Robert Mugo CEO, ICT Authority

It has been a long road since the first connected Kenya in 2009. The forum, which is the brainchild of ICTA in partnership with the industry and key government decision makers, has since grown leaps not just in the number of attendants but also the ideas and the impact.

What we are seeing today proves how right and timely the idea was eight years ago. It is also proof that the Connected Summit was never a talk shop but a solid gathering of minds not afraid to walk untrodden paths. Some of today's leading Government projects have links with Connected Kenya. With its remarkable mix of decision-makers from the public and private sectors, the Summit has enabled its participants to develop unique insights that allow them to successfully respond and design their engagement in Kenya's vibrant ICT sector.

Projects such as Kenya Open Data Initiative, Huduma citizen's portal and the development of a National Information Security Policy were informed or refined from discussions and panels held at Connected.

The government also adopted a recommendation from the 2015 Connected in the Digital Literacy Programme, which called for support of locally assembled devices through the review of the taxation policies on components.

This year, our theme will be 'Bridging the Service Gap'. We have made major milestones as an industry but we are not yet there. Challenges and opportunities will always bring us together to think of how better we can overcome them and tap into the opportunities.

The challenge or opportunity at hand is that while we have been able to make progress as a country, there are those among that are not able to enjoy the joys brought about by ICTs. This may be due to a myriad of factors that we should deliberate about during our different breakout sessions and also explore the possibilities of bridging this gap. As has been the case in the past, I am sure we will come up with recommendations that will be further looked into and assist not just in policy formulation but also groundbreaking projects.

The Connected Summit would not have been possible without the support from our sponsors. Year after year, we have always come to you for support and you have never turned us away. We do not take that for granted and appreciate it.

Thus, we would like to appreciate some of our key sponsors that include Microsoft, Dimension data and Cisco, Oracle, Seacom, Airtel, Konza, Safaricom Business, Huawei, TelKom Orange, Compulynx, Liquid Telecom and Tespok

I also want to thank the speakers and delegates for making time this week for the event.