



TMT NUGGETS: Q2 2026

LAGOS | ABUJA | CALABAR

The second quarter of 2026 marks a decisive shift across the TMT landscape from high-level policy design to hard regulatory enforcement and structural execution. Across African markets and the wider global tech ecosystem, authorities are aggressively tightening oversight to secure rapidly evolving digital economies; this is visible in Nigeria’s strict new fintech data localisation rules, enhanced cross-sectoral anti-fraud collaborations between the NCC and CBN, and Kenya’s elevated network quality standards. At the same time, traditional intellectual property, gaming, and media frameworks are undergoing critical overhauls to capture digital value and protect consumers, ranging from Nigeria’s newly enacted 5% digital copyright levy and Tanzania’s pioneering trade mark classification of AI-as-a-Service to sweeping global adjustments like the European Council’s delayed high-risk AI Act timelines. Ultimately, as operators increasingly pivot toward domestic funding to bridge infrastructure deficits, this quarter’s updates underscore that navigating the tech, media, and telecom sectors now demands total alignment with a mature, highly assertive regulatory environment.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

VITEL WIRELESS PARTNERS WITH OPAY AND MONIEPOINT

Vitel Wireless has teamed up with fintech leaders OPay and Moniepoint to simplify airtime and data purchases directly from bank accounts or mobile wallets, targeting improved connectivity in underserved and rural communities. By leveraging the vast customer bases and payment infrastructure of these fintech platforms, alongside existing partnerships with Fidelity and

Zenith banks, Vitel is bridging financial services and telecom access. Supported by MTN’s nationwide infrastructure, the initiative enhances convenience, affordability, and financial inclusion, creating an ecosystem that enables millions of Nigerians to participate more efficiently in the digital economy.¹

NCC AND CBN SIGN MOU TO COMBAT TELECOMS-LINKED FRAUD AND STRENGTHEN CROSS-SECTOR CONSUMER PROTECTION

In April 2026, the NCC and the CBN signed a Memorandum of Understanding designed to safeguard consumers against fraud while expanding access to the combined opportunities of the telecommunications and financial sectors.² Coinciding with the signing, both institutions inaugurated two joint committees: the Joint Committee on Payment Systems and Consumer Protection, and the Joint Committee on the Telecoms Identity Risk Management System (TIRMS) Portal. Through the TIRMS Portal, financial institutions will now have enhanced real-time visibility into the status of mobile numbers, enabling them to determine when a line is active, swapped, disconnected, or flagged for fraudulent use, thereby equipping the financial services sector with the timely information required to combat electronic fraud perpetuated through phone numbers. This development represents a decisive deepening of cross-sectoral regulatory collaboration, positioning the NCC and the CBN to

¹ [Here](#)

² <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nigerian-communications-commission/posts/?feedView=all>

respond proactively and in alignment with emerging risks across Nigeria's increasingly interconnected digital and financial ecosystem.

SOUTH AFRICA TABLES ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2026 TO OVERHAUL SPECTRUM, ROAMING, AND WHOLESALE REGULATION

In April 2026, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies of South Africa gazetted the Electronic Communications Amendment Bill 2026, which was formally tabled in the National Assembly on 22nd April 2026.³ The bill introduces three principal reforms to South Africa's electronic communications framework. First, a use it or share it rule on radio frequency spectrum: where spectrum assigned from 10th December 2021 onwards remains unused in any area for two continuous years, ICASA is required to intervene and allow another licensee to share it, directly targeting the country's low 5G adoption rate. Second, a national roaming and mobile virtual network operator access regime: any operator with mobile network coverage of at least 90% of the national population is obliged to provide national roaming and MVNO services on request within 60 days, with ICASA empowered to determine commercial terms where the parties cannot agree. Third, a shift to cost-based wholesale pricing regulation, anchored in the underlying cost of providing the relevant service. Parliamentary hearings remain open for public comment until 21st August 2026. The bill does not, as introduced, address the equity equivalence question for satellite operators; the government has committed to pursue that legislative change separately, making this dual legislative track one of the most consequential developments in South African telecoms regulation this cycle.

NCC OPENS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT BUSINESS RULES FOR MOBILE VIRTUAL NETWORK OPERATOR LICENCES

In May 2026, the NCC, in exercise of its functions under the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, published Draft Business Rules on the Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) Licence in the Nigerian Communications Sector and invited stakeholder submissions ahead of a formal Public Inquiry.⁴ MVNOs represent a significant avenue for deepening market competition, broadening consumer choice, and enabling new categories of digital and fintech service providers to participate in the telecoms value chain. The publication of the Draft Business Rules marks the first substantive step toward formalising the MVNO licensing framework in Nigeria, and the outcome of the consultation is expected to define the commercial and regulatory conditions under which new entrants may operate.

ICASA PUBLISHES FINAL INNOVATION SPECTRUM REGULATIONS OPENING THE LOWER 6GHZ BAND FOR LICENCE-EXEMPT ACCESS

In May 2026, the ICASA gazetted final regulations for the use of innovation spectrum, resolving a long-running policy dispute over the allocation of the lower 6GHz band.⁵ Under the new framework, the lower 6GHz band (5.925–6.425GHz) is designated as licence-exempt, allowing wireless internet service providers, Wi-Fi networks, private entities, and community operators to access it on a shared basis without the need for a licence or competitive auction process. Separately, the 3.8–4.2GHz band is opened on a licensed but discounted, non-competitive basis to support the development of standalone 5G services. Access to the licence-exempt band will be managed through a unified

³ <https://techcentral.co.za/have-your-say-on-the-bill-that-could-reshape-sa-telecoms/282987/>

⁴ <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nigerian-communications-commission/posts/?feedView=all>

⁵ <https://news.broadcastmediaafrica.com/2026/05/29/south-africa-icasa-unveils-groundbreaking-spectrum-regulations-unlocking-new-opportunities-for-wireless-providers/>

spectrum switch. The framework is designed to benefit non-dominant players, SMMEs, and community network operators, with rural operators receiving twice the channel allocation available to urban counterparts and a three-contiguous-cell cap in the 3.8–4.2GHz band preventing monopolisation.

COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY PROPOSES NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FIBRE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLE INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT

In May 2026, the Communications Authority of Kenya published a consultation paper introducing comprehensive national standards for the design, installation, labelling, sharing, maintenance, and protection of fibre optic and other telecommunications cable infrastructure across the country.⁶ The proposed framework requires operators to obtain approvals from multiple agencies before construction commences, alongside the submission of detailed route drawings, infrastructure-sharing capacity data, safety plans, and traffic disruption mitigation measures. Strict technical requirements apply to both aerial and underground installations, covering trench depths, pole spacing, and safety clearances developed in coordination with the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority. Notably, all new building developments will be required to incorporate broadband ducts and internal conduits from the entry point to individual units, in line with the forthcoming Building Code 2025. The initiative addresses long-standing public complaints about poorly installed cable infrastructure and aims to standardise deployment practices, protect critical national infrastructure, and promote open-access sharing among service providers.

KENYA PROPOSES STRICTER QUALITY OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES FOR NETWORK OPERATORS

In May 2026, the Communications Authority of Kenya released draft proposals that would significantly raise the bar for network quality compliance across the country's telecoms sector.⁷ The proposals would lift the minimum network quality compliance score from 80% to 90%, expand the scope of assessment from 21 to 38 service quality metrics, and replace the current annual performance evaluation cycle with quarterly assessments, supported by county-specific penalties for operators that fall below the new threshold. The reform marks a decisive departure from a regulatory culture of warnings and compliance notices toward active financial and operational enforcement, with direct implications for operators' infrastructure investment priorities and capital allocation strategies across both urban and rural coverage areas.

EAC INTENSIFIES EFFORTS TO REFORM ONE NETWORK AREA ROAMING FRAMEWORK AFTER A DECADE OF UNEVEN IMPLEMENTATION

In May 2026, East African Community (EAC) member states convened a week-long high-level meeting in Dar es Salaam under the EAC's Technical Committee on Telecommunications, aimed at advancing a harmonised Regional Mobile Roaming Framework and addressing the persistent failures that have undermined the One Network Area (ONA) initiative since its establishment in 2014. The EAC Secretariat has found that operators across member states continue to set their own roaming tariffs in defiance of bloc-mandated price caps, creating an uneven competitive environment and discouraging cross-border connectivity. The new framework under development will introduce fair-use policies,

⁶ [Communications Authority Targets ISPs With New Internet Installation Rules - Kenyans.co.ke](https://kenyans.co.ke/news/communications-authority-targets-isps-with-new-internet-installation-rules)

⁷ <https://news.broadcastmediaafrica.com/2026/06/02/kenyas-telecom-sector-faces-strict-regulations-over-network-quality/>

safeguards against SIM-boxing fraud, interoperable billing and settlement systems, and provisions for e-SIM and IoT roaming. Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Burundi currently participate in or are actively implementing the ONA, while Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo have indicated intentions to join.

NCC AND CAC MANDATE PRIOR REGULATORY APPROVAL FOR ALL SIGNIFICANT TELECOMS OWNERSHIP TRANSFERS

From 21st June 2026, the NCC and CAC require prior regulatory approval before any significant ownership change in a licensed telecoms company may be completed and registered⁸. Under the new regime, any transfer of 10% or more of a telecom operator's total issued share capital requires a Letter of No Objection from the NCC before the CAC will register the transaction. The directive draws its legal basis from Section 90 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, the Competition Practices Regulations 2007, and the Licensing Regulations 2019. The stated regulatory rationale centres on competition and ownership transparency, with the directive expressly designed to prevent anti-competitive ownership arrangements and undisclosed changes of control within the sector. This development closes a longstanding regulatory gap and signals a materially more assertive posture from the NCC on governance, investor accountability, and sector integrity.

ICASA CLARIFIES SATELLITE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

In June 2026, ICASA published a clarification notice setting out the licensing requirements for satellite operators seeking to enter the South African market, following numerous requests from prospective operators for guidance on the approvals required to provide services through satellite constellations.⁹ The notice confirms that any entity wishing to operate satellite services in South Africa requires three separate approvals: an Individual Electronic Communications Service licence, an Individual Electronic Communications Network Service licence, and one or more Radio Frequency Spectrum licences. The clarification comes against the backdrop of South Africa's status as the most prominent holdout on Starlink's pan-African expansion. While the government has issued a policy direction for ICASA to recognise equity equivalent investment programmes as an alternative compliance route, ICASA has confirmed it cannot give effect to that direction without a legislative amendment to the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act.

GHANA REVIEWS ITS ACCELERATED BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION MANDATES FOR REGIONAL DIGITAL NETWORKS

The National Communications Authority (NCA) of Ghana has amended its digital infrastructure development guidelines to fast-track rural fibre deployments and secure telecom asset classes. The mid-2026 policy framework legally reclassifies fibre optic pathways, base transceiver stations, and submarine cable endpoints as critical state-level infrastructure, making any unauthorised physical interference or digital disruption subject to heavy criminal penalties. The law also establishes a standardised cross-border data transfer framework for telecommunications entities, requiring service providers to clear international routing loops through national security filters while keeping regional communication nodes closely aligned with ECOWAS unified single-market targets.

⁸ www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/press-releases/requirement-prior-regulatory-approval-changes-shareholdingownership

⁹ [ICASA notice sheds light on Starlink's path into SA | ITWeb](#)

NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PARTNERS WITH KPMG FOR FIRST INTERCONNECTION PRICING REVIEW IN EIGHT YEARS

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), in collaboration with global consultancy firm KPMG, has initiated a comprehensive review of telecommunications interconnection pricing. Officially kicked off during a Mobile Termination Rate (MTR) stakeholder forum in Lagos, the structured exercise marks the first major reassessment of the sector's wholesale pricing rules since 2018. Regulatory authorities noted that the existing tariff framework has been entirely overtaken by significant structural updates across the market, including the domestic rollout of 5G, the expansion of high-volume data-centric services, and the market entry of Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs). Conducted pursuant to Section 108 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, the review legally compels all active mobile networks, international carriers, and interconnect clearing houses to submit multi-year financial profiles covering revenue, capital expenditure, and profitability to ensure future termination tariffs remain transparently cost-reflective and non-discriminatory.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS DEPEND ON DOMESTIC FUNDING AS NIGERIAN TELECOM CAPITAL IMPORTATION DROPS IN Q1 2026

The Association of Licensed Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria (ALTON) has revealed that the domestic telecom sector is increasingly relying on internally generated revenues and local capital pools to bankroll its planned ₦1.86 trillion (\$1.38 billion) 2026 infrastructure upgrade cycle. National data extracted from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Capital Importation Report indicated that fresh foreign capital inflows into the telecommunications sector plummeted sharply to \$7.24 million in the first quarter of 2026, compared to \$80.78 million recorded in previous cycles. Industry representatives emphasised that standard cross-border capital importation metrics no longer accurately reflect the actual scale of network funding occurring on the ground. The structural pivot toward self-sustained local financing was unlocked by the 50% service tariff adjustments approved in late 2025, which effectively restored industry margins and gave operators the financial viability to directly fund network densification, equipment modernisation, and last-mile connectivity.

NIGERIA ENGAGES MAINLINE TELECOM FIRMS TO ENERGIZE NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Ministry of State for Health, has secured formal commitments from prominent telecommunications providers, including Airtel, ipNX, NIGCOMSAT, and INQ Digital, to deploy spatial infrastructure data in support of the Hope Primary Healthcare Programme. Under the technical cooperation framework, the telecom entities are legally supplying precise geo-coordinates of existing fibre optic routes, base transceiver stations, and connectivity capability assessments. The data integration serves as the core foundation for the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency's (NPHCDA) ambitious mandate to completely digitise 20% of all primary healthcare centres annually. Backed by a dedicated \$525 million fund, the combined infrastructure pool will drive the rollout of a unified Electronic Community Health Information System, allowing rural frontline health workers to utilise stable digital networks for real-time patient care and regional health tracking.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION DEPLOYS \$150 MILLION FINANCING PACK TO SCALE AIRTEL AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has finalised a structured \$150 million debt financing package earmarked for Airtel Africa to accelerate mobile network expansion across multiple Sub-

Saharan nations. The specialised capital injection is being split directly between two key Airtel Africa regional subsidiaries to finance rapid network densification and bridge deep digital connectivity deficits in historically underserved and rural communities. According to project briefs, the targeted infrastructure spending is designed to expand high-speed mobile data access, thereby creating an enabling environment for informal digital commerce, mobile money networks, and localised electronic service providers.

AFRICA'S DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE ECOSYSTEM PIVOTS FROM ANNOUNCEMENTS TO HARD IMPLEMENTATION IN 2026

The African digital infrastructure market has officially entered a rigorous execution phase, with institutional capital and state policy frameworks aligning to prioritise inland fibre densification over traditional subsea cable investments. Industry analysis highlights that while Sub-Saharan subsea capacity currently exceeds hundreds of terabits per second, structural fixed broadband penetration remains critically low, sitting below 6% in major economies like Nigeria. To rectify this domestic imbalance, public and private stakeholders are driving localised initiatives like the \$2 billion Project BRIDGE to rapidly construct metropolitan fibre networks and edge data centres. However, capital deployment remains highly selective, with international investors remaining cautious of aspirational tech claims and favouring bankable, repeatable infrastructure models that demonstrate clear cash flows and streamlined regulatory permit pathways.

SPACE X STARLINK DEMONSTRATES DIRECT-TO-CELL CELLULAR INTERACTION STANDARDS AHEAD OF 2027 ROLLOUT

SpaceX has unveiled advanced operational metrics for its second-generation Starlink satellite constellation, confirming the integration of the globally recognised 3GPP 5G NR-NTN (Non-Terrestrial Network) standard for direct satellite-to-user links. Speaking at a global mobile networking summit, executive leadership disclosed that the updated satellite arrays are engineered to deliver direct cellular download speeds up to 150 Mbps utilising globally harmonised S-band spectrum fractions ahead of its mid-2027 full commercial rollout. The direct-to-cell system has already proven its real-world utility during emergency disaster response operations, successfully transmitting over 250,000 SMS communications and wireless emergency alerts directly to unmodified consumer devices without relying on terrestrial towers.

GLOBAL TELECOM OPERATORS RECAST AI-RAN INFRASTRUCTURE AS MONETISABLE SHARED COMPUTE PLATFORMS

The global telecommunications industry has begun aggressively restructuring its radio networks, transforming traditional Artificial Intelligence Radio Access Networks (AI-RAN) from simple hardware optimisation features into active, monetizable shared compute platforms. Technical briefings from Mobile World Congress (MWC) indicate that major Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are moving to position base stations and edge data centres as distributed AI inference networks capable of selling localised processing power to external clients. However, semiconductor pioneers have cautioned against uniform architectures, asserting that standard RAN workloads remain fundamentally optimised for traditional CPUs, whereas intensive AI inference tasks require specialised hardware accelerators. This shift effectively recharacterizes long-term telecom investments, positioning cellular networks as decentralised computing webs perfectly positioned to handle real-time edge AI processing for autonomous vehicles and smart public infrastructure.

SPAIN ENFORCES MANDATORY BACKUP BATTERY CAPACITY RULES TO SECURE CRITICAL TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE

The Government of Spain has enacted a strict regulatory directive legally compelling all national telecommunications operators to install extensive, long-duration backup battery infrastructure across their entire network footprint. The legislative mandate requires service providers to guarantee sustained operational continuity for voice and data networks during prolonged power grid failures or systemic energy emergencies. The structural adjustment comes amid a broader European regulatory push toward hardened infrastructure resilience, matching strict compliance targets set forth under the updated Network and Information Systems (NIS 2) Directive. Under the new Spanish framework, operators face heavy administrative sanctions and severe market penalties if base stations or critical switching centres suffer unexpected downtime due to inadequate local energy storage buffers during state emergencies.



ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA

DEFAMATION SUIT BETWEEN MR. MARTINS OTSE V MRS. ESINJEMIYOTAN URUNYONJUYEI ATSEPOYI

In the suit between Mrs Esinjemiyotan Urunejonjuyei Atsepoyi (the “Claimant”) and Mr Martins Otse, popularly known as “Very Darkman” (the “Defendant”), before the Federal High Court, sitting in Delta State. The Defendant, during a social media

conflict, accused the Claimant of adultery with politicians and internet fraudsters to help her husband secure a political appointment in Delta State. Following the accusation, the Claimant filed a N500 million defamation suit. The Court ruled in favour of the Claimant and the sum of Thirty Million Naira (N30,000,000) to be paid in damages for defamation and to publish an apology to the Claimant in two national newspapers and across all his social media platforms within 14 days. The apology must include a retraction of the defamatory statements made in September 2024.

ACQUISITION OF SHOWMAX BY CANAL+

Following the acquisition of Showmax by Canal+ for 3 Billion Dollars in September 2025, MultiChoice disconnected Showmax subscriptions on 1st April 2026 and discontinued all existing subscriptions on 31st March 2026. Users were required to subscribe to DStv Stream, which became the company’s primary streaming platform. Showmax Originals and its content library were migrated to DStv Stream. The move formed part of Canal+’s broader restructuring strategy to consolidate services, reduce costs, and eliminate duplicated technology.

KANO STATE CENSORSHIP BOARD SUSPENDS KANNYWOOD ACTORS OVER ALLEGED INDECENT CONTENT

The Kano State Censorship Board has suspended Kannywood actors Amina Uba Hassan and Adam Garba from all film-related activities in the state for one (1) year over their appearance in a video alleged to contain content that violated moral standards and public decency. The board said the action was taken under its statutory power to enforce compliance with regulations governing film production

in Kano State and warned that producers and directors who fail to comply with the suspension order could face stricter sanctions under the law. It also urged Nollywood practitioners to uphold professional standards and avoid actions capable of damaging the reputation of the industry.

LAGOS STATE TO HOST MAIDEN ENTERTAINMENT GAMES AND AWARDS

Lagos State will host the inaugural Lagos Entertainment Association Games and Awards (LEAGA) in September 2026, bringing together sports, entertainment, culture and networking in a first-of-its-kind event. Backed by the Lagos State Government through the Lagos State Sports Commission, the initiative aims to foster wellness, unity and collaboration among stakeholders in the creative industry through a variety of sporting and recreational activities. The event will feature across multiple sports and games involving musicians, actors, comedians, DJs and media personalities and conclude with an awards and gala night recognising outstanding contributions to the entertainment and creative industries.

WAPTV SECURES RIGHTS TO HUNDREDS OF NIGERIAN FILMS

WapTV has acquired the broadcast rights to hundreds of English, Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba films from leading Nigerian Filmmakers, reinforcing its commitment to delivering quality indigenous, family-friendly content. The acquisition is aimed at expanding access to culturally relevant Nigerian stories for audiences across Nigeria and other African countries through major digital platforms.

NIGERIA ENACTS NEW 5% COPYRIGHT LEVY ON DIGITAL STORAGE, CLOUD SERVICES, AND DEVICES FROM APRIL 27TH 2026

Nigeria has introduced a new fiscal regime targeting content reproduction and digital dissemination under the newly enacted Copyright (Levy) Order 2026. Signed by the Attorney General of the Federation pursuant to Section 89 of the Copyright Act 2022, the law imposes a flat 5% levy on specified devices, media equipment, and digital services capable of hosting or copying protected works. This covers smartphones, personal computers, USB flash drives, decoders, external hard drives, and cloud storage services. Under the distribution guidelines, the revenue collected at the border or production stage is shared systematically: 50% goes directly to rights owners via Collective Management Organisations (CMOs), 20% goes to the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) for anti-piracy enforcement, and 20% goes to creative infrastructure development through the Creative and Tourism Infrastructure Corporation Limited (CITICo).

SOUTH AFRICA CONSTITUTIONAL COURT BLOCKS EMBATTLED COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT BILL IN JUNE 2026

South Africa's long-disputed legislative overhaul for the creative sector has stalled after the Constitutional Court issued a critical ruling on the Copyright Amendment Bill (B13F of 2017). Initially passed by Parliament, the apex court held certain core exceptions within the bill to be unconstitutional, specifically citing clauses on educational institutions as constituting an arbitrary deprivation of property rights for original authors. Under the current 1978 Act, which remains active while Parliament addresses the court's feedback, South African filmmakers, musicians, and authors maintain standard 50-year copyright protections post-publication or death. The structural delay leaves local creators operating under strict, old-school "fair dealing" frameworks, which do not grant copyright owners

explicit exclusive rights regarding modern, interactive on-demand streaming or digital communication to the public.¹⁰

This constitutional impasse follows similar regional gridlocks across Sub-Saharan Africa, where traditional intellectual property laws are struggling to adapt to internet-driven distribution models quickly.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WIPO LAUNCHES LANDMARK IP BENCHMARK FOR THE NIGERIAN JUDICIARY

During an official visit to Nigeria, WIPO Director General Daren Tang unveiled the Intellectual Property Benchmark: Intellectual Property Adjudication in Nigeria at the National Judicial Institute

(NJI) in Abuja. Developed in close collaboration with domestic jurists, this is the first national volume from Sub-Saharan Africa added to WIPO's Global IP Benchmark Series. It establishes standardised, jurisdiction-specific guidelines to help Nigerian judges effectively navigate complex patent, trademark, and emerging digital copyright disputes.

HIGH-LEVEL STATE HOUSE SUMMIT TO COLLATERALIZE AND MONETIZE IP ASSETS

Vice President Kashim Shettima hosted a high-level WIPO delegation at the Presidential Villa to map out the implementation phase of Nigeria's National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy. A primary objective solidified during these executive sessions, which included the Ministers of Finance and Trade, is the creation of frameworks for innovation financing, the economic valuation of local tech, and the development of mechanisms to allow MSMEs to use IP assets as bankable collateral.

TANZANIA PROPOSES MAJOR IP OVERHAUL AND OFFICIALLY CLASSIFIES AI-AS-A-SERVICE UNDER CLASS 42

Tanzania has introduced its most sweeping intellectual property reforms in decades by publishing legislative amendments to both the Trade and Service Marks Act (Cap. 326) and the Patents (Registration) Act. Notably, under the updated Nice Classification guidelines integrated into the May 2026 framework, "Artificial Intelligence as a Service" (AlaaS) has been explicitly codified as a new service entry under Class 42. This structural change allows the state to levy standardised technology service fees on international and domestic AI vendors operating within the country. Beyond advanced computing classifications, the legislative package systematically addresses domestic treaty enforcement gaps following recent high-stakes Court of Appeal rulings. The text establishes absolute statutory protection for regional African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) marks registered under the Banjul Protocol dating back to September 1999, alongside traditional "well-known" international marks protected under the Paris Convention and TRIPS protocols.

¹⁰ Centre on Knowledge Governance; Constitutional Court Judgement on the Copyright Amendment Bill in South Africa, Ben Cashdan, 26 June 2026. <https://knowledgegov.org/constitutional-court-judgement-on-the-copyright-amendment-bill-in-south-africa-26-june-2026/> Accessed July 3, 2026

UGANDA PARLIAMENT ADOPTS COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS AMENDMENTS TO CURB DIGITAL PIRACY IN MAY 2026

The Parliament of Uganda has finalised the legislative processing of the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Bill, sending the far-reaching digital enforcement framework to the President for final executive assent. Moving into active implementation, the updated statute dramatically strengthens rights allocations for literary, scientific, and artistic content while building precise monetisation loops for interactive on-demand streaming. Managed directly by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), the law establishes transparent royalty collection frameworks and rolls out aggressive digital safeguards to counter online dissemination networks. To deter persistent bad actors, the bill introduces highly punitive criminal sanctions for intellectual property theft, imposing maximum statutory fines of up to UGX 50 million (~\$13,300 USD) and locking in potential imprisonment terms extending up to 10 years for corporate copyright infringement.

NIGERIA AND WIPO SIGN HISTORIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO COMMERCIALISE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND RESEARCH

The Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) have signed a comprehensive technical agreement to transform the nation's innovation landscape. Finalised on June 1, 2026, during a high-level state visit to Abuja, the bilateral framework establishes a National Policy on the Commercialisation of Research and Development alongside the "Energise Commercialisation Now" (ECoN) flagship initiative. The legal mechanism designs a structured pipeline to translate academic research, university patents, and creative works into bankable, globally competitive commercial assets. Under the treaty guidelines, WIPO will scale up institutional capacity building, provide direct technical infrastructure to the newly inaugurated WIPO Nigeria Office, and deploy specialised frameworks to safeguard local inventions, data portfolios, and software designs from cross-border exploitation.

AFCTA PROTOCOL TRANSITIONS FULLY TO IMPLEMENTATION

Following the structural adoption of the core text and its underlying legal annexes, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat officially announced the complete transition from legal drafting to the active enforcement phase of the Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights. AfCFTA Secretary-General Wamkele Mene confirmed that the focus has shifted entirely to deploying these harmonised IP tools across member states to drive intra-African trade, which reached \$220 billion.

PRIORITIZING IP FOR LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL AUTONOMY

Under the newly activated AfCFTA IP frameworks, African trade ministers and the AfCFTA Secretariat launched a coordinated push to leverage patent and trademark pooling. The targeted initiative seeks to use strategic IP frameworks to rapidly scale up domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing across regional hubs, directly aiming to reduce the continent's heavy over-reliance on imported essential medicines and medical technologies.

RELEASE OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REPORT 2026

WIPO officially published its flagship [World Intellectual Property Report 2026](#), titled "[Technology on the Move.](#)" The report delivers critical historical and modern data showing that while technological innovations are diffusing across the globe at an unprecedented, historic speed, actual knowledge creation remains highly concentrated. The findings emphasise that well-balanced domestic IP

frameworks and "absorptive capacity" (local technical skills) are now the primary factors determining whether a country successfully adapts incoming global technologies or falls behind.

WORLD IP DAY 2026: THE SPORTS INNOVATION NEXUS

The global IP community celebrated World Intellectual Property Day under the centralised theme "*IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate.*" Global events, including specialised programs at the U.S. Capitol, focused heavily on how the convergence of utility patents (smart athletic gear), trademarks (global branding), and broadcast copyrights work together to drive massive investment, protect athlete identities, and secure media rights in the modern sports industry.

GLOBAL CRACKDOWN ON AI-DRIVEN TRADEMARK AND TRADE DRESS INFRINGEMENT

Regulatory shifts across major international registries intensified during the second quarter of 2026. Global brand protection strategies saw an unprecedented wave of filings targeting "non-traditional" marks, such as on-screen Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs), spatial computing control layouts, and digital-first software assets, forcing global IP offices to rapidly overhaul classification standards to combat AI-generated copycat software interfaces.

WIPO ACCELERATES INPUT-LICENSING STANDARDS FOR GENERATIVE AI

Spurred by friction between technology conglomerates and content creators, WIPO's international working groups fast-tracked cross-border guidelines regarding AI data scraping. The sessions centred on standardising machine-readable copyright tags and creating globally recognised input-licensing frameworks to ensure human creators receive structured compensation when their intellectual assets are utilised to train foundational generative models.

EUROPEAN UNION ENFORCES PHASE 2 OF THE DESIGN REFORM AMENDMENTS TO LEGALIZE ANIMATED AND DYNAMIC FILE FORMATS

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) has locked in the final administrative preparations for Phase 2 of the landmark EU Design Reform, driven by two newly adopted regulations (EU 2026/137 and EU 2026/138). Coming into full structural force on July 1, 2026, the updated framework overhauls traditional design registration constraints to accurately protect digital-native products, virtual interfaces, and spatial computing designs. The new law completely repeals the historic seven-view submission restriction, replacing it with a modernised framework that permits applicants to upload dynamic files. Under Article 2 of the Implementing Regulation, developers can secure exclusive rights for animated, dynamic, or computer-modelled designs using video formats and active computer graphics to display movement and user-interface flows.



GAMING/LOTTERY

LAGOS STATE LOTTERIES AND GAMING AUTHORITY TIGHTENS PAYOUT TRANSPARENCY AND ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOLS IN REVENUE DRIVE

The Lagos State Lotteries and Gaming Authority (LSLGA) has rolled out an aggressive compliance campaign across its

interactive gaming networks to secure consumer payouts and eliminate unauthorised operators. Moving through the Q2 2026 audit window, the regulator updated its enforcement framework, making it a strict licensing condition for online sportsbooks, casino platforms, and virtual gaming providers to integrate real-time payout transparency and trackers. To protect the domestic market, which serves an estimated 60 million active punters nationwide, the authority has coordinated with state tax bodies to enforce the collection of localised levies on gross gaming revenue while actively monitoring digital platforms to block unlicensed offshore bookmakers accessing local banking rails.

TANZANIA TO IMPOSE 5% EXCISE DUTY ON BETTING STAKES FROM JULY 1ST 2026

Tanzania will impose a 5% excise duty on betting stakes from 1 July 2026, the start of FY 2026/27. This covers all gambling, land-based/online sports betting, online casinos, slot/ "forty-machine" games, and virtual games. The Tanzanian Government expects TZS 74.5B ≈ \$28.4Million in extra revenue. 10% of collections goes to the Gaming Board of Tanzania to improve regulation and tackle gambling addiction. H2 Gambling Capital says Tanzania's 2025 gambling gross win was \$463.3M. Projected to exceed \$1B by 2031, with online at \$918.9M. Black market risk: Only 4.5% of 2025 interactive gross win was illegal, per H2 low vs other markets¹¹. This follows tax hikes in Uganda [30% + 15% on winnings], Kenya [5% on deposits + withdrawals], and Lagos, Nigeria [5% on winnings].

EGYPT PARLIAMENT MOVES TO CRIMINALIZE ONLINE BETTING

Egypt's parliament is considering an amendment to the Cybercrime Law to explicitly criminalise online betting applications to include maximum sentences, including life imprisonment for cases involving organised crime/fraud. Gambling is already illegal for Egyptians, but existing laws target physical venues, not online platforms or apps. Civil Code voids gambling contracts; Penal Code bans gambling; only foreign passport holders can use licensed hotel-casinos. Many Egyptians still access offshore sportsbooks via VPNs + foreign payments because online gambling was not directly addressed. The amendment is mostly about online gambling.

GIBRALTAR ENACTS MASSIVE GAMBLING OVERHAUL AND MODERNIZES LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Gibraltar Parliament has implemented its newly adopted Gambling Act, replacing its two-decade-old legislative framework to modernise its regulatory model. Coming fully into force on April 1, 2026, the law expands the legal definition of regulated gaming to include modern online mechanics like hybrid free-to-play elements, spinning-reel slot configurations, and blended real-money participation models. Under the new rules, international B2B and B2C operators can secure local authorisation if they maintain a designated responsible individual on the island to manage localised processes, which eases traditional cross-border hurdles while keeping regulatory control intact. Crucially, the law introduces a new "Support Services" license category specifically to regulate technology providers, game developers, and data handlers who fuel the underlying iGaming ecosystem.

¹¹ Tanzania set to implement 5% excise duty on betting stakes (www.igamingbusiness.com) Accessed Via <https://igamingbusiness.com/finance/tax/tanzania-excise-duty-betting-stakes/> > accessed June 25 2026



DATA PROTECTION

NIGERIA DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION LAUNCHES THE META-SUPPORTED INITIATIVE FOR DATA PROTECTION (M-SIDP)

The Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) has officially initiated the Meta-Supported Initiatives for Data Protection (M-SIDP), a two-year regulatory

enforcement program to strengthen data safeguards across the country. Stemming from a 2025 court-approved settlement regarding Meta’s data processing practices, the implementation phase launched on June 8, 2026, aligns the program directly with the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) and the General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID). Crucially, the enforcement framework targets ecosystem safety, digital capacity building, and advanced data audits. While Meta is funding this public-facing compliance initiative, the NDPC explicitly clarified that the arrangement does not limit its statutory independence or its authority to fine tech giants for algorithm-driven privacy violations. The program specifically mandates targeted compliance reviews for data controllers handling the digital records of vulnerable groups and children.¹²

CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA ENFORCES STRICT DATA LOCALISATION AND BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP RULES FOR FINTECHS

The Central Bank of Nigeria (the “CBN”) has issued a far-reaching market structure directive targeting the nation’s rapidly expanding fintech and payment ecosystem. Under Circular PSS/DIR/PUB/CIR/001/004, issued on June 15, 2026, all licensed payment service providers, mobile money operators, and switching companies must comply with strict data localisation protocols, legally compelling the storage of domestic transactional profiles within geographic borders. Furthermore, the framework introduces aggressive corporate transparency rules, mandating the comprehensive disclosure of Ultimate Beneficial Ownership (UBO) structures to combat illicit financial flows. Operators who fail to align their server architectures and compliance registries with these new data custody standards face immediate systemic oversight audits and the potential revocation of their operational licenses.

NEW JERSEY AGE-APPROPRIATE DESIGN CODE PASSES LEGISLATURE

The New Jersey Legislature has passed the New Jersey Age-Appropriate Design Code (Kids Code Act), a landmark bill designed to strengthen online protections for children and teenagers. The legislation requires online services, products, and platforms likely to be accessed by minors to adopt privacy-by-default settings, minimise the collection and retention of children's personal information, conduct data protection impact assessments, and refrain from using manipulative or addictive design features such as dark patterns that encourage excessive engagement. It also requires businesses to consider the best interests of minors when designing digital services and now awaits the Governor's signature. If enacted,

¹² NDPC, Meta launch initiative to strengthen data protection in Nigeria (guardian.ng) Accessed via <https://guardian.ng/technology/telecoms/ndpc-meta-launch-initiative-to-strengthen-data-protection-in-nigeria/> accessed July 3 2026

New Jersey will join a growing number of U.S. states adopting age-appropriate design legislation inspired by the UK's Age Appropriate Design Code.

USA: HOUSE PASSES AMENDED KIDS ACT ADDING CHILDREN'S PRIVACY AND DATA BROKER PROVISIONS

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the bipartisan Kids Internet and Digital Safety (KIDS) Act, a comprehensive package that consolidates several child online safety and privacy bills. The amended legislation incorporates COPPA 2.0, extending privacy protections to teenagers, introduces new transparency obligations for data brokers handling minors' information, and requires social media platforms to implement default safety settings that limit addictive features, restrict unwanted contact, and enhance parental controls. The Act also contains provisions relating to AI chatbots, age-appropriate safeguards, and FTC enforcement. While the bill represents the House's most significant action on children's online safety in years, it must still be reconciled with the Senate's preferred version before becoming law.

SOUTH KOREA: PIPC ANNOUNCES 3RD BASIC PLAN FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION

South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) has unveiled its Third Basic Plan for Personal Information Protection (2027–2029), signalling a shift towards an AI-era, risk-based regulatory framework. The strategy aims to promote responsible AI innovation while strengthening safeguards against privacy risks through enhanced preventive oversight, improved cross-border data governance, expanded MyData services, and stronger remedies for individuals. The Plan also emphasises the development of privacy-enhancing technologies, greater support for businesses adopting AI, and more effective enforcement mechanisms to maintain public trust in the country's rapidly evolving digital economy.

USA: FTC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING AI ACCURACY

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has invited public comments on a proposed policy statement addressing the accuracy and objectivity of artificial intelligence systems. The proposal seeks feedback on practices that may mislead consumers, including AI systems that manipulate outputs, produce biased or inaccurate results, or create false impressions of objectivity. The FTC aims to clarify how existing consumer protection laws apply to AI developers and deployers, with a focus on ensuring transparency, accountability, and truthful representations regarding AI capabilities.

EU: EDPS PUBLISHES CHECKLIST ON HUMAN INTERVENTION IN AUTOMATED DECISION-MAKING

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) has published a practical checklist to help EU institutions and bodies implement meaningful human oversight in automated decision-making processes. The checklist guides governance structures, staff training, documentation, explainability, and procedures for reviewing or overriding automated decisions. It is intended to ensure that human intervention is genuine rather than merely symbolic, supporting compliance with the EU data protection framework and promoting accountability where automated systems significantly affect individuals.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has enacted legislation requiring data brokers to register with the state while prohibiting the sale of certain health-related records without appropriate legal authority. The law strengthens

consumer privacy by increasing transparency around the data broker industry and limiting the commercial exploitation of sensitive health information.

SINGAPORE: SINGAPORE'S CYBER SECURITY AGENCY (CSA) HAS RELEASED THE SINGAPORE CYBER LANDSCAPE 2025/2026 REPORT

Singapore's Cyber Security Agency (CSA) has released the Singapore Cyber Landscape 2025/2026 report, highlighting the country's evolving cyber threat environment. The report identifies ransomware, phishing, supply chain attacks, and AI-enabled cyber threats as key risks while outlining emerging trends affecting both public and private sector organisations.

DENMARK

Denmark's Datatilsynet has issued a statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Trump v. Slaughter, assessing its implications from a data protection perspective and reaffirming the importance of maintaining lawful safeguards for personal data transfers and regulatory oversight.

VIRGINIA

Virginia has amended its Consumer Data Protection Act (VCDPA) to restrict the sale of consumers' precise geolocation data, recognising such information as particularly sensitive and subjecting it to stronger privacy protections. Also, Virginia's new law governing automatic renewal and continuous service offers has taken effect, introducing enhanced disclosure, consent, and cancellation requirements for subscription-based businesses. The legislation aims to improve transparency and make it easier for consumers to cancel recurring services.



EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

LAGOS STATE ROLLS OUT VOLUNTARY 2026 CYBERSECURITY GUIDELINES

The Lagos State Government has officially launched its voluntary 2026 Cybersecurity Guidelines to fortify the digital infrastructure of businesses operating within the state. Released on April 19, 2026, the regulatory framework puts strategic pressure on local corporations,

financial institutions, and tech startups to proactively upgrade their internal security architectures. The guidelines specifically focus on implementing strict identity access controls, deploying multi-factor authentication, and establishing continuous cybersecurity awareness training programs for staff. While the framework functions on a voluntary adoption model, state authorities designed the guidelines to systematically align local enterprise practices with existing federal cyber laws, including the Cybercrimes Act, reducing corporate exposure to data breaches and regulatory sanctions.¹³

¹³ Provisions supplementing the Cyber Resilience Act to enter into force: Improving cybersecurity of smart devices and software - Finnish Government (valtioneuvosto.fi) Accessed via <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410829/provisions-supplementing-the-cyber-resilience-act-to-enter-into-force-improving-cybersecurity-of-smart-devices-and-software> accessed July 3 2026

CBN WARNS AGAINST FRAUDULENT MESSAGES

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has alerted the public to fraudulent emails, messages, and online communications falsely linked to the Bank, aimed at spreading misinformation and hacking personal accounts. These scams often include fake links and claims about CBN leadership, licensing, or policies. The Bank advises Nigerians to verify all communications through its official website, www.cbn.gov.ng, avoid clicking suspicious links, and report fraudulent activity to law enforcement. CBN reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the financial system and strengthening cybersecurity measures in collaboration with relevant agencies to protect the public from digital fraud.¹⁴

NIGERIA RANKED 8TH FOR SPAM CALLS

Nigeria has been ranked 8th globally for spam calls, with Truecaller’s 2025 report showing that 51% of all unknown calls in the country were flagged as spam or fraudulent, the highest rate in Africa. Telecom-related outreach made up 35% of these calls, followed by sales and telemarketing at 10% and scams at 6%, highlighting a growing trust crisis as users increasingly avoid unfamiliar numbers. Globally, Indonesia led with a 79% spam rate, while Chile, Vietnam, Brazil, and India also ranked high. Truecaller warned that fraud and impersonation are reshaping phone communication, with missed calls now posing risks to healthcare, financial transactions, and customer engagement.¹⁵

BMONI AND MASTERCARD LAUNCH INSTANT CARD ACCESS IN NIGERIA

Mastercard has partnered with BMONI, an AI-powered financial platform, to introduce a new generation of virtual and physical payment cards that allow Nigerian consumers to instantly create Naira and US dollar cards for seamless local and global transactions. Powered by Mastercard’s global network and managed through the BMONI app, the solution offers multi-currency flexibility, real-time card management, and the ability to generate multiple cards for everyday spending, subscriptions, travel, savings, and cross-border payments. This marks one of the first locally issued international card programs in Nigeria, designed to accelerate the adoption of digital payments as the country’s e-commerce market is projected to reach \$26 billion by 2030. The collaboration aims to remove friction in financial access, giving users greater control and convenience while supporting Nigeria’s rapidly growing digital economy.

META EXPANDS AI AGE ASSURANCE

Meta has rolled out new AI-powered age assurance tools to better protect teenagers across Instagram, Facebook, and Messenger. The system analyses contextual signals like posts and bios, along with visual cues in photos and videos, to detect underage accounts without using facial recognition. Flagged accounts face verification or removal, while teens are automatically placed into safer, age-appropriate settings that limit exposure to sensitive content. Meta has also improved reporting tools, strengthened safeguards against repeated attempts to bypass restrictions, and introduced parental notifications through its Family Centre, reinforcing its commitment to safer digital experiences for young users.

NITDA AND GALAXY BACKBONE LAUNCH LOCAL CLOUD RELIEF FOR STARTUPS

The National Information Technology Development Agency (“NITDA”) has partnered with Galaxy Backbone Limited to introduce a subsidised sovereign cloud framework to reduce startup failures in

¹⁴ [Here](#)

¹⁵ [Here](#)

Nigeria. Implemented through the Office for Nigerian Digital Innovation (ONDI), the initiative provides affordable, secure, locally hosted infrastructure via the Galaxy Cloud Platform, with billing in naira to ease foreign exchange pressures. Designed for participants in the iHatch programme, the model offers milestone-based cloud credits, improved data sovereignty, and cost stability, while a Startup Success Team supports efficient resource use. With over 160 startups already trained, the programme is evolving into a full-stack support system that tackles infrastructure costs, security concerns, and poor resource management, giving early-stage ventures a stronger foundation to grow sustainably.

NIMC ANNOUNCES NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION (NIMC) ACT, 2026

The National Identity Management Commission (“NIMC”) has announced the enactment of the NIMC Act 2026, which repeals the 2007 law and establishes a modern framework for Nigeria’s identity ecosystem. The Act designates NIMC as the Root Certification Authority for the country’s National Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), strengthens data protection, reinforces the National Identification Number (NIN) as the foundational credential, introduces measures for inclusivity, and enhances anti-fraud safeguards, positioning Nigeria to drive digital transformation, security, and economic growth.¹⁶

NIMC ANNOUNCES NATIONAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND DATA ANALYTICS OFFICE

The National Identity Management Commission (“NIMC”) has announced the establishment of the National Health Technology and Data Analytics Office (“NHTDAO”), a new institution designed to coordinate Nigeria’s digital health transformation. The office, domiciled in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, will serve as the central platform for integrating health data systems, setting interoperability standards, and driving technology-enabled reforms across the healthcare sector. With Dr Obi Adigwe appointed as pioneer National Coordinator, the NHTDAO will operationalise the National Digital Health Architecture, harmonise initiatives nationwide, strengthen data governance, and accelerate innovation to improve healthcare delivery, patient outcomes, and evidence-based policymaking.

NIGERIA TO LAUNCH DIGITAL EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM

The Federal Ministry of Education will officially unveil the Digital National Education Information Management System (DNEMIS) on July 1, 2026, a landmark platform designed to modernise education administration through technology and data-driven management. Already enrolling over 32 million students, DNEMIS forms the backbone of the Nigeria Education Data Infrastructure (NEDI), enabling reliable, integrated data for planning, budgeting, and policymaking. Built with strong privacy safeguards and global standards, the system will provide visibility into every learner’s journey, enhance transparency, improve service delivery, and support evidence-based investments to strengthen Nigeria’s education sector.

SOUTH AFRICA ENFORCES HARMONISED TECH TRANSACTION RULES UNDER THE INTERACTIVE DIGITAL FRAMEWORK IN Q2 2026

South Africa's Department of Communications and Digital Technologies has implemented the second phase of its interactive electronic transactions updates to regulate cross-border tech services. Coming into full force, the updated administrative rulebook introduces strict validation requirements for electronic signatures, smart contracts, and cloud-hosted data exchanges crossing national borders. The

¹⁶ [Here](#)

law forces international e-commerce networks and software providers to host mirror instances of transactional metadata within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region to ensure access for local judicial audits. Failure to conform to these processing standards subjects international vendors to severe market access restrictions and administrative fines managed by the state communication commission.

REPORT PROJECTS \$22BN GDP BOOST FROM AI ADOPTION

A new study by Public First, unveiled by Meta in Abuja, projects that wider adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) could add about \$22 billion to Nigeria’s GDP by 2035. The report highlights the strategic role of digital infrastructure, open-source technologies, and online platforms in driving growth, while also noting that Nigeria’s current \$52 billion digital economy could more than double to \$120 billion within the next decade. Alongside the findings, the government and Meta launched [GovGuide Nigeria](#), a multilingual AI-powered chatbot designed to improve access to public services.¹⁷ The initiative underscores Nigeria’s strong AI readiness, ongoing investments in broadband and digital skills, and its ambition to lead Africa’s digital future.¹⁸

META INTRODUCES AI MODE ON FACEBOOK

Meta has rolled out new AI-powered features on Facebook, including “AI Mode,” a conversational search tool built on Muse Spark technology that delivers contextual answers from user-shared content across Groups and Reels. The update also adds AI-driven editing tools such as collage templates, transition effects, and photo presets that let users restyle images or virtually try on outfits. Meta says the features aim to simplify search, boost creativity, and make photo sharing more engaging, while giving users greater control with opt-in settings.¹⁹

META ROLLS OUT GLOBAL SUBSCRIPTION PLANS FOR FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, WHATSAPP

Meta has begun a global rollout of subscription tiers across Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, introducing “Plus” plans priced between \$2.99 and \$3.99 per month that offer enhanced features such as profile customisation, story insights and expanded engagement tools. The initiative, part of a broader “Meta One” subscription ecosystem, also includes upcoming professional plans for creators and businesses, as well as AI-focused tiers priced at \$7.99 and \$19.99 for advanced computing and content generation. Meta says the subscriptions are designed to diversify revenue beyond advertising while giving high-engagement users and creators more functionality across its platforms.

AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS HISTORIC ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GOVERNANCE CHARTER IN APRIL 2026

The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council has formally committed to building a unified regulatory landscape for advanced automation at its 1339th continental meeting held on April 16, 2026. Recognising the profound risks that uncontrolled algorithms pose to state sovereignty, the council adopted a comprehensive communiqué detailing the progressive development of a context-specific African AI Governance Charter. The legislative roadmap mandates that member states construct independent national competent authorities to regulate emerging systems while balancing technological innovation with human rights. Crucially, the AU framework requires that future

¹⁷ <https://fmcide.gov.ng/fmcide-and-meta-launch-govguide-nigeria-an-ai-powered-government-services-chatbot/>

¹⁸ [Here](#)

¹⁹ [Here](#)

consumer-facing generative AI models be trained in native African languages to improve social cohesion, while imposing structural bans on the weaponisation of AI, technology-facilitated violence, and automated deepfake operations used for foreign political disinformation.²⁰

EUROPEAN COUNCIL GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO DIGITAL OMNIBUS AMENDMENT DELAYING HIGH-RISK EU AI ACT TIMELINES

The European Council gave its final, definitive green light to the "Digital Omnibus on AI" on June 29, 2026, significantly altering the implementation deadlines of the landmark EU Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation 2024/1689). Acknowledging heavy industry friction, the new law postpones the strict compliance deadline for Annex III standalone high-risk AI systems, which automate employment, education, credit scoring, and law enforcement screening, by 16 months, moving the active date from August 2, 2026, to December 2, 2027. Despite the procedural delay for enterprise software, the European Parliament fast-tracked consumer protection mandates. The amendment forces a strict, immediate global ban on AI-powered "nudifier" software and applications that generate non-consensual intimate imagery, with a rigid enforcement deadline locked in for December 2, 2026.²¹ This continental delay has immediate global administrative ripple effects, reshaping the domestic compliance roadmaps of major offshore trading nations, including Ireland, which approved its sovereign Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill on June 17, 2026.

UNITED STATES ISSUES SWEEPING EXECUTIVE ORDER FORCING PRE-RELEASE AI MODEL ACCESS

The White House has enacted Executive Order 14409, titled "**Promoting Advanced Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Security**," dramatically expanding federal oversight and cybersecurity protocols for frontier AI developers. Signed into law on June 2, 2026, the mandate designs a new voluntary framework that pressures deep-tech organisations to grant the federal government full model access for a 30-day benchmarking period before commercial release. The order also empowers the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to establish a classified benchmarking process to identify "covered frontier models" capable of causing systemic structural risk. On the judicial front, the directive instructs the Department of Justice to prioritise federal criminal statutes against actors utilising AI agents to unlawfully breach private databases or execute automated cyberattacks against critical infrastructure.²² This matches expanding state-level legislative overhauls across North America, following Colorado's enactment of SB 26-189 on May 14, 2026, which replaces broad tech principles with a highly targeted enforcement framework governing automated decision-making.

EUROPEAN UNION CYBER RESILIENCE ACT SUPPLEMENTS NATIONAL LAWS FOR SMART DEVICES FROM JUNE 1ST 2026

The implementation of the European Union's Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) reached a critical milestone as member states formally enacted supplementary national provisions on June 1, 2026. The

²⁰ Communiqué of the 1339th meeting of the PSC on "Artificial Intelligence: Governance, Peace and Security" (www.peaceau.org) Accessed via <https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1339th-meeting-of-the-psc-on-artificial-intelligence-governance-peace-and-security-held-on-thursday-16-april-2026> accessed July 3 2026

²¹ Artificial Intelligence: Council gives final green light to simplify and streamline rules (www.consilium.europa.eu) Accessed via <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/06/29/artificial-intelligence-council-gives-final-green-light-to-simplify-and-streamline-rules/> accessed July 3 2026

²² Promoting Advanced Artificial Intelligence Innovation and Security - The White House (www.whitehouse.gov) Accessed via <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/06/promoting-advanced-artificial-intelligence-innovation-and-security/> accessed July 3 2026

harmonised legislation introduces mandatory, baseline cybersecurity requirements for all connected hardware and software products entering the single market, including AI-driven smart devices, remotely readable sensors, routers, and mobile applications. Under the updated legal framework, manufacturers are legally compelled to design products with strict vulnerability management loops and are hit with immediate mandatory reporting rules if a serious flaw or an active cyber exploit is discovered. Furthermore, on June 11, 2026, the regulatory pipeline opened the application process for independent conformity assessment bodies, centralising market surveillance and administrative sanctions under state transport and communications agencies to penalise non-compliant offshore tech exporters.²³ This coincides with broader digital infrastructure overhauls across Europe, matching the mid-June phased implementation of the Network and Information Systems (NIS 2) Directive amendments to tighten identity tracking and domain name data collection.

KENYA UNVEILS NATIONAL BLOCKCHAIN REGULATORY SANDBOX TO GOVERN DECENTRALIZED

The Kenyan government, through the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and the ICT Ministry, officially launched a dedicated regulatory sandbox for blockchain-based financial products on May 12, 2026. The framework is designed to provide a "safe harbour" for fintech startups experimenting with smart contracts, tokenised real-world assets (RWAs), and decentralised autonomous organisations (DAOs). Under the new guidelines, participants in the sandbox are granted temporary relief from certain licensing requirements provided they implement "proof-of-reserve" protocols and undergo quarterly security audits by government-appointed blockchain validators. The initiative aims to position Nairobi as the regional hub for Web3 development while curbing the rise of unregulated crypto-asset fraud, which saw a 14% spike in local retail losses during the first quarter of the year.²⁴ This proactive approach mirrors shifts in other emerging markets like the UAE, which simultaneously announced its "Global Web3 Compliance Accord" in June to align international standards for decentralised ledger governance.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY BODY RELEASES GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK FOR QUANTUM COMPUTING

On June 22, 2026, the United Nations released its long-awaited "Quantum Governance Principles," a set of international guidelines aimed at preventing a "quantum divide" and mitigating existential security risks. The framework emphasises the concept of "Quantum Sovereignty," urging member states to develop domestic quantum infrastructure while ensuring that post-quantum cryptography (PQC) standards are adopted to protect critical national infrastructure from "harvest now, decrypt later" cyberattacks. The guidelines explicitly call for the creation of a global registry of quantum computing assets and mandate that any system exceeding a threshold of 1,000 stable qubits must be subject to international monitoring regarding its potential to break current encryption standards.²⁵ This global effort reflects the urgency seen in the United States, where the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) finalised its transition plan to lattice-based cryptographic algorithms earlier in May.

²³ Provisions supplementing the Cyber Resilience Act to enter into force: Improving cybersecurity of smart devices and software - Finnish Government (valtioneuvosto.fi) Accessed via <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410829/provisions-supplementing-the-cyber-resilience-act-to-enter-into-force-improving-cybersecurity-of-smart-devices-and-software> accessed July 3 2026

²⁴ Kenya's Web3 Pivot: Inside the New Blockchain Sandbox (www.techweez.com) Accessed via <https://techweez.com/2026/05/13/kenya-blockchain-sandbox-cma/> accessed July 3 2026

²⁵ UN Releases Landmark Quantum Governance Principles (www.news.un.org) Accessed via <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/06/quantum-governance-framework-release> accessed July 3 2026

GHANA IMPLEMENTS MANDATORY INTEROPERABILITY STANDARDS FOR CROSS-BORDER DIGITAL PAYMENTS

The Bank of Ghana, in collaboration with the Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GhIPSS), officially enforced new technical standards for cross-border digital wallets on April 8, 2026. The directive mandates that all mobile money operators and digital payment providers adopt a unified API architecture to facilitate seamless, real-time remittances across the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ). A key feature of the upgrade is the integration of a "Green Ledger" system, which uses low-energy consensus mechanisms to process transactions, effectively reducing the carbon footprint of digital payments by an estimated 22%. Operators failing to integrate with the central hub by the June 30 deadline face daily fines and potential suspension of their cross-border operating permits.²⁶ This integration drive aligns with the broader African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) protocol on digital trade, which seeks to harmonise payment systems across the continent to accelerate intra-African commerce.

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²⁶ Bank of Ghana enforces new cross-border payment architecture (www.ghanaweb.com) Accessed via <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Bank-of-Ghana-enforces-new-cross-border-payment-architecture-1543202> accessed July 3 2026

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