

**Sammy Itemere,**

Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Ministry of ICT

Kenya has become a growing hub of innovation. It is the home of M-PESA which is the most successful mobile-money transfer system in the world, expanding through our continent, Asia and Europe. We have grown leaps and bounds in the telecommunications sector having over 35 million mobile cellular subscriptions. Even in the most remote areas in Kenya, mobile broadband internet connection are now an everyday reality. The ease of doing businesses, as a result of stable connectivity, has attracted international businesses facilitating economic growth.

This past year, the government successfully spearheaded the migration from analogue to digital TV broadcasting which has led to the availability of more and better quality TV channels to viewers and indirectly created numerous job opportunities, especially among the youth. The migration to digital broadcasting has subsequently resulted into a boom in the advertising sector due to the increased audience reach of TV channels as broadcasters attract and retain more viewership through investment in local content production. Local corporates are the major players in advertising spending.

Digital broadcasting has lowered the barriers of entry into broadcasting and expanded media space subsequently bringing with it a wealth of talent, innovation and opportunities in programming which targets Kenyans from all walks of life. Broadcasters are swiftly adopting new technological innovations geared towards improving service delivery while keeping costs fairly affordable.

In an endeavor to ease doing business with the state, the government has also acquired a state of the art e-payment system that will offer cashless payment solution for all government services through a Government Payment Gateway Model. This step reinforces one of the government's cherished policies of pushing towards more financial inclusion.

Another notable project that stands out is the Kenya Open Data Initiative which seeks to physically digitize archived text and visual material so that it can be available for use by anyone irrespective of location. The ICT Authority is also helping Kenya News Agency in the digitization of a photo library collection dates back to 1936 and documents Kenyan life through the decades.

Digitizing information is done with the intention of providing long-term access to this information. Digitization is critical towards achieving a digital economy. Access to information will ensure informed decision making as well as enhance inter-departmental development through exchange of valuable content.

With the growing popularity of digital service delivery cyber security has come to the limelight. The government is taking stringent measures to streamline cyber security issues. One such endeavor is the review of the National Information, Communications Technology Sector policy as well as the amendment of the Kenya Information, and Communications Act 1998. The government, in partnership

with the private sector, is building capacity of respective personnel on digital forensic skills to enable them have analytical and technical capabilities to fight cyber crime.

The world is moving toward people centered technology whereby notable technological solutions are those addressing day-to-day problems that people face in the simplest and most effective manner.

To ensure ICT is mainstreamed effectively into all aspects of society, continued cooperation between government and private sector is essential. The private sector stands as an invaluable source of creativity, experience as well as investment.

There is much to explore in the ICT sector with regard to service delivery. The following couple of days provide a one of a kind opportunity to delve deep into ICT world and chart a new and exciting course toward effective mainstreaming of technology into everyday life.

These conversations must continue beyond the summit as we journey together and learn from one another and strive for greater cross-sector and cross-border collaboration.

I look forward to a thrilling and enriching time at this year's Connected Summit.