

**REMARKS BY H.E. HON KENNETH LUSAKA, FIRST GOVERNOR,
BUNGOMA COUNTY DURING THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER
CEREMONY OF COMPUTERS AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY
TO ST MARY'S BOYS KIBABII HIGH SCHOOL, BUNGOMA ON
WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2017**

Cabinet Secretary, Water and Sanitation, Eugene Wamalwa

Principal Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Mr. Sammy Itemere

**Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya, Mr. Francis
Wangusi, MBS**

Bungoma County Commissioner, Mr. Joshua K. Chepchieng, HSC

Senior County Officials present

Staff from Communications Authority

Board of Management Chairman, Mr. John Kuloba

Principal St Mary's Boys Kibabii High School, Mr. Mathew Namunwa

Parents

Teachers

Students

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It takes me great pleasure to preside over this auspicious occasion as Kibabii Boys High School received new computers, internet connectivity and other ICT equipment from the Communications Authority of Kenya.

It is a great privilege for me as a leader in this County and even more importantly as an alumni of this great school.

Let me begin by commending the Communications Authority of Kenya for the initiative and even the thought of boosting the ICT facilities in this school. Kibabii is a school of high stature, well respected in Kenya and indeed it is befitting to be accorded this assistance.

ICT services is undoubtedly a bedrock of all sectors, as it is evident from the demand of ICT services, whether at government level, institutional levels and even individual level. ICTs have literally become part and parcel of our lives and consumers are indeed reaping the benefits of ICTs.

The Bungoma County objective to increase public participation in decision making on issues that have direct impact on them. This resonates the objective of the national government and ICTs do play a critical role in helping us meet this objective.

Today, a business lady at the market in Mupeli Market, a businessman in Bungoma town, the teacher in Kibabii High School and the student at Kibabii are all users of ICTs. ICTs present a great opportunity for easier communication, businesses by reducing the cost of transactions ultimately leading to added revenue generation, help with service delivery and faster analysis of data, creating new innovations, the list is endless.

It is my hope that we all here are excited here at Kibabii and will take advantage of ICTs and the potential they have to spur innovation. It is exciting to note that the school has specific ICT lessons for students, not only the basic but also courses that provide a basis for future professional tracks in ICT. Today, many young Kenyans are reaping from the knowledge of ICT. Kenya has many ICT innovation hubs, incubation and acceleration programmes that are helping nurture the ICT potential. Increasingly, young people are increasingly emerging not only as ICT innovators but owners of start ups and SMEs powered by ICTs.

In Bungoma County, we are making every effort to increase the affordability and access to ICTs through the ICT Directorate and Partnerships with Public and Private Entities, and we hope that we will continue to progress even faster towards promotion of ICTs in the rural remote areas. We are leveraging on the available telecommunications infrastructure to rollout ICT hubs, to deliver County services online, boost revenue collections and also create employment opportunities, among other things.

We are in the process of establishing digital centres in each ward and sub-county and a software academy which will be incorporated in the proposed ICT Hub. The County, through the ICT Hub intends to create a pool of ICT knowledge workers. The rollout of the ICT Hub is currently underway with the County Legal office formulating an appropriate Public Private Partnership PPP for strategic rollout.

The ICT hubs will among other things offer ICT training and Certifications and act as innovation and mentoring centers. Offer internship opportunities to students seeking industrial attachments from Universities and middle level collages based in the County.

These are only a glimpse of potential there is and I look forward to the alumni from St. Mary's Boy's Kibabii High School being a core part of the ICT knowledge workers in this County and other parts of the country.

ICT will help us take the leap to grow the social and economic status of our people. Let us all embrace ICTs and make the best of the resources in our hands.

With those few remarks, it is my singular honour to declare the new Computer Lab at St. Mary's Boys Kibabii High School officially launched.