

**LAW N° 26/2017 OF 31/05/2017
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL
CYBER SECURITY AUTHORITY AND
DETERMINING ITS MISSION,
ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING**

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ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL
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We, KAGAME Paul,
President of the Republic;

**THE PARLIAMENT HAS ADOPTED,
AND WE SANCTION, PROMULGATE
THE FOLLOWING LAW AND ORDER
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL
GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
RWANDA**

THE PARLIAMENT:

the Chamber of Deputies, in its session of
4 May 2017;

the Senate, in its session of 24 May 2017;

ursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015, specially in Articles 64, 69, 70, 71, 85, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 106, 112, 120, 139, 165 and 176;

DOPTS:

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article One: Purpose of this Law

The purpose of this Law is to establish the National Cyber Security Authority. It also determines its mission, organisation and functioning.

Article 2: Definitions of terms

In this Law, the following terms have the following meanings:

- ° **critical information infrastructure:** virtual and physical information systems that provide services to the citizens and serve as a backbone of development of

the national economic, social and security life;

° **national cyber operations:** integrated employment of cyber capabilities in pursuit of national security objectives;

° **ICT:** Information and Communication Technologies;

° **cyber-attack:** any deliberate action taken to alter, disrupt, deceive, degrade or destroy computer systems, network or their original information and programs by technology means;

° **cyber threat:** the possibility of any attempt to alter, disrupt, deceive, degrade or destroy computer systems, network or their information and programs;

° **cyber security:** the protection of cyberspace;

° **national security:** strategies taken by the country for its protection, including the prevention of and fight against internal and external threats and other acts that may threaten its integrity;

° **cyberspace:** global domain consisting of interdependent networks of information and communication technology infrastructure.

Article 3: Establishment of NCSA

There is hereby established the National Cyber Security Authority, abbreviated as NCSA.

Article 4: Mission of NCSA

The mission of NCSA is to build skills and capacities in cyber security with a view to ensuring the protection of the national integrity and security in order to achieve economic and social development.

Article 5: Supervising authority of NCSA

NCSA is supervised by the Office of the President of the Republic.

Article 6: Performance contract

NCSA operates on the basis of a performance contract.

Modalities for the conclusion and evaluation of performance contract of NCSA are determined by relevant laws.

Article 7: Head office of NCSA

The head office of NCSA is located in the city of Kigali, the capital of the Republic of Rwanda. It may be transferred elsewhere in Rwanda if deemed necessary.

NCSA may establish branches elsewhere on the national territory if deemed necessary, upon approval by its supervising authority.

Article 8: Autonomy of NCSA

NCSA enjoys administrative and financial autonomy.

CHAPTER II: RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF NCSA

Article 9: Responsibilities of NCSA

NCSA has the following responsibilities:

- 1° to advise the President of the Republic and other public and private institutions on strategies to defend Rwanda's interests in cyberspace;
- 2° to conduct cyber intelligence on any national security threat in cyberspace and provide information from such intelligence to the relevant organs;

- 3° to establish guidelines on the basis of national, regional and international ICT security principles;
- 4° to coordinate and implement the national ICT security policy and strategy;
- 5° to develop strategies to secure all electronic operations;
- 6° to monitor all national ICT security programs;
- 7° to prevent cyber-attacks in order to protect ICT infrastructure in general and critical information infrastructure in particular;
- 8° to establish and promote national cyber security education programs, foster research and develop industry in the ICT field;

- 9° to create among the Rwandan society awareness about cyber security;
- 10° to collaborate with other public and private institutions and other information technology-related bodies to ensure national ICT security;
- 11° to cooperate and collaborate with other regional and international organs in charge of cyber security;
- 12° to provide national defence and security organs with the necessary support to attain their responsibilities in relation to cyberspace;
- 13° to perform other duties as may be assigned by the President of the Republic.

Article 10: Powers of NCSA

NCSA has the following powers:

- 1° to set guidelines and standards for cyberspace protection and ICT security within public and private institutions;
- 2° to carry out audits of critical information infrastructure, cyber systems and networks within public and private institutions if considered necessary to preserve national security and public interest;
- 3° to investigate any cyber threat, take preventive actions against cyber-attacks and collaborate with other competent organs to fight cybercrime that poses a threat to national security;
- 4° to conduct cyber security operations, independently or jointly with other competent organs;

- 5° to put in place mechanisms for sharing information about cyber-threats or cyber-attacks.

Article 11: Critical information infrastructure

The critical information infrastructure provided for under this Law are determined by a Presidential Order.

CHAPTER III: ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF NCSA

Article 12: Organs of NCSA

NCSA has the following organs:

- 1° the Directorate General;
- 2° the Advisory Council of NCSA.

Section One: Directorate General of NCSA

Article 13: Members of the Directorate General and their appointment

The Directorate General of NCSA is composed of the Chief Executive Officer and other support staff including Chief Budget Manager appointed by an Order of the Minister in charge of finance.

The Chief Executive Officer of NCSA is appointed and removed from office by a Presidential Order.

A Presidential Order may also appoint Deputy Chief Executive Officers when considered necessary and determine their duties.

Other staff members of NCSA are appointed in accordance with the special statutes established by a Presidential Order.

Article 14: Responsibilities of the Directorate General

The Directorate General is responsible for the implementation of responsibilities of NCSA provided for under this Law.

Article 15: Duties of the Chief Executive Officer of NCSA

The Chief Executive Officer of NCSA has the following responsibilities:

- to manage, coordinate and monitor the daily activities of NCSA;
- to prepare the draft budget proposal, action plan and activity report to be submitted to the supervising organ of NCSA;
- to implement, make follow-up on and monitor compliance with cyber security policy and resolutions made by the supervising organ of NCSA in accordance with cyber security laws;
- to perform all other duties as may be assigned by the supervising organ of NCSA.

Article 16: Organisational structure and functioning of NCSA organs

The organisational structure and functioning of NCSA organs are determined by a Presidential Order.

Article 17: Fringe benefits for members of the Directorate General and staff members of NCSA

Fringe benefits for members of the Directorate-General and staff members of NCSA are determined by a Presidential Order.

Section 2: Advisory Council of NCSA

Article 18: Advisory Council of NCSA

A Presidential Order determines members of the Advisory Council of NCSA, and also determines their responsibilities and modalities for performance thereof.

CHAPTER IV: PROPERTY AND FINANCE OF NCSA

Article 19: Property of NCSA and its sources

The property of NCSA consists of movables and immovables.

The property of NCSA derives from the following sources:

- 1° State budget allocations;
- 2° income from its activities;
- 3° loans granted to NCSA approved by the Minister in charge of finance;
- 4° donations, subsidies and bequests.

Article 20: Budget of NCSA

The budget of NCSA is approved by the relevant authority and managed in accordance with relevant laws.

Article 21: Use and audit of the property of NCSA

The use and audit of the property of NCSA are carried out in accordance with relevant laws.

The Auditor General of State Finances carries out the audit of the use of the finances and property of NCSA, having due regard to cyber security information classified as restricted determined by a Presidential order.

CHAPTER V: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 22: Drafting, consideration and adoption of this Law

This Law was drafted in English, considered and adopted in Kinyarwanda.

Article 23: Repealing provision

All prior provisions contrary to this Law are repealed.

Article 24: Commencement

This Law comes into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

Kigali, on 31/05/2017

(sé)

KAGAME Paul

President of the Republic

(sé)

MUREKEZI Anastase

Prime Minister

**Seen and sealed with the Seal of the
Republic:**

(sé)

BUSINGYE Johnston

Minister of Justice/Attorney General