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# AI Meets African Languages: ACALAN Hails Togo's Groundbreaking Digital Language Revolution

**BAMAKO, MALI - NOVEMBER 02, 2026**

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The African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) commends the Government of Togo for a visionary leap forward: the launch of the National Local Languages Challenge under the *Voix du Togo* programme. Rolled out on 2 October 2026, this pioneering citizen-led initiative directly integrates national languages into artificial intelligence, fundamentally reshaping how millions access digital public services.

By mobilizing citizens, linguists, researchers, and technology developers, Togo is addressing a critical continental gap. The pilot phase harnesses grassroots voice recordings, translations, and localised language data to engineer sophisticated AI models fluent in Ewe, Kabyè, and Moba, with structured expansions planned for all national languages. ACALAN lauds this approach for placing African language communities squarely at the helm of digital innovation, proving that community-driven participation is vital for crafting inclusive, context-aware technologies.

The practical implications of this milestone extend far beyond tech experimentation. By dismantling language barriers, these AI applications hold transformative potential for public administration, healthcare delivery, foundational education, and justice systems - ensuring that citizens can finally navigate public services in the languages they understand best.

In light of this bold framework, ACALAN strongly encourages fellow African governments, academic institutions, and tech innovators to replicate and invest in similar localised language data ecosystems. Furthermore, the Academy issues a fervent call to action for the continent's youth, educators, and community leaders: actively participate in documenting, elevating, and coding African languages for the digital frontier.

African languages must never remain on the sidelines of the global technological revolution. They are not merely static heritage items frozen in time - they are living, breathing instruments

of innovation, public empowerment, and economic opportunity that will dictate Africa's digital destiny.

**About ACALAN**

The African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) is the African Union's language agency. ACALAN works with partners across the continent and beyond to promote African languages so they can be used alongside international languages in all areas of life.

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