



*Microsoft Corporation's Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Rich Sauer during the second annual seminar on 'Could Computing and Economic Impact' organised between April 19 and 20, 2016 by the Regional Academic Network on IT Policies (RANITP).*

Kenyan online (cloud) data storage service providers have been charged to clear at least five hurdles for Kenyans to trust them with their data.

The call comes on the back of several existing draft cloud policy frameworks and the broad National ICT Masterplan, which detail the way to go in terms of full implementation of the modern means of storage, access, and sharing of data but is feared from many quarters to have been gradually swept under the carpet due to lack of political goodwill emanating from conflicting vested interests.

"If the recent efforts by online data storage service providers, in other words cloud service vendors, to get the Kenyan public to subscribe in significantly large numbers is to bear fruit, there is need for the providers in the country to consider, first among other things, to build public trust in the cloud," said Microsoft Corporation's Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Rich Sauer on Tuesday at the official opening of an annual two-day seminar organised in Nairobi by the Regional Academic Network on IT Policies (RANITP).

" This can be achieved if cloud service vendors ensure that the data of the client is safe from online theft or destruction, not forgetting the need to keep the data centers themselves physically secure, this by installing state of the art perimeter walls and fences, and use of strong passwords to access or restrict data" he said.

Mr Sauer also noted that the custodians of private data need to maintain strict confidentiality of the data under storage unless it is strictly in the public interest to make necessary disclosures.

"That can easily work if the existing data policies are closely adhered to while at the same time respecting human rights "said the Microsoft executive.

Sauer also urged the providers in Kenya to consider offering the storage services to all at quite an affordable fee .

” And the Government, the potentially largest online data storage service provider and policy maker, needs to lead by example, that is by making essential data easily accessible to the public and encourage the people to use the cloud for storage by doing so itself.’