



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGY**

**SPEECH BY MR. JOE MUCHERU, CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGY DURING THE CONNECTED 2016 SUMMIT IN DIANI,
ON 21ST MARCH 2016.**

**Permanent Secretary Ms Rosemary Mbabazi, representing Hon Jean
Philbert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth & ICT, Rwanda**

Principal Secretaries, Ministry of ICT, Victor Kyalo and Sammy Itemere,

Representative for the Council of Governors, Governor Ken Lusaka,

Chair ICT Authority, Mr Edwin Yinda,

Ag CEO, ICT Authority, Mr Robert Mugo,

Director General, Communication Authority, Mr Francis Wangusi,

CEO, Konza Technopolis Development Authority, Mr John Tanui

PostMaster General, Postal Corporation of Kenya, Dr Enock Kinara,

Chairpersons, CEOs Present

CECs, MCAs,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be amongst you this morning in this gathering attending the Connected 2016 summit at this coastal town of Diani.

Allow me to congratulate the organizers of this event for the effort and time spent in its organisation. This is my first attendance of this annual event in my current capacity and I must confess that the organization is impressive.

Allow me also to appreciate you attendants for setting time off from your busy schedules to attend this summit and honouring our invitation. We value your presence here and do not take it for granted. It is my desire that your 3 day stay here will have a bearing on how this industry will move forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya has in the recent years made massive strides in the area of Information Communication and Technology. Today, I can confidently say we stand shoulder to shoulder with developed markets around the globe in the area of ICT. I can confidently predict that in a few years to come, it is very possible that we will have surpassed a number of these developed markets in terms of how integrated our economic sectors will be with technology. This is evident in how businesses have taken up tech enabled businesses process as well as the innovative products that are being launched in the market by our developers, targeted not just at the Kenyan market but also in regional and global markets.

The Connected Summit 2016 comes at a time when the Kenyan Government is accelerating the speed at which we are reinforcing and mainstreaming ICT as the driver of business and infrastructure towards realisation of Vision 2030 goals. The Kenyan Government is seeking to do this by mainstreaming ICT into all its services through its plans which are outlined in the National ICT Masterplan, as well as in the Broadband Strategy.

In the recent past, the government has made some moves that are geared at delivering a one-stop-shop service centre for Kenyan citizens. These include the launch of e-government programme to successfully promote services such as iTax and e-citizen, which are using ICT to bring services to the doorsteps of every ordinary Kenyan. With the increased Internet penetration in the country, more Kenyans can now access these e-government services conveniently from their homes by use of simple mobile handsets.

As we are all witnessing, Kenya is swiftly evolving from being best known as a tourist destination and home to the world's best long distance runners to a regional ICT hub. We have made bigger leaps into the modern age achieving same ranking as more developed nations with regards to the spread and availability of ICT.

Colleagues,

While we may have come this far, we are still not where we should be, but the future is still very bright and ripe for progress. In fact, we have a long way to go and we better start by empowering our children at an early age. Towards this end, the government is keen to ensure that mobile telephony, computing and broadband will move forward, not as a luxury, but a necessity, especially amongst our children. It is in line with that, that we have made a lot progress in our Digital Literacy Programme. For instance, some of the primary school content has been adapted for online platforms; a total of 60 000 teachers have been trained by the Ministry of Education through the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and over 20 000 schools have recently been connected to the electricity national grid, with the remainder being supported by the solar system. These are initial but firm steps that demonstrate the Government's commitment to the future of a country as a connected Kenya.

Today, mobile phones have significantly interrupted and revolutionised the banking sector in our country with the rise of online and mobile banking. It is possible now to make payments, transfer money and access government services using a simple mobile phone from the comfort of our homes.

Nonetheless, we only have 21 million Kenyans able to access information through internet search engines. This means a majority of Kenyans are still not familiar with issues pertaining to their day to day challenges including accessing basic services available online. Consequently the government seeks to continually invest and expand the way ICT is used effectively and equitably for service delivery.

Distinguished participants,

The continued cooperation between government and private sector is of fundamental importance to the growth of the sector. Government needs to continue providing the level playing field for all stakeholder needs to be addressed. My Ministry will ensure that stakeholder consultation will take place on a regular basis. I made a similar promise 5 days ago during the Ministry's launch of the ICT sector policy review guidelines.

I wish to encourage all participants and stakeholders of the Connected Summit 2016 to continually innovate and utilize technology to effectively deal with the emerging challenges of inadequate access to necessary services by Kenyans.

With these remarks, I desire to conclude by wishing you all a comfortable stay in this part of Kenya and also have fruitful deliberations during this Connected 2016 Summit.

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