent upon this, they should participate in its governance

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