

**REMARKS BY MR. NGENE B. GITUKU - BOARD CHAIRMAN,
COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA AT THE OPENING OF
THE ICT WEEK ON 11TH MAY 2015**

Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of ICT

Mr. Joseph Tiampati, Principal Secretary, Ministry of ICT

Players in the ICT Sector

Members of the Fourth Estate

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this 2nd ICT Week event, which has now become an annual event in the calendar of the Authority.

You will recall that the Authority launched its inaugural *ICT Week* in June, 2014 just after the launch of its new brand ‘*Communications Authority of Kenya – CA*’ and declared it as an annual event going forward.

we were pleased to note the various issues of concern brought to the fore by you the industry players during our inaugural forum in 2014 held under the theme “***facilitating a vibrant ICT ecosystem***”. We were further pleased to realize our underlying purpose for this forum which indeed is aligned to the aspiration of stakeholders involvement as envisioned in the Constitution.

Today, it is very fulfilling to see that we are gathered here once again for the second edition of *ICT Week*. This engagement will see us further discuss pertinent issues, apprise you on our initiatives this far, to once again draw from your insights and share on the areas of improvement in order to accelerate the development of this vibrant Sector.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, since our last engagement, a number of initiatives have been pursued in the Sector, key among these being; the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting and review of sector regulations. Alongside these, we have been engaging members of the public in consultations on various emerging technological issues including broadcast programme code and complaint handling procedure, Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPV6) and Domain Name System Security Extensions (Dnssec), as well as the Minimum Specifications for Integrated Television (iDTV) Sets. Coupled with these, have been efforts directed towards building our capacity in order to keep up with the rapid changes in this dynamic sector.

To further respond to some of the previously raised concerns, the Authority has been pursuing mutually beneficial partnerships with relevant agencies locally and internationally to enhance the delivery of its mandate. To this end, we have finalized the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and still advancing others in a bid to boost synergies that will see us provide effective and efficient regulatory services to the industry.

This year's event ladies and gentlemen will see various issues deliberated including the proposed regulations which are a pillar of this sector. The forum will adopt an approach similar to our last year's event. Broadcasters will have a forum to discuss issues on content which is a key driver in this era of digital broadcasting. Telecommunications operators, telecommunications contractors and vendors shall have a session to address issues of licensing and compliance. The Postal and Courier sector shall also have a dedicated forum to discuss the sub sector regulatory concerns.

We cannot end all this without considering the consumer perspective. For this reason, consumer issues will take the centre stage and will therefore be incorporated in each of these forums to ensure that each sub-sector or licence category takes into account issues that concern the users of ICT services.

Distinguished guests, I will seize this opportunity and briefly focus on global matters on ICTs. Every year on 17th May, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) community celebrates World Telecommunications and Information Society Day celebrations to mark the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telegraph Union.

Kenya is a solid and committed member of the ITU and would wish to join the ITU fraternity in celebrating this day. Countries around the globe are taking part in these celebrations through various activities and we in Kenya have chosen to mark these celebrations by holding this forum during this week end on 17th.

In this vein, it is with great honour that I share with you the message of the ITU Secretary General, Mr. Houlin Zhao on marking this year's celebration, which I quote:

“This year, 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union. Established in 1865, ITU has reaffirmed its reputation worldwide as one of the most resilient and relevant organizations and continues its work as the specialized agency of the United Nations, and its oldest member, dealing with state-of-the-art telecommunications and information and communication technologies.

The remarkable history of ITU exemplifies its stellar role in connecting the world to the most advanced and innovative means of communication, from the days of the telegraph to the Internet and mobile broadband, which now allows us to be in touch anytime, anywhere with friends, family, colleagues and even things.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, we look back with pride at our accomplishments. And we look forward to the future as we respond to the rapid changes in the global ICT environment.

The innovations with and from ICT and the implementation of these technologies pervade every aspect of our lives. ICTs are also the catalysts for shaping the post-2015 development agenda and achieving our goals for sustainable development.

Throughout 2015, we will organize several events highlighting ICTs as the drivers of innovation at ITU and around the world to mark this landmark 150th anniversary. I invite you to celebrate with us and participate in the events, providing your support as well as your contributions in order to fulfil our commitment to connect the world.

I wish you a very productive 150th anniversary in 2015.”

End of quote.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I end, may I state that, as the designated representative of Government to international bodies and in this case the ITU, the Communications Authority of Kenya remains committed to its mandate to ensure that we as a country contribute to the policy making process in ITU and also carry the benefit of membership back home. You will agree with me that we have immensely gained as a country and are a reference point in many respects to other countries both regionally and globally.

Finally, I wish to reiterate that, the Authority's remains committed to its mission to facilitate the transformation of lives through progressive regulation of the Information and Communication Technology Sector. However, this can only be accomplished if we work in one accord and find a common ground on industry concerns. It is therefore my hope that we will all actively engage in this mutually beneficial discussions, while giving our all, in order to move this sector forward.

With those remarks, I wish you valuable engagement during this 2015 *ICT Week*.

Thank you.