

## **MINUTES OF MISPA MEETING HELD AT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ON 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CELL</b>	<b>ISP/ORG</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Dr. Paulos Nyirenda (Chairman)	0888824787	Malawi SDNP	paulos@sdnp.org.mw
Chimwemwe Matemba	0995480754	Privatisation Commission	matemba@pcmalawi.org
David Chima (minutes)	0888571759	MALSWITCH	dchima@malswitch.com
Fredrick Kamwaza	0888204570	MALSWITCH	fkamwaza@malswitch.com
Kamal Patel	0999828612	MalawiNet	kamal@malawi.net
Riaan Swanepoel	0995827504	MalawiNet	riaan@malawi.net
Vincent Jere	0999961204	Burco	vincentj@burcomw.com
Wisdom Murowa	0999969209	Burco	wisdomm@burcomw.com
Limbika Kanjadza	0999961237	Skyband	limbika@skyband.mw
Kondwani Masiye	01968306	MTL	kondwani.masiye@mtl.mw
Pathmasiri Samaraweera	0888768040	Globe	path@globemw.net
Anthony Muyepa	0888538596	College of Medicine	muyepaa@medcol.mw
Emily H Khamula	0999930806	MACRA	ekhamula@macra.org.mw

### **WELCOME**

1. The Chairman brought the meeting to order at 14:50
2. The Chairman asked the members to introduce themselves indicating the organisations they were coming from.
3. The Chairman asked the members if they had any alterations to make on the agenda items listed as already circulated. The members agreed to adopt the agenda without alterations.
4. The following were the agenda items which were adopted:

*1. List of MISPA activities and meetings over the last 12 months – A brief review – 5 minutes*

*2. Presentation from MTL to give an update on development of its fibre infrastructure and international connections and services – 5 minutes*

*3. Presentation from ESCOM to give its update on its fibre network - 5 minutes*

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4. Any other presentation on new fibre connections – offers welcome – RCIPMW?, Gateway/Skyband?, Globe? – 5 minutes each
5. MIX – update – a brief review in the light of connectivity changes in Malawi with the arrival of fibre connections and demise of VSAT on MISPA members. – 5 minutes
6. To consider relocating the MIX in the light of the significant changes in the connectivity infrastructure – 10 minutes
7. To consider the offer from ISOC to locate a DNS root server on the MIX in July 2011
8. To consider changing the peering system on the MIX by introducing a route server – 5 minutes
9. To consider introducing routable IP addresses on the MIX and to obtain a /24 IPv4 address block from AFRINIC for the MIX – 5 minutes
10. To consider obtaining an IPv6 address block from AFRINIC for the MIX – 5 minutes
11. To note that ISOC and MISPA are arranging an Advanced Routing Workshop in Lilongwe on 17-22 July 2011 funded largely by ISOC – 5 minutes
12. To consider putting a minimal charge of MK10,000 on the ISOC/MISPA workshop participants to raise funds for MISPA. – 10 minutes
13. To consider opening a MISPA bank account at National Bank of Malawi, Chichiri – 5 minutes
14. AOB

## **AGENDA 1**

5. The Chairman informed the members that MISPA had conducted 3 meetings in the past 12 months

## **AGENDA 2**

6. MTL made their presentation on their existing fibre infrastructure and on the connections that the company planned to carry out. They indicated that they have plans to extend fibre connections into Tanzania via Songwe from Mzuzu by Dec 2011; into Mozambique from Blantyre through Mulanje by July 2011; connect nationally from Mzuzu to Salima by July 2011

## **AGENDA 3**

7. ESCOM were not around to make their presentation.

## **AGENDA 4**

8. Mr Matamba informed the members that the RCIPMW project is underway,
9. A detailed feasibility study was being done and was nearly complete

10. By December 2011, a private sector partner will have been identified who will implement the network, to start by next year.
11. The tendering process for a private partner will be done by December 2011
12. There were concerns from the members that the work seems to slow down, but Privatisation Commission responded that they were on schedule except that they had to follow the detailed guidelines of the World Bank (Donor) and that this is what was holding them back
13. There were no presentations from Gateway/Skyband or Globe.

## **AGENDA 5**

14. The chairman informed the members that the exchange of traffic on the Malawi Internet Exchange (MIX) has been observed to have considerably gone down.
15. It was observed that this has coincided with the introduction of MTL national and international fibre connections and the demise of VSAT connections.
16. Using a chart to draw the logical connection for all ISPs, it was observed that almost all ISPs now have connections directly to MTL.
17. It was observed that the new layout of the Internet network in Malawi had moved the MIX to the edges of the network instead of logically being in the centre of the network. This had caused the activity on the MIX to go down as MTL seemed to be virtually acting like the exchange point.
18. Members agreed that there is therefore need to re-activate the MIX and work out solutions for better exchange of local traffic at the national level.

## **AGENDA 6**

19. Members were asked if it would be necessary to physically move the MIX to a new physical location in line with recent changes in the national network so that it was placed in a logical centre in relation to the national network as in line with recent fibre connections.
20. Although members agreed that MTL seemed to be acting like the MIX, they opposed moving the MIX into MTL.
21. Members agreed to leave the MIX at College of Medicine (CoM) because
  - a. CoM is a neutral venue
  - b. If connections move to ESCOM fibre, shall the MIX relocate again?
  - c. Connections into the MIX are voluntary. So members of the MIX must deliberately make use of the MIX
22. MTL informed the members that even though MTL looks like acting the MIX role, MTL does not treat its customers as peers but as normal clients.
23. One member expressed the need for the MIX to have a tower erected for mounting equipment. It was held that this was there in the original plan, but funds could not permit establishing such structures.
24. College of Medicine informed the members of the need to move the MIX into the newly built ICT Building from its current location. The following benefits were highlighted

- a. Better rooms and facilities
  - b. Greater height to mount antennas and equipment
  - c. Better connectivity
25. CoM indicated that MISPA will need to buy a lock for the room preferably with a keypad to better share access
26. CoM indicated that MISPA needs to consider providing backup power using an inverter which should be adequate since ESCOM power at CoM is very stable.
27. In summary, members agreed to leave the MIX at College of Medicine but only re-locate it to the new ICT building.
28. Kondwani from MTL and Kamal Patel from MalawiNet volunteered to work with Anthony Mupeya of College of Medicine in relocating the MIX.

## **AGENDA 7**

29. The chair reported that the Internet Society (ISOC) had made an offer to assist to provide and to place a DNS root server at the MIX
30. ISOC had indicated that they would be ready to do this by July 2011 to coincide with their support for an advanced training workshop on routing that they had agreed to run with MISPA in Lilongwe
31. Anthony Muyepa of CoM was chosen to be the contact point for the root server consultations.
32. It was observed that if the DNS root server will be accepted and installed, at least two ISPs will be required to provide transit for the MIX.
33. It was observed that MTL and Skyband had already expressed interest in this as they saw the benefits that such a root server installation brings to individual members as well as to the national network.

## **AGENDA 8**

34. The chairman informed the members that the current peering at the MIX is voluntary and meshed. This made peering more complicated and also complicated the management of the MIX.
35. He proposed the need to install a route reflector or a route server at the MIX so that everyone at the MIX peers with the route server. This moves the peering into a star topology and would assist to ease management of the MIX.
36. The chairman said that the initial plan was to have a route reflector. The hardware was provided for and is still available. What remains now is to install and begin using it.
37. It was observed that members originally could not agree to a central route server or reflector at the beginning when the MIX was originally installed. It was observed that this was due to the then perceived strong competition among ISPs in Malawi such that they decided that each member should decide on its own on how to peer at the MIX.

- 38. It was observed that such competition perceptions had died down as members understood exchange points better and gained more experience on the MIX that they now agreed that a route server or reflector has many major advantages for the MIX.
- 39. Members agreed to install the route server right away.

## **AGENDA 9**

- 40. It was observed that based on the need to have the DNS root server from Agenda 7, it follows that the MIX has to run on its own routable IP addresses.
- 41. There was hence need to change the current policy on the MIX of only permitting private non-routable IP addresses.
- 42. It was observed that the current private IP address regime was put in place by members because of the already mentioned perceived stiff competition when the MIX was originally installed where members did not want outsiders to peep into their networks. It was noted that such perceptions had now died out.
- 43. The chairman indicated that getting IP addresses (IPv4 or IPv6) from AfriNIC for an exchange point is currently free for exchange points as AFRINIC policy is to promote such exchange points.
- 44. It was agreed to introduce routable IP addresses on the MIX.

## **AGENDA 10**

- 45. It was observed that introducing routable IP address space on the MIX opens up opportunities for introducing IPv6 on the national network.
- 46. A similar process for getting IPv4 works for IPv6

## **AGENDA 11**

- 47. It was noted that ISOC had offered to sponsor and to run the advanced routing training workshop in Lilongwe on 18–23 July 2011.
- 48. ISOC will sponsor most of the activities including but not limited to: facilitators and trainers, workshop room, workshop materials, lunch and tea.
- 49. ISOC is willing to bring the DNS root server equipment in July 2011 if MISPA agrees and makes arrangements for installation
- 50. The meeting considered the possibility of an installing an Internet exchange point in Lilongwe. However, the members agreed that there is no need at the time because much of the traffic is still switched in Blantyre
- 51. It was noted every member of MISPA attending the meeting had strong interests to send some participants to the workshop.
- 52. It was noted that the workshop would cover advanced routing. Members asked to communicate to ISOC to cover other advanced areas including NOCs.
- 53. The chairperson passed around a workshop application form to interested ISPs to fill in the details of their participant(s) at the Workshop. It was indicated that if more copies were

required, members could download the form from the MISPA website on workshop pages currently under development by SDNP at <http://www.mispa.org.mw>.

54. The meeting also confirmed that there will be a minor vetting process for the workshop participants in order to ensure that the participants already have proficiency in routing and in working with routers.

## **AGENDA 12**

55. The chairman noted that the workshop in Lilongwe creates an opportunity to raise funds for MISPA to assist to run some of its activities and projects including those discussed at the meeting:
- a. Re-location of the MIX
  - b. Managing the MIX including reconfiguration
  - c. Backup power for the MIX
  - d. Holding of the meetings
56. Members agreed with the suggested K10,000.00 minimum charge for the workshop per participant

## **AGENDA 13**

57. Members agreed on opening a bank account at National Bank of Malawi, Chichiri Branch to assist with managing the funds that MISPA will be raising.
58. Members agreed to have a committee to comprise of the following membership
- a. Chairman – Malawi SDNP (Held by Dr, Paulos Nyirenda)
  - b. Vice Chairman – College of Medicine (Held by Anthony Muyepa)
  - c. Treasurer – MALSWITCH (held by Fred Kamwaza)
  - d. Secretary – MTL (Held by Kondwani Masiye)
59. Members agreed to have these office bearers as signatories to the bank account that is expected to be opened as follows:
- a. The Chairman and Vice Chairman as A signatories
  - b. The Treasurer and Secretary as B signatories
60. Members agreed that two signatories can sign for the transactions of the account. Either A signatories together, or an A and B signatories to sign, but not just two B signatories.

## **AGENDA 14**

61. MalawiNet informed the members that it represents MISPA on the Board of AfrISPA.
62. MalawiNet also expressed concern that MISPA is not taking obligation to pay for AfrISPA membership
63. In order to raise some funds, members agreed to a yearly fee of MWK75,000.00 which will be used for but not limited to:
- a. Organising workshops
  - b. Relocating MIX to a new room at College of Medicine

c. AfriISPA membership

64. It was noted that there are about 8 - 12 members of MISPA

65. Members requested if MACRA could be a donor to some of the activities of MISPA

66. MACRA expressed concern that ISPs have not shown adequate concern into rural connectivity. It was noted that when MACRA recently tendered in the papers for the provisioning of Internet services to the rural areas, MACRA was surprised and concerned to note that only equipment vendors showed interest. MACRA indicated that if MACRA is to be a donor to MISPA activities, ISPs too must also get concerned with the donor's interests

CLOSURE

67. There being no any other business, the chairperson thanked members for their active participation at the meeting and closed the meeting at 1625

Signed: Secretary (name) KONDWANI MASHE  
Signature: [Signature]  
Date: 01.07.2011

Treasurer (name) FREDERICK LAMUNDA  
Signature: [Signature]  
Date: 04/07/2011

Vice Chairperson (name) ANTHONY MUYEPA  
Signature: [Signature]  
Date: 01/07/2011

Chairperson (name) Dr Paulos Nyirunda  
Signature: [Signature]  
Date: 4/7/11