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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1st AfricaCERT CYBER DRILL “Testing The Waters”

The Africa Computer Emergency Response Team (AfricaCERT) has completed its first annual Drill to test the capability of Computer Security Incident Response Teams in African economies from 30 June – 01 July 2021.

A Coordination team comprised of AfricaCERT, bjCSIRT (Benin), CERT-MU (Mauritius), EGCERT (Egypt), KE-CIRT (Kenya), KEYSTONE (Tunisia), tunCERT (Tunisia) organized the Drill. CERT-MU chaired this 2021 edition; the scenarios were provided by CERT-MU and EGCERT and supported by SILENSEC CYBER RANGE platform.

On 30 June 2021, at the opening ceremony, several keynote speakers introduced the importance of being prepared and various programs supporting CSIRTs capacity building in Africa. Mr. Chris Gibson, Executive Director, Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams, stressed the importance of “Exercise, exercise, and exercise.” Mr. Moctar Yedaly spoke about the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and the capacity-building initiatives within Africa. Mme Joanne Esmiot, Executive Director of National Computer Board Mauritius, representing the Honourable Deepak Balgobin, Minister of Information Technology, Communication Innovation, Republic of Mauritius, delivered the opening address.

The Drill aimed to test the response capability of participating teams facing the following scenarios: Phishing, Defacement, REM, Ransomware investigation. These exercises were designed to put participants into live conditions and tested their communication and technical capabilities. The website defacement scenario simulated the response to a bank that suffered a data breach after malicious actors illegally accessed its information through one of the vulnerabilities in the system. The phishing attack simulated various scenarios to test participants’ responses capability in case of phishing attacks both at the country level and across their border. The Malware Analysis exercise provided a case scenario for malware analysis with various tools. The Ransomware attack scenario provided a case of ransomware incident response.

The African countries participating in the Drill are Benin, Botswana, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, The Seychelles, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zambia, in addition to the team from the SADC secretariat. Colleagues from OIC-CERT and APCERT (Brunei, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri-Lanka, Uzbekistan, Turkey, and Syria) joined African Teams. 32 Computer Security Incident Response Teams from 25 countries have participated in the Drill, including the organizing teams. Observers from Cyber4Dev and the UK Home Office participated in the Drill and provided advice.

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Issued by **AfricaCERT Secretariat:**

For further inquiries about this document, please feel free to contact: [secretariat \(at\) africacert.org](mailto:secretariat@afriacert.org)