

# Proposed Structure for Kenya National Public Key Infrastructure

## Background

The Kenyan government has started a national Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) project to provide an online identity and verification system in order to secure online transactions. The project is being undertaken by Samsung SDS of South Korea, under the Kenya Transparency and Communications Infrastructure project. This paper proposes an institutional framework for the National Public Key Infrastructure that uses a Public Private Partnership component to ensure higher standards of operational efficiency, accountability and transparency.

## Proposed Model

The legal framework for the introduction of electronic transactions and domain names has been provided for under the Kenya Information and Communications Act Cap 411A Section 83 (KICA). The law is very clear regarding the requirement of a license for the operation of a Root Certification Authority. The licensing body as per KICA is the Communications Commission of Kenya.

## Root CA

It is therefore proposed that an Public Private Partnership entity to be called the **Kenya Internet Certification & Security Agency (KICSA)** be established for purposes of operation of the Root CA.

## Accredited CA

Once established, KICSA will provide accreditation for Certificate Authorities that can provide certificates to the marketplace. It is proposed that initially two accredited Cas be established, namely a Government CA and an Accredited CA to provide services to the private sector.

## Registration Authority

According to the proposed model, registration services for certificates will be provided by a variety of entities including but not limited to banks, post offices, domain name registrars.

