

**Remarks By Ezra Chiloba, Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), During *The Kenya Peering Forum 14<sup>th</sup>* September 2023 at Radisson Blue Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi**

**Tayeb Ben Meriem, Vice Chair, IPv6 Forum**

**Mr. Steven Zhang, Deputy CEO, Huawei Kenya**

**Ms. Fiona Asonga, the Chief Executive Officer, Technology Service Providers Of Kenya,**

**Mr. Bashir Angode, Certification Programme Manager, AFRINIC**

**Chief Executive Officers and Representatives of various telecommunication service providers**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Invited Guests**

**Members of the Fourth Estate**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning.**

I am greatly honoured by the Technology Service Providers of Kenya(TESPOK) invitation to this event whose theme is *keeping local traffic local*.

It is gratifying to see great minds, from telecommunication service providers, telecommunication equipment vendors, telecommunications system developers, telecommunication engineers, scientists, and other professional actors in the ICT industry gathered here, to take part in shaping the ICT sector. This community continues to foster progressive engagements on emerging ICT issues.

I must point out at this earliest opportunity that this year's theme of "*keeping local traffic local*" is quite timely, as it embodies the critical role of data in the ICT ecosystem, more so , when we are dealing with personally identifiable data, as enshrined in our Data protection Act 2019.

At the same time, it speaks well to the Government's digital transformation agenda, which seeks to engender a country where every citizen, enterprise, and organization leverages the immense potential of ICTs and thrives in the digital economy.

As the ICT regulator, the Authority sees the value that increased ICT connectivity has brought to the Kenyan economy, and we seek to increasingly drive its use as a catalyst for all sectors of the economy through appropriate ICT infrastructure development and deployment.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

ICTs are having a profound impact on our socio-economic front thereby spawning a huge chunk of data. This data in turn plays a key role in innovations through data mining and analytics. This underscores the need to keep local traffic local.

Over the years, the Authority has developed various regulatory instruments and measures to have a robust ICT infrastructure that continues to enrich the ICT ecosystem. In particular, we have in place a technology neutral and service neutral licensing regime, that enables easier licensing of new services irrespective of the technology on which they ride.

This technology and service neutral licensing regime, plus the Internet cost reduction, latency and bandwidth improvements, increase in routing efficiency and fault tolerance brought about by the Kenya's Internet Exchange point(KIXP), have contributed to the growth of ICT and ICT enable sectors.

Further, local Internet exchange points have eliminated dependency on international connectivity for local communication which results in a robust and reliable local internet infrastructure.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To spur the uptake of Internet services and ensure sustainability of these services , the Authority developed an IPv4 to IPv6 migration strategy which outlines various regulatory interventions to ensure faster adoption of IPv6 addresses which are the backbone of Internet routing .

Among the measures include the requirement that effective July 2023 , all Internet connecting devices must be IPv6 enabled as an irreducible minimum, for them to be type approved for sale in Kenya .This will ensure any new device sold and bought by ICT service consumers is future proof with regards to Internet access.

This will also go a long way in preventing dumping of IPv4 equipment in the country , which would eventually turn into e-waste.

The other strategic measure is to ensure assignment of telecommunication resources like numbering resources, frequency assignments and Top Level Domain Name assignment documents contain a regulatory requirement for adoption of IPv6 addresses.This will serve as a constant reminder to the service providers on the need to adopt IPv6 addresses.

The Authority has also developed service provider self IPv6 self-assessments checklist and IPv6 inspection checklists, which will be used to collect data on progress made by service providers towards adopting IPv6.

These developments have been communicated to the various stakeholders for necessary alignment.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Authority is also currently developing industry specific IPv6 training content that will be used to train service providers on various regulatory measures required of them, like IPv6 data collection, to be reported by the Authority through its quarterly sector statistics.

We will continue to work closely with various industry stakeholders to address any emerging issues with regards to enhancing the adoption of IPv6 addresses, and updating our IPv6 regulatory tools based on feedback from stakeholders.

We continue to foster multi-agency conversations around efficient deployment of ICTs to mitigate the negative impacts on the environment, social welfare and social economic fronts.

It is on this premise that we appreciate efforts by organizations such as the Telecommunication Service Providers of Kenya (TESPOK), which continue to contribute to discussions and ideas by organizing forums such as this one, which will go a long way in fostering conversations on emerging issues .

In conclusion, we shall continue to engage TESPOK and other sector stakeholders on issues of mutual interest and champion digital transformation of our country.

I, therefore, look forward to stimulating discussions at this Kenya Peering Forum.

**Thank you all for your attention.**