... insecurity however, are already catching up with us. *Kaveera* as

... yield. Uganda's Agricultural productivity has fallen to well below 1.3 per cent and we

population is growing at 3.2 per cent. Poor management of Kaveera continues to impact negatively on

pace or non-implementation of such laws/policies. Cabinet has now revisited the policy on managing Kaveera.

Gidleon Badagawa is the executive director of Private Sector Foundation Uganda.

TOP 100 MID-SIZED COMPANIES

Daily Monitor

Tips on choosing best Internet Service Provider

As a young entrepreneur, you may have some great ideas and think you have all the relevant boxes ticked for turning them into success. But you need a good Internet Service Provider, **Progress Chisenga** writes.

Jack Ma, the man behind Alibaba, a business-to-business portal to connect Chinese manufacturers with overseas buyers said recently, "Internet access is an even more important raw material for economies than coal and electricity were in the past. Not being connected to the internet today is worse than not having electricity 100 years ago."

When one of the wealthiest people in the world says something like that, it pays to take note.

Along with 18 other people, the former English teacher set up Alibaba in 1999. Since then, it has grown into the world's largest retailer with operations in more than 200 countries, and one of the largest internet companies.

Alibaba's market value is about $230 billion. That is more money than the whole East African Community countries generate in a year as GDP.

As a young entrepreneur, you may have some great ideas and think you have all the relevant boxes ticked for turning them into success. But as Ma said: "The internet is important."

$230b

ALIBABA'S ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE

An Internet Service Provider (ISP) is the industry term for the company that can provide you with access to the Internet, typically from a desktop computer or laptop or even on your tablet or mobile phone.

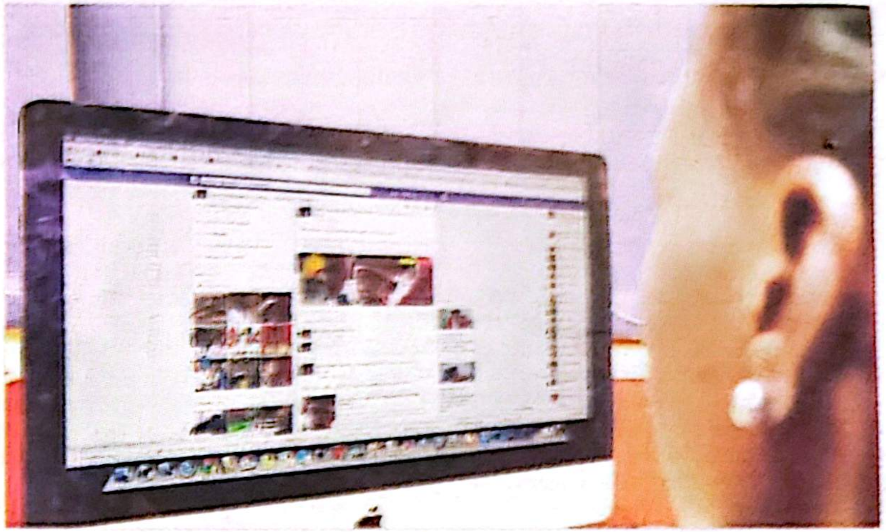
Choosing ISP

Choosing your ISP is not a decision to be taken lightly, especially if you have limited financial resources. Obviously personal preferences matter, but so does value for money. Do some research on the best type of connection for your needs and keep in mind the customer care.

Someone who just browses the web and sends some emails may need a fast internet connection, but not as much data volume, compared to a person who is always working online.

An ISP is your gateway to the Internet and everything else you can do online. So, reliability is crucial. If it is a business, then the provider who offers the most options should be considered first.

At Vodafone Uganda, every business is viewed different. But whatever your business size, Vodafone is constantly looking for innovative ways to help you grasp every opportunity.



A computer user browses the Internet. Small businesses should think carefully about the quality of service they require. PHOTO BY ERIC DOMINIC BUKENYA

Vodafone tailors its approach to maximise the benefits that matter most to you. The formula is simple and it is to consult with you from day one to understand your operations and aspirations.

In business, what the internet offers the most is communication. For most internet users, email practically replaced the postal service for short written transactions. But people communicate over the Internet in a number of other ways including Internet Relay Chat (IRC), Internet telephony, instant messaging, video chat or social media.

When choosing an ISP, small businesses need to think carefully about the quality of service they require.

There will always be a price/quality trade off when choosing an ISP, but ask about the provider's connection speed (how long will it take to download a file), performance during peak periods for your business, availability ('up time') and how quickly your ISP responds when you need help.

Price should not be the main factor on which you base your decision. What really matters is your provider's willingness to help you fulfill your potential and that is what Vodafone is all about.

Progress Chisenga is the marketing director, Vodafone Uganda.

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