



For Immediate Release

January 13, 2026

Digital Rights Alliance Africa Condemns Internet Suspension in Uganda, Calls on Government to Restore Access

The Digital Rights Alliance Africa (DRAA) is deeply concerned by the unjustified restriction on access to the internet and selected mobile services starting today at 18:00hrs as indicated in the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) [notice \(Ref: ECO/436\)](#). The UCC has sought to justify the restrictions as necessary to mitigate widespread misinformation, disinformation, and electoral fraud and prevent incitement of violence. This decision to block access to internet and mobile communication as the country heads to the polls on January 15, 2026, is an affront to democracy, digital rights and civic participation. It is also a direct violation of the fundamental freedom of expression and access to information at this critical time.

Uganda is a party to several national, regional, and international commitments to protect and promote freedom of expression, such as the [Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 as amended](#) (Article 29) and the [Access to Information Act](#) Cap. 95, the [African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights](#) (Article 9), Principle 38 of the [African Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information](#), and Articles 19 of both the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#).

Despite this, Uganda's broad disruption of communication services stifles universal, equitable, affordable, and meaningful access to the internet, which is necessary for the realization of freedom of expression, access to information, and the exercise of other human rights including the right to associate, assemble, and participate meaningfully in electoral processes. Such disruptions will undermine electoral transparency and accountability while also exacerbating political instability by eroding public trust in the credibility of the elections.

The current developments in Uganda indicate that the restriction is part of the wider measures to keep people in the dark, shrink civic space, and impair citizen participation in democratic processes contrary to democratic values. These regressive measures not only infringe digital rights, but further undermine open, accountable, and participatory democracy as enshrined in the Constitution of Uganda.



We reiterate the call of the [African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in the Resolution on Internet Shutdowns and Elections in Africa](#) (ACHPR Res. 580 (LXXVIII) 2024) on states to refrain from ordering the interruption of telecommunications services, shutting down the internet, or disrupting access to any other digital communication platforms before, during or after elections.

As DRAA, we call on the government of the Republic of Uganda to:

1. Immediately restore unfettered access to all communication services.
2. Adhere to the rule of law and human rights principles, including the observance of judicial oversight, against any and all forms of internet disruptions in the future.
3. Refrain from imposing onerous orders on telecommunication companies and other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to restrict the internet and other communication services.
4. Ensure consultation with all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society to determine appropriate steps for addressing emerging concerns in public interest without disrupting internet and platform access.

Signed by:

Digital Rights Alliance Africa

About the Alliance:

The Digital Rights Alliance Africa (DRAA or the Alliance) is a diverse pan-African coalition of formal civil society organisations (CSOs), human rights defenders (HRDs), media practitioners, lawyers and technology specialists in Africa that seek to champion an enabling digital civic space and counter threats to digital rights on the continent. The Alliance was established in 2023 during the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa to strengthen expertise and action by civil society in Africa to shape rights-based, enabling digital policies and counter threats to digital rights and internet freedoms across the continent. DRAA currently has members from 15 countries.

For more information visit: <https://digitalrightsalliance.africa/#>