LSNIC. LS CCTLD

DOMAIN NAME REGISTRATION POLICY

V1.0.0

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PREAMBLE

This policy is founded, on LSNIC's commitment to regulate and promote domain name registration in Lesotho. A 3-R model has been adopted, which consists of the Registry, the Registrar and the registrant. Policy frameworks have been developed and implemented to guide all stakeholders.

1. **SCOPE**

   This policy shall applicable to the following;

1.1. The terms under which applications can be submitted to the Registry as well as how the Registry will deal with domain name registration requests.

1.2. The way in which applications will be processed.

1.3. All the technical and administrative measures that the Registry shall use to ensure proper, fair technically stable administration of the .ls CCTLD, setting out the basic rules and procedures applicable to renewal of domain names, modification of domain names, deletion of domain names, reactivation and transfers under the .ls and other lower level.

1.4. The purpose of this Domain Registration Policy is to state the technical and administrative principles, policies, rules and procedures used by the .ls Registry for Domain Name registrations including applications, registration, ren ewal, deletion, suspension, revocation etc of these domain names.

1.5. This Registration Policy covers domains registered under the .ls TLD

1.6. The Registration Policy applies to all domains that were registered prior to the date when this policy came into effect. Those domains will be transferred from any old system to the new system under this policy and the principles, policies, rules and procedures for such transfer are covered under the Transfers section of this policy.

2. DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

Applicant any individual or entity that applies to register the .ls domain with the Registrar

Application means a fully and correctly completed request for a domain name that is submitted to the registry

Domain Name Domain Name that is registered that is registered directly under the .ls or any of its lower levels that is managed by the registry and satisfying the eligibility and technical requirements as stated in the policy.

DNS means Domain Name System

Registrant means a natural person, company or organisation who has submitted an Application for or holds a Domain Name Registration.

Registrar means a person or entity that is accredited to resell .ls domain names on behalf of the .ls registry

Registry means a domain name registry, an organisation that manages top-level domain names. It creates domain name extensions, sets rules for that domain name, and works with registrars to sell domain names to the public. In this the registry shall be Lesotho Network Information Centre

3. Who May Register

3.1. Any natural person, company or organization can register a domain name under the .ls domain.

3.2. Only The Lesotho Government organizations are eligible to register a Domain Name under the.gov.ls domain.

3.3.   Unless otherwise provided for in this Registration Policy, Domain Names will be registered on a "first come, first serve" basis based on the date and time that an Application is received by the Registry.

4. Requirements for choosing a domain name

4.1.   A valid domain name should meet the following requirements:

4.1.1.   Domain names must use only alphanumeric characters and dashes (-)

4.1.2.   Domain names must not begin or end with dashes (-).

4.1.3.   Domain names must not have more than 63 characters.

4.1.4.   Domain names must not have spaces between them

4.2.   The name must not already be registered as a Domain Name.

4.3.   The Applicant should conduct a Domain Name search, to see if the domain name is available for registration within LsNIC's "**WHOIS"** look-up system which is available online through LsNIC website: www.nic.ls or directly from http://whois.nic.ls/whois

5. Lodging a Domain Name Application

5.1.   A domain request, be it new registrations, renewals, transfers, deactivations, reactivations and or deletions can only be done by LsNIC accredited registrars on behalf of registrants.

5.2.   A registrant wishing to register a domain under .ls registry must contact an LsNIC accredited registrar, a list of all accredited registrars can be found on the LsNIC website, www.nic.ls/registrars .

5.3.   The following should be available before an application is submitted for a new domain registration:
  i.   Domain name requested

      ii.   Full name of the registrant

      iii.   Physical and postal address

      iv.   Email address of the registrant or its representative

      v.   Telephone numbers of the registrant

      vi.   Technical contact, together with their physical and postal address, email address and telephone numbers.

      vii.   The name-servers to be used for that domain

5.4. Unless otherwise specified, the registrant will be the administrative contact of the domain, and will be notified of billing and administrative changes of the domain, while the technical contact will be notified of technical related issues of the domain.

5.5. It is the registrar's responsibility to provide and explain all applicable rules to the registrant before the request is submitted to the registry.

5.6. It is the registrar and the registrant's obligation to provide correct, accurate and up to date information to the registry.

6. <u>Renewal, Suspension and Deletion of Domain Names</u>

6.1. A Domain Name must be renewed prior to its expiry date as recorded at the Registry in order to maintain it in good working order.

6.2. To renew a Domain Name registration, the Registrant must request its Registrar to submit a Renewal Request to the Registry. It is not possible for a Registrant to file a renewal request directly with the Registry.

6.3. The Registry will charge a renewal fee to the Registrar to renew the Domain Name at a rate as displayed on the Registry website.

6.4. If the domain has not been renewed seven (30) days before its expiry, the Registry will send a final advisory email message to the Registrar stating that the registration is about to expire.

6.5. The Registrant is entitled to cancel a Domain Name registration by making a request through its Registrar to the registry who then files a deletion request to the Registry. It is not possible for a Registrant to file a deletion request directly with the Registry.

6.6. A Domain Name that has expired or for which the Registry has received a deletion request will be suspended for a period of 30 days starting from the expiry date or the date mentioned in the deletion notice, whichever is earlier.

6.7. A suspended Domain Name will be removed from delegation to its DNS or name servers during the period of suspension but will still be visible in the WHOIS.

6.8. The Registrant may request its Registrar to renew the Domain Name or transfer the Domain Name to another Registrar during the suspension period.

6.9. If no reactivation, renewal or transfer takes place within the 30-day suspension period or if the Registry does not receive the relevant fees, the Domain Name registration will be cancelled or deleted from the Registry and the Domain Name will be made available for others to take up for general registration.

7. Procedure for Change of Registrar or Registrant

7.1. The registrant has the right to transfer their domain to another registrar.

7.2. The registrant will contact the current registrar to notify them of their wish to change the registrar.

7.3.   The current registrar must share the transfer code either with the registrant and or the new registrar to enable the transfer.

7.4.   Unless there is a dispute between the registrant and the current registrar, which the current registrar has made the registry aware of, the current registry will not deny or delay the process of transfer.

7.5.   If the registrar, for any reason stops to be a registrar, the registry will notify all the registrants under such registrar and must select new registrar, after which the registry will initiate the domain transfers.

7.6.   The registrant has the right to transfer domain name to a new registrant

7.7.   The registrant will communicate with the registrar of the domain name to be transferred.

8. **Revocation of Domain Names**

8.1.   The Registry may revoke a Domain name at its own discretion exclusively on the following grounds:

      i.   Outstanding unpaid debts owed by the Registrar to the Registry

      ii.   The Registrant no longer being eligible for the Domain Name registration

      iii.   Breach of the Rules and Regulations for Domain Name registration

      iv.   Any act or use of a domain name which in the opinion of the Registry warrants revocation.

8.2.   The Registry shall notify the Registrant and/or the Registrar by e-mail 30 days before revoking the domain name thereby affording the Registrant and/or the Registrar the opportunity to remedy the grounds for revocation.

8.3.   The Registry reserves the right to suspend a Domain Name after sending the notice for revocation. A Domain Name that has been suspended pending revocation cannot be transferred and cannot be reactivated until the grounds for revocation have been remedied.

8.4.   If the grounds for revocation are not remedied within the time frame set, the Registry shall be entitled to revoke the Domain Name and such a revoked Domain Name shall then be made available for others to register.

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1.   The Registry shall endeavour to resolve disputes filed with it by conducting impartial mediation through discussions with both parties confidentially and as a neutral third party, advising how the dispute could be settled.

9.2.   Where parties reach a settlement under Mediation, such a settlement shall be binding and enforceable.

9.3.   The Mediation shall be carried out expeditiously and at such costs as may be determined by the Registry.

9.4.   In the event that mediation proceedings are not successful, parties, the Registry shall use rules under the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) of the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).   The UDRP can be found at https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/policy-2012-02-25-en .

10. APPLICABLE LAW AND JURISDICTION

10.1.   This Policy and all the rules and procedures covered herein are subject to the laws of Lesotho.

10.2.   In the event of any dispute, disagreement or claim, the Courts of Lesotho shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

11. AMMENDMENTS

11.1.   If the Registry decides to make changes to this Policy, it will announce and make the new Policy available on the Registry website at least 30 days before the new Policy takes effect and is enforced.

11.2.   The registry may waive the notice period in exceptional cases where the changes are to prevent Domain Name registrations of a speculative or abusive nature.

11.3.   The Registry will not be obliged to personally inform Registrants and Registrars are to be or have been modified

12. <u>DATA PROTECTION</u>

LsNIC strongly advocates for the protection of all personal information, in line with the **Data Protection Act 2013**. The act is provided on the LsNIC website under publications and archives.