



## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SWITCH FROM DVB-T TO DVB-T2 DIGITAL BROADCASTING PLATFORM**

The migration to digital television broadcasting is a Government initiative arising from the multilateral decision of the Regional Radio Conference of 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland (RRC-06). The decision required all member countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to migrate from analogue to digital terrestrial TV broadcasting technologies by 17th June 2015.

Arising from the decision of RRC-2006, the Government of Kenya in consultation with the industry stakeholders put in place mechanisms and structures to facilitate the migration. H.E. President Mwai Kibaki launched the digital broadcasting service on 9th December 2009. The pilot phase of this transition was introduced using the Digital Video Broadcasting – Terrestrial (DVB-T) standard which was then a mature standard adopted by countries of Region 2 of the ITU including Kenya. Evolution in DVB technologies has resulted into a more advanced standard of DVB-T now known as Digital Video Broadcasting – Terrestrial 2 (DVB-T2). Both standards use the MPEG-4 compression standard.

This new standard has the following improved features:

- Better quality picture and sound information;
- 50% more programme channels in one TV frequency than DVB-T;
- Larger coverage area by a single TV transmitting station;
- Flexibility to simultaneously accommodate high definition and standard definition channels, mobile TV and digital audio;
- Improved security to prevent unauthorized persons from receiving services

The enhanced features on the DVB-T2 standard have motivated a number of countries to replace DVB-T standard. Kenya has rolled out the DVB-T infrastructure in Nairobi and therefore opted to embrace the DVB-T2 technology to enable Kenyans enjoy the aforementioned features.

The upgrade to this standard implies that any subsequent rollout of digital broadcasting infrastructure in Kenya shall be on the DVB-T2 platform. The DVB-T and DVB-T2 platforms will run concurrently in Nairobi for the entire duration of the simulcast period, which is expected to come to a close in 2012. In order to access programmes on the DVB-T2 platform, consumers will have to acquire DVB-T2 set top boxes.

In light of the foregoing, the Ministry of Information and Communications wishes to announce the following:

1. Vendors of equipment should cease, with immediate effect, any further importation of the DVB-T set-top boxes. All importations and sales of the set top boxes henceforth, must comply with the DVB-T2 system specifications now available from the Digital Kenya Secretariat.

All equipment suppliers and vendors are advised to obtain type approval of the set boxes from the Communications Commission of Kenya in line with the *Kenya Communications (Amendment) Act No. 1 of 2009*.

Authorized vendors /dealers of such equipment will be required to display, at the point of sale, a valid vendor authorization and type approval certificate issued by the Commission.

2. Consumers are encouraged to note the new DVB-T2 standard and therefore purchase set-top boxes that are compatible with the new platform. Those who have already purchased DVB-T set top boxes are advised to continue using them until June 2012 when the country shall exclusively switch over to the DVB-T2 platform.

The Ministry of Information and Communications is in consultation with other relevant government agencies to ensure that only DVB-T2 compliant receivers are allowed in the country.

For further enquiries, please contact:

**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Information and Communications**  
**PO Box 30025, Nairobi, 00100**  
**Tel: +254 (20) 2251152**  
**Fax: +254 (20) 315147**  
**Email: [ps@information.go.ke](mailto:ps@information.go.ke) or [digitalkenya@cck.go.ke](mailto:digitalkenya@cck.go.ke)**