

School.za Transition Framework

TRANSITION FROM FOURTH LEVEL TO THIRD LEVEL REGISTRATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure proposed for the transition of the school.za second level domain (SLD) from fourth level registration to third level registration and subsequent relaunch to the school community. This document also includes the procedures on how the relaunch process and the timelines will be outlined.

This document must be read in conjunction with various other details supplemental documents in order to obtain a comprehensive overview of the SLD during and after its transition to third level.

These related documents include:

- [The School.za SLD Charter](#)
- [ZA Second Level General Policy](#)
- [Establishment and Disestablishment of ZA Second Level sub-domain](#)

1.2 Terms and Definitions

“Sunrise Period” means registrant of the fourth level domain name/s, is the only eligible candidate to secure a name in the third level domain, name corresponding (if not the same) with their fourth level.

“Restricted, Moderated SLD” means an SLD that has eligibility requirements and has a duly - appointed person or entity, known as the moderator, who verifies each application complies with the SLD’s eligibility requirements.

“Reserved Name List (RNL)”

- Reserve Name List means names that the registry, government and regulator can reserve for internal defined purposes, e.g. names such as **za.school.za** will fall under **RNL** for regulator’s usage. The list will include offensive names, names deemed as derogatory to be released into a public domain.
- Geographical names and any name related to local or national government are to be reserved for government, e.g. gauteng.school.za.
- The registry is welcome to reserve names for technical purposes and they’re only to be used internally, e.g. school.school.za, technical.school.za by the Registry Operator.

“**Supplementary Policies**” means policies that a registry operator may set and implement that augments and/or supplements ZADNA’s General Policy, or specific sections thereof, subject to the Registry duly notifying ZADNA.

1.3 Background

The school.za is a moderated .ZA Second level domain currently administered and operated by E School Network (e-S’N NPC). e-S’N NPC perform Registry functions which includes inter alia, name server and zone file maintenance, provision of Whois services, ensure security and stability of the Registry infrastructure and provision of associated services to School.za Registrars. Any South African registered school is eligible to register a domain name under the school.za namespace.

Currently school.za accepts registration of domain names at the fourth level. This means that registration of the domain name must be followed by the provincial name in which the school is located, i.e. **elsieshs.wcape.school.za**. All other ZA SLDs accept domain name registration at the third level, i.e. **zadna.org.za**.

Schools are increasingly becoming attracted by shorter domain names which makes it easier to remember. It is for this reason that dropping the province in the length of the domain name will ensure that the names in the school.za space is much shorter.

1.4 Launch Procedures

With the school.za SLD accepting registrations at a fourth level, it becomes absolutely critical to ensure that the initial introduction of this SLD to the school community is regulated through adequate launch mechanisms.

The purpose of this is to protect existing registrations and to minimize any potential abuse or unreasonable speculation within the namespace.

It is expected that while dropping the provincial names there might be an impact on the schools which share the same name and hence the need for relaunch phases to try and minimize the risk of such conflict.

The phases will be implemented as follows:

- **Sunrise phase** - Generally ensure that only trademark holders can register their names in the namespace. In the case of school.za domain which is restricted and moderated sunrise phase will only apply on the existing registration of the fourth level domain holders to be given a limited opportunity to secure their school names in the third level space.

- **Reserve name list** - RNL is divided into three categories, namely, Government RNL, Registry Operator RNL, and Regulator RNL.
 - **Government RNL list** contains Geographical Names and any name related to Local or National government are reserved for government.
 - **Registry operator RNL** contains domain names that are reserved for technical purposes and internal usage.
 - **Regulator RNL list** contains potentially offensive or derogatory names, and any other names for internal usage purposes.
- **General availability** - allows for a first come first serve bases registrations, i.e. any school that fulfills the eligibility criteria can apply for the school.za domain names of their choice.

This means that before everyone can apply for the school.za domain name, they have to allow for sunrise phase to end, which generally allows for trademark holders to register their marks as their domain names.

This mechanism (sunrise) is widely regarded as industry best practice and its implementation is prescribed by ICANN for the launch of new gTLDs.

RNL minimizes the abuse of registrations by only giving the existing holder of a name a chance to redeem their reserved domain name.

1.5 Historical registrations

Statistic shows that e-S’N NPC has 2310 domain names currently in use that have the province as part of the domain name.

A notification will be sent to all historical registrants notifying them about the school.za transition to third-level registration.

A school will be allowed still keep the existing fourth level registered domain name and the third level domain name at any given time. Historical registrations will be kept indefinitely but no new fourth level registrations will be accepted.

e-S’N NPC will send out a notification to all existing domain registrants where possible notifying them of the changes which will affect them.

2 Launch Phase

Notification to existing school.za registrants

e-S’N NPC will send out notification to all existing domains where possible. A period of one month from date of notification will be given to schools to change their domains.

2.1 Phase 1 Policy development and adoption

Policy development and adoption requires that the various policy documents, charter and plans required for the transition, launch and on-going administration of the SLD, must be finalized and approved before relaunching the namespace.

The finalization and adoption of these documents is an important phase for the transition of the SLD and it serves a blue print to define roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved in the process. Therefore, this transition proposal should be accompanied by the notification letter to the schools and will also be published in the ZADNA website for reference purpose.

- **This transition document**

This document defines the process and mechanisms required for the transition of the SLD from Fourth level registration to third level registration. It also provides a process of how to deal with existing registrations in the school.za namespace.

- **The School.za SLD Charter**

The SLD Charter defines the direction and parameters that the Registry Supplemental policies will need to adopt including the following: the regulatory overview and proposed function of the SLD; its intended purpose / function; and whether it is to be an open or moderated domain.

- **The Launch registry supplemental policies (E School Network based policies)**

These are the policies developed by the Registry (e-S’N NPC). This also include Reserve Names List policy, Sunrise policy, and any related policy developed by the Registry Operator.

2.2 Phase 2: Zone transition and preparations for the third level registration

e-S’N NPC readiness to accept registration at a third level, opposed to the current fourth level registrations model. This phase is dependent on e-S’N NPC readiness to accept registrations at a third level.

Part I: Reserved Name List (RNL)

This policy form a part of the collection of Launch Policies and regulates the (possible) reservation of certain names, prior to launch, which may be regarded as important, sensitive, offensive and/or otherwise in the general interest for the wellbeing of the name space and the public.

The RNL Policy may:

Identify key stakeholders to participate in the RNL process:

- Define the rules, procedures and guidelines for identifying domain names that should be reserved and how they will be approved for entry into the RNL.
- Whilst a domain name has been entered into the RNL the Registry (e-S’N NPC) will ensure that the name is not made available for registration, other than through the defined redemption process.

E school will identify names that are associated with schools, i.e. chesterfield high and have that name reserved for, i.e. Chesterfield High School for a period of six (6) months, until then the domain name can be registered by any school on a first come first serve bases.

2.3 Phase 3: Launch Phase

Part I: Sunrise phase

This is the process that gives existing registrants of the fourth level school.za domain name/s, an opportunity to secure a name in the third level domain, name corresponding (if not the same) with their fourth level, i.e. The existing schools will be given an opportunity to drop their fourth level domain names and register the same or similar domain name on the third level.

Part II: Reserved Name List

Names secured in the RNL can be redeemed. This part of the project phase is run in parallel with the sunrise phase. Names that are in the RNL list can be redeemed by the authorized holders with assistance from the moderator in line with the RNL and Relaunch policy.

2.4 Phase 4: General availability

General Availability is divided into two phases. The first phase is for any domain name that is not in the reverse name list to be registered. During this phase, names that are Reserved can be claimed by their fourth-level authorized holders.

The second phase is for any name either reserved or not registered to be registered on a first-come first-served basis. This phase will start from the 1st August 2017. This is where any school can register a school name depending on its availability.

Launch phase overview

The following diagram depicts launch phase and its timelines:

