

Theme: 'Digital Economy: Endless Opportunities Shaping Our Future'

Kenya's Captains of ICT Industry Converge in Kwale for Connected Summit 2023



**Message from Eliud Owalo,
Cabinet Secretary for Information,
Communications and The Digital
Economy**

Connected Summit is the premier annual ICT High-level Forum that brings global, regional and local ICT thought leaders, policy makers, business executives, investors, and innovators under one roof for very strategic industry conversations.

I am pleased to note that this year's theme – **"Digital Economy: Endless Opportunities Shaping Our Future"** – aligns with the country's economic Blueprint

and the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto, which envision Kenya as a leading regional economy as well as a global ICT and knowledge hub. It is in line with the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Kenya National Digital Masterplan (2022-2032).

This Summit comes as a time when the Kenya Kwanza Government has put ICT at the core of Public Service delivery. I also note that Connected Summit has consistently since 2009 provided solutions for Kenya's challenges by leveraging ICT. It goes without saying that we expect outcomes which will support the delivery of the Government of Kenya ICT priorities such as the delivery of the Digital Super

Highway. Indeed, Connected Summit is a regional gathering, and I thank most sincerely delegates from our sister countries in the region. As we say in Kenya, **Karibuni sana**. I am informed that delegates are expected from all the 47 counties in Kenya, to take part in the County Forum. This is very important as we seek to deepen the collaboration between the National Government and county governments under the umbrella of the Council of Governors chaired by H.E Anne Waiguru, the Governor of Kirinyaga County.

I express my sincere gratitude to all the delegates taking part in the Women in Tech Forum. This is very significant and coming at a time when the Government of

Kenya is very deliberate about increasing the number of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and leveraging on their skills and expertise in tech to address issues that affect society. I celebrate all our women and girls who have overcome so many hurdles and continue to make their mark in the ICT innovation, investment and practitioners' space.

My vision as the in-charge of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy is to have a paperless Government and leverage ICT for an inclusive society where every citizen is accessing Government services from the comfort of their homes and affordably. I wish us all a great Connected Summit 2023.

**Message from Eng. John Tanui,
CBS, Principal Secretary,
State Department for ICT and
the Digital Economy**

The Connected Summit is a testament to the power of collaboration and the coming together of various players in Kenya's ICT sectors. As someone who has attended this summit for many years, I must say there is a lot of benefits to the practitioners, students, policy makers, and investors.

The 2023 edition promises to host thought-provoking discussions, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities that will foster new connections and collaborations.

This is the second post-Covid-19 meet-up of the tech industry, and there is definitely a lot of professional and business 'catch up' to do. Most of us are still at the bend to full recovery, hence the significance of this great meeting of minds.

I come to this Summit with a lot of confidence that Kenya's ICT sector is making ground-breaking



**Message from Prof
Edward Kisiang'ani,
Principal Secretary,
State Department
for Broadcasting and
Telecommunications**

Kenya enjoys a robust broadcasting and telecommunications sector that is playing a complementary role to that of ICT and the digital economy.

In line with its mandate, the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications has put in place an enabling environment to support the broadcasting and telecommunication sectors, both of which are both employment hubs for especially the youth. The government is partnering with the private sector to see to it that there is a robust broadcasting and telecommunications sector that will not only attract investment but lead to accessi-



advancements in the digital landscape. This is definitely enhancing Kenya's position as a regional leader in digital transformation and reinforcing the importance of the country globally as a tech hub and destination.

I hope the sector draws inspiration from our youth who are venturing out, taking risks, and trying new horizons. The world is now at the 4.0 Industrial Revolution that is completely tech driven.

The ICT Authority is already delivering on programmes and projects to realise the Digital Super Highway.

A drive to Konza City is testimony that Kenya's journey to a world-class smart city powered by a thriving and progressive ICTs and an investor friendly ecosystem, has started. Konza is hosting Korean Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), which is globally recognised as a research-oriented science and engineering training facility set to produce highly skilled experts in emerging technologies.

Through The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, we are regulating the processing of personal data, guided by the principles set out in section 25 of the Data Protection Act of 2019. We are also protecting the privacy of individuals, establishing the legal and institutional mechanism to protect personal data; and providing data subjects with rights and remedies to protect their personal data from processing that is not in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

The new horizon is SMART cities and SMART living. This is the spirit of Connected Summit 2023.

ble and affordable broadband connectivity to every citizen in this country. This will also support local content, which also sell our national culture and position the great and respected Kenya brand globally.

I note with pride that the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation is beaming this year's conversations to the rest of the audience that will not be in Diani, as it carries out its roles of Informing and Education. Indeed, this comes as

time when the Government of Kenya is carrying out a revamping of the national broadcaster as well as the Kenya News Agency.

The Government of Kenya recognises the significant potential of high-level conferencing such as the Connected Summit. Such forums are platforms where media and communication practitioners, both in Government and the private sector, leverage to tell the Kenyan story from a Kenyan context. The Kenyan tech journey is being told, with clarity, so that the strategic positioning of the country as a tech hub becomes a reality.

This will then attract investors into our country and so increase both employment and business opportunities, especially for our youths.

In conclusion, I wish all delegates very engaging and fruitful moments during the Connected Summit 2023.



**Message from Hon Sylvanus
Maritim, Chairman, ICT
Authority Board of Directors**

I warmly welcome all delegates to the Connected Summit 2023. The ICT Authority has continued to discharge its mandate on behalf of the Government, for the benefit of our citizens.

The ICT Authority Board oversees the delivery of all programmes, projects and initiatives that will contribute to the overall Government of Kenya ICT priorities.

Currently, we are implementing the Government ICT pillars on ICT Infrastructure, Digital Services, Digital Skills, and ICT Innovation and Enterprise.

Connected Summit remains the most unique ICT sector forum that facilitates exchange of ideas on the growth and development of the ICT sector, which has many actors and players. The essence of Connected is sitting around the table and freely sharing knowledge and experiences in a Public-Private Partnerships framework and understanding. This

in itself stimulates the generation of the much needed ideas and knowledge that is required to take Kenya's digital economy to the next level.

I would like to reiterate that the ICT Authority Board is committed to encouraging and promoting collaboration with key stakeholders and to ensuring a conducive environment for increased investments and rapid growth of the ICT sector.

The Board looks forward to fruitful outcomes from Connected Summit 2023 that is taking place this week in Diani, Kwale County. Welcome!



**Message by Stanley Kamunguya,
OGW, CEO, ICT Authority**

Marking its 12th cycle, the Connected Summit is the ICT Authority's signature sector event, and I am happy to host you all in 2023.

Since 2009, we have witnessed Connected Summit grow from a small sector caucus to a now go-to ICT gathering where sector thought leaders share experience and showcase ICT solutions that are being deployed to improve the livelihoods of Kenyans.

Guided by the theme, **"Digital Economy: Endless Opportunities for Shaping Our Future"**, this year's edi-

tion is bigger, better and deeper. The Summit will help us take a deeper dive into the Government's public service delivery plans that require the enablement of ICT. It will also help us have a view of existing opportunities in the sector and figure out how to plug in.

Indeed, a public-private sector collaboration is critical for us to deliver not only the promises to Kenyans, but also to Kenya's ICT Sector.

Over and above the serious discussions, we have lined up fun and networking activities such as Beach Games, networking cocktails, roundtable forums, and traditional fire side

chats. There is definitely something for everyone.

I thank most sincerely the entire ICT Authority family that has put in long hours to make this event a success. I also thank our partners and sponsors for the immense support and of course all the delegates without who this summit would not have been. I believe that with our rallying call, **"Impact90"**, all our efforts and actions should translate into actual impact on our economy.

It is my hope that we will enjoy the Diani experience, which blends business with leisure. Karibuni Connected Summit 2023!

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