REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

SPEECH BY MR. JOE MUCHERU, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE AFRICA CYBER DEFENSE SUMMIT STAKEHOLDERS MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL, NAIROBI

Mr. Sammy Itemere, Principal Secretary, State Department of Broadcasting and Telecommunications,

Mr. Scott Ragsdale, Naseba Chairman to Ministry of ICT and Africa Cyberspace Network,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to join you this morning, as we prepare for the Africa Cyber Defense Summit, a forum that is determined to develop a common continental strategy for cyber defense that threatens ICT advancements. The choice of Nairobi to host the Summit is laudable, as the Republic of Kenya has made significant strides in the adoption of ICT.

The Kenyan government fully supports the adoption and spread of technology by creating enablers to support infrastructure, technology, policies, laws, capacity-building efforts and private sector businesses that own and run the technology ecosystem.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
We use technology because it is appropriate for us: its features, its price and its availability have dovetailed with our everyday concerns and needs. Technology has become universal without the need for special interventions to encourage its adoption. In Kenya, we have made deliberate efforts to grow and expand the ICT sector through a revamped infrastructure. Today, the country is connected to four undersea fiber optic cables with a total connectivity bandwidth of over 850,000 Mbps.

We have extended 6000 Km of the National Optic Fibre Backbone Infrastructure (NOFBI) to all the 47 County headquarters to enhance rural ICT and Internet connectivity and make e-government services more accessible to constituents.

In the mobile telephony industry, mobile subscriptions stood at 41 million subscribers representing mobile penetration of over 90 per cent based on the Communication Authority report by September 2017. During the period, mobile money transactions were valued at an impressive Kshs.1.65 trillion.

In alignment with Kenya's Vision 2030, the Government is also strategically positioning the young generation to compete fairly and equally with their peers globally. It is for this reason that the we initiated the Digital Literacy Program (DLP), which is focused on tapping IT innovative potential of children in their formative ages.

The program aims at integrating advanced digital learning and teaching Solutions in all our Public Primary schools. We have issued over 1 million children with Digital Literacy devices in over 19,500 public schools. Two local assembly plants have been established to guarantee the program's sustainability and grow the local ecosystem. Teachers have also been digitally skilled.

Ladies and gentlemen

As you can see from the programs cited, it is evident that the Kenya's heavy investment in ICT as a critical resource needs to be protected at all cost. We want to be in solidarity with our continental and global partners in seeking solutions to protect ICT gains across the continent.

As we endeavor to promote the use of ICT, we cannot ignore the growing increase in cyber and other computer related crimes. Cybercrime impacts negatively on a country's economy damage and this therefore calls for coordinated efforts to curb its spread. The sophisticated nature of global cybercrimes sometimes presents a challenge to cross-boundary law enforcement.

I trust that the stakeholders gathered here today, will critically deliberate on this and propose strategies that will deflate cyber criminals.

In Kenya, we are committed to putting in place sufficient policy and legal frameworks to address cybercrimes. The Computer and Cybercrimes Bill has been presented to the National Assembly for approval. We also have in place a National Cyber Security Strategy, which provides a national-level plan to defend and secure the country's digital infrastructure. The strategy includes the development of information security management controls and procedures; cyber security systems; and identity and access management systems, among other key issues.

To secure online transactions, the Government is also committed to fully operationalizing the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), which offers digital certificates to those transacting online. The PKI system will enhance information security in government IT systems, including e-Government services.

Other on-going initiatives include the Cyber security framework for co-operation and collaboration between the Northern Corridor Integration Projects Partner States to prevent and respond to evolving cyber security threats and other initiatives under the East African Community (EAC) and the East African Communications Organization (EACO).

The Government is aware of the risks inherent in a technology that connects us to the whole world. We have a national Kenya Computer Incidents Response Team (CIRT), that monitors and responds to cyber threats and acts as a national point of reference on cyber security issues. Kenya is also actively represented in regional and international cybersecurity policy-making fora such as those organized by the UN, ITU, AU and EAC, where we have made our contributions to the development of relevant laws and policies.

As I conclude **Ladies and Gentlemen,** I would like to say that the idea of a Cyber Defense Summit for Africa is timely. I am very excited to support the establishment of Africa's first Research Institute devoted to Cybersecurity in Kenya.

I look forward to hosting distinguished colleagues, titans of industry, academics and young innovators as we jointly take on the challenge of securing Africa from breaches and attacks against our valuable ICTs. I trust that each one of you will commit to work towards the establishment of the Institute.

With those remarks, it is my pleasure to declare this Stakeholders meeting officially open.

(Happy Valentine's Day and a blessed Lent to those that practice the season!)

Thank You!