

During the month of September, BOCRA released a consultation paper to the public on the introduction of new domains in the form of shop.bw, agric.bw, and me.shop.

me.bw

It gives an individual a unique identity and help people to build personal brand online. With me.bw, your name can actually be your domain name as shown :<namesurname>.me.bw. There is no domain extension more personal than me.bw!

shop.bw

shop.bw domain name provides an opportunity to facilitate e-commerce market. The shop.bw will provide end users with assurance and confidence that they are buying from reputable and registered shops in Botswana.

Only licensed shops in Botswana will be allowed to register shop.bw domain name.

agric.bw

agric.bw domain names to be reserved for the companies involved in the selling agriculture products to facilitate market access for farmers, Only Botswana Agric companies are allowed to register agric.bw domain name.

Comments

While majority of the feedback received was positive, and welcoming of these new domains, some concerns were raised regarding the availability of second level domains (<domainname>.bw) to the public. Considering the nature of second level domains, they are likely to be in high demand and hence likely to be frequently disputed. For this reason, the Authority cannot publish second level domains in the absence of the Dispute Resolution Policy which is still in draft stage. In addition, second level domains will need a proper auctioning system in place which BOCRA is still in the process of establishing.

Conclusion

To conclude, the Authority will publish the three (3) new domains and make them available to the public. The existing ccTLD policies which are also currently being reviewed will apply to these new domains. BOCRA will also continue to allow renewals on already existing second level domains but not new registrations and communicate the final deliberations at end of Policy review period.