

# Benin is Taxing Use of Social Media Apps Like Facebook, WhatsApp | Quartz Africa

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Benin has joined a growing list of African states imposing levies for using the internet.

The government passed a decree in late August taxing its citizens for accessing the internet and social-media apps. The directive, first proposed in July, [institutes a fee](#) (link in French) of 5 CFA francs (\$0.008) per megabyte consumed through services like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. It also introduces a 5% fee, on top of taxes, on texting and calls, according to advocacy group Internet Sans Frontières (ISF).

The new law has been denounced, with citizens and advocates using the hashtag #Taxepamesmo (“Don’t tax my megabytes”) to call on officials to cancel the levy. The increased fees will not only burden the poorest consumers and [widen the digital divide](#), but they will also be “disastrous” for the nation’s nascent digital economy, says ISF’s executive director Julie Owono. A petition against the levy on Change.org has [garnered](#) nearly 7,000 signatures since it was created five days ago.

Source: [Benin is Taxing Use of Social Media Apps Like Facebook, WhatsApp | Quartz Africa](#)