LUSAKA INTERNET MEET - UP 25

bloggers of zambia
Keeping Online Spaces Open
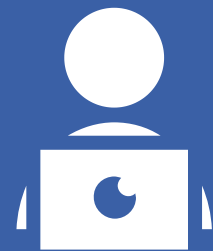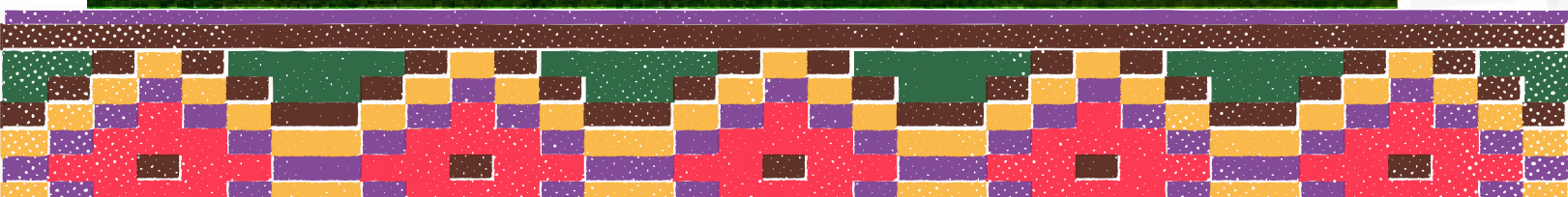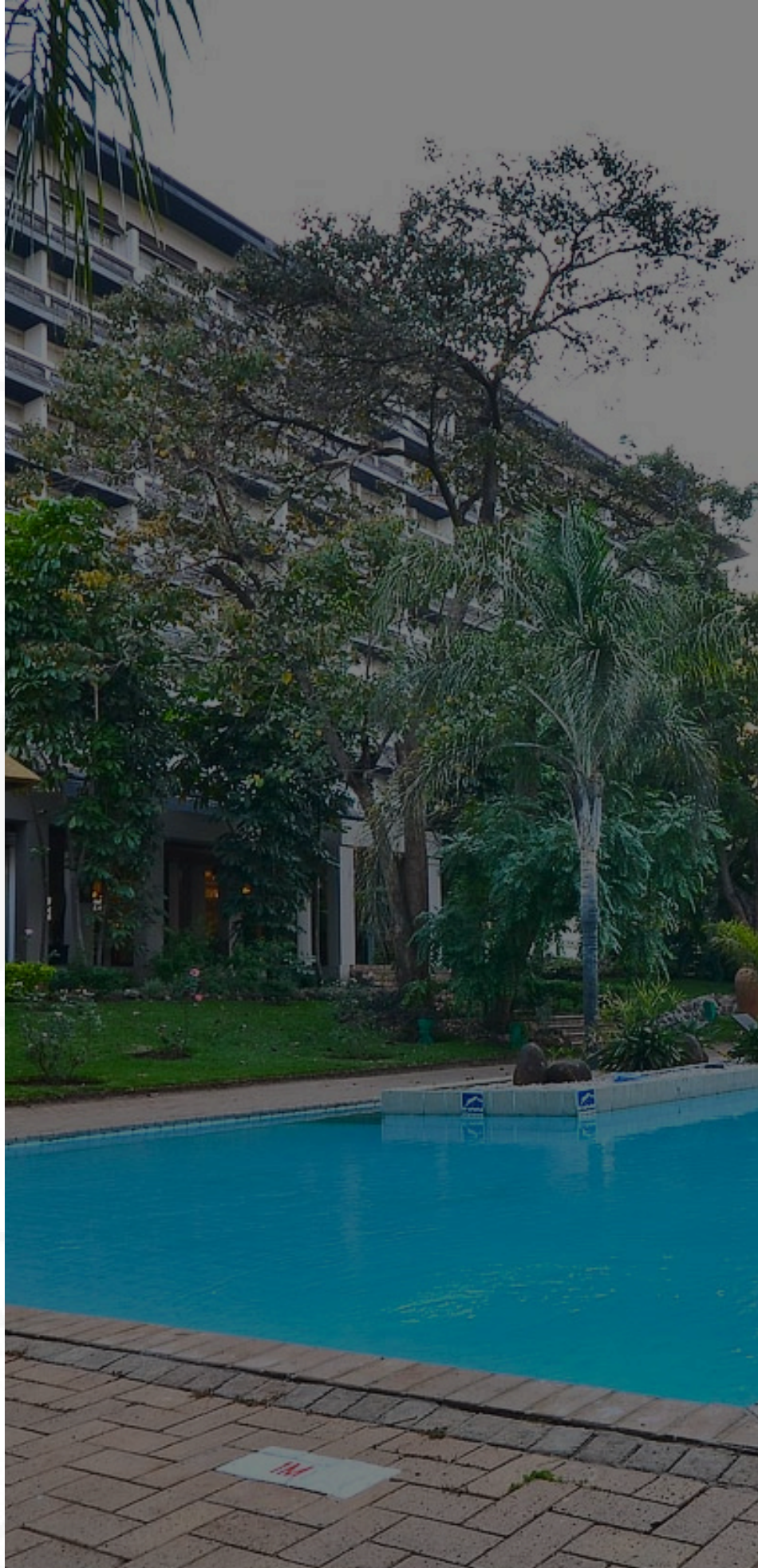
#LusakaInternetMeetUp25

ABOUT US

Bloggers of Zambia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that was established in the year 2017. Our thematic areas of work are; Digital Rights, Press Freedom, Civic Tech and Media and Information Literacy.

Our mission is to create an open society where digital rights and the rights-based offline and online media platforms are guaranteed and protected

INTRODUCTION

The Lusaka Internet Meet-Up was established in 2019 and is an in-country, annual, multistakeholder event that convenes different stakeholders who are interested in digitalisation. The event is a platform for discussing and shaping internet governance and digital rights issues. It is meant to promote an affordable, free, open, resilient, and inclusive internet for all, which is in line with global best practices.

The Lusaka Internet Meet-Up promotes stakeholder collaboration and how stakeholders can exchange ideas, knowledge and establish collaborations on how we all can amalgamate our efforts and make recommendations to harness Zambia's digitalisation in terms of internet governance, digital democracy and digital governance, especially law and policy processes, regulations, education and awareness, etc.

The Lusaka Internet Meet-up is an opportunity to advance conversations and collaborations regarding the challenges and opportunities of Zambia's digital transformation agenda. The Lusaka Internet Meet-up is a platform for capacity building and an opportunity to gather recommendations for consideration by policymakers, legislators, regulators and law enforcement on key digital rights and internet governance issues.

The 2025 Lusaka Internet Meet-Up will be held under the theme, ***"Advancing Zambia's digital future, bridging the digital divide while fighting for freedom"***.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate a multistakeholder platform for conversations where Zambia's digitalization issues are debated and shaped.
- To provide a platform for attendees to forge partnerships and put into action conversations on digitalization issues such as laws and policies, access, infrastructure, connectivity, affordability, emerging technologies etc in Zambia.

STAKEHOLDERS/ ATTENDEES (TARGET AUDIENCE)

- Government and specialized ministries, agencies and departments (Ministry of Information and Media, Ministry of Technology and Science, Ministry of Justice, Law enforcement, ZICTA, Smart Zambia Initiative etc.)
- Legislators (parliamentarians)
- Human Rights Commission (HRC)
- Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ)
- Zambia Consumer Protection Commission
- Technologists
- Innovators and Entrepreneurs
- Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)
- ICT Association of Zambia (ICTAZ)

- **Law Association of Zambia and Independent lawyers**
- **Media bodies and associations**
- **Local civil society organisations in governance**
- **INGOs (Internews Oxfam, ActionAid, WaterAid, Internews Zambia Network, BBC-Media Action)**
- **Journalists/ bloggers**
- **Service providers/ Private companies (MTN, Airtel Zambia, Infratel, Zamtel, Liquid telecom, Absa, Standard Chartered, ZANACO etc.)**
- **Embassies (Swedish, USA, German, British, Malawi, Kenya)**
- **Academia, college and university students (University of Zambia, NIPA University, Cavendish University, University of Lusaka, Mulungushi University, Evelyn Hone College etc)**

2025 THEMATIC AREAS (SUB-THEMES)

Digital governance

This theme delves into how government is using digital technologies to design, implement and deliver public services in a transparent, efficient and citizen-centered way. The theme focuses on how the integration digital tools and systems into public administration can improve access, accountability and responsiveness.

The theme dives into electronic government (E-Government) platforms or online portals where citizens can access services like tax filing, licenses, birth registration, social protection e.g pensions and social cash transfer, digital identity systems, road traffic management services and others.

Cyber law and policy

Under this sub-theme, session organisers will explore the evolving landscape of cyber law and digital policy in Zambia, with a focus on how legislation is necessary for combating cybercrimes and strengthening the cybersecurity in the republic.

The theme will also debate potential cyber law impacts on free expression, privacy access to information, entrepreneurship and innovation. It will provide a platform for constructive debate and dialogue among policymakers, civil society, legal experts and technology stakeholders to assess the implementation of existing laws such as Data Protection Act, Cyber Security Act, Cybercrimes Act and to propose rights-based policy reforms. The session aims to promote inclusive and accountable digital governance that protects citizens while fostering a safe and open internet.

Youth and civic engagement

This sub-theme spotlights the dynamic role of young people in shaping Zambia's digital democracy. The theme explores how young Zambians are leveraging social media, digital tools and online platforms to mobilize, advocate and influence civic and political processes.

The session will also examine barriers to meaningful participation such as digital exclusion, low literacy and misinformation. The theme will also identify strategies to enhance youth engagement in governance, policy-making and digital rights advocacy. The discussion will aim to amplify youth voices and foster innovation in civic technology and digital activism.

Misinformation, free expression and accountability

This theme dives into the complex relationship between misinformation, freedom of expression and the role of citizens in upholding transparency and accountability standards. The theme will explore how the spread of false information affects public trust, public discourse and democratic participation, while also examining the risks of over-regulation and censorship under the excuse of combating misinformation.

The session will highlight the importance of media literacy, fact-checking and open dialogue in promoting responsible digital citizenship and ensuring that efforts to counter misinformation do not undermine fundamental rights and freedoms.

Cyber Security, cybercrimes and online protection

This sub-theme will examine the state of cybersecurity in Zambia, addressing the rise in cybercrimes such as data breaches, online fraud, identity theft and digital harassment and bullying. It will explore how citizens, businesses and institutions can better protect themselves in an increasingly connected world.

The session will also assess the effectiveness of current laws, policies and enforcement mechanisms while emphasizing the need for a rights-based approach to online protection. Session organisers will engage in discussions around digital safety, resilience and the balance between security and freedoms in the digital age.

METHODOLOGY

A call for session proposals has been published and a detailed agenda will be developed after selection of successful topics. The event will be an in-person model with virtual participation and will be held over a period of two days, to enable wider participation and broaden the base of participation from across the sectors ad different locations within and outside Zambia.

The event will accept sessions in the form of panel discussions, PowerPoint presentations, demonstrations, exhibitions and the event is open to other creative formats. The targeted 200 participants/ attendees. The working language will be English with sign language interpretation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To enhance understanding of the challenges and opportunities in Zambia's internet landscape
- To enhance understanding of the legal and policy provisions governing digitalisation in Zambia
- To mobilize stakeholders to participate in formulating internet policy and legal recommendations
- To provide a platform for knowledge exchange and networking among stakeholders

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