REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

ADDRESS BY MR STEPHEN ISABOKE, EBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR BROADCASTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS & THE DIGITAL ECONOMY, DURING THE DIGITAL AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SKILLING FOR PUBLIC COMMUNICATION OFFICERS SENSITISATION FORUM

THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2025

KSG - LOWER KABETE, NAIROBI.

SALUTATION

- Representatives from
  - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - The Executive Office of the President (EoP)
  - The Kenya School of Government (KSG)
  - Microsoft
- The Secretary, Public Communications
- Public Communication Officers

Good morning!

I. I am honoured to address you today on a topic that holds immense promise for both our professional growth and our nation's future: Digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skilling. We gather at a pivotal time when technology is no longer a support function but the very foundation of service delivery, innovation and governance.

II. The Government recognises that digital transformation is the cornerstone of sustainable development. Digitalisation is one of the five key pillars driving equitable economic growth under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). This

vision is anchored in key policy instruments, including the National Digital Master Plan (2022–2032) and the Kenya National Broadband Strategy (2018–2028). Together, these frameworks reaffirm the Government's commitment to building a digitally empowered, knowledge-based economy guided by innovation, inclusion and ethical use of emerging technologies such as AI.

III. Through these policies, we are laying the groundwork for a digitally competent public service, one capable of harnessing technology to enhance governance, improve service delivery and strengthen citizen engagement. Digital and AI skilling is therefore not a luxury. It is a necessity for Kenya to remain competitive in the global economy.

IV. As the Ministry in charge of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, we are implementing targeted programmes that translate this vision into action. My State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications is spearheading the development of digital communication infrastructure and strengthening Government communication through capacity building for Public Communications Officers

(PCOs), some of you are here today. Our goal is to ensure every Ministry, Department and Agency (MDA) has professionals equipped with modern tools and the digital literacy needed to engage citizens effectively in an increasingly connected world.

V. In addition, the Ministry is fostering partnerships with academia, industry and development partners to design training programmes that empower public officers to thrive in the digital economy. We are working closely with stakeholders to actualise curricula that integrate AI, data analytics and digital innovation, ensuring that public servants are at the forefront of technological transformation.

VI. I am pleased to highlight the progress of the Regional Centre of Competence (RCoC) for Digital and AI Skilling, established in 2024 through a partnership between the Ministry, UNDP, the Kenya School of Government and Microsoft. The Centre's programmes are bridging the digital skills gap across Government. So far, over 11,000 public servants have enrolled in the training, and we are on course to upskill 100,000 officers by next year.

VII. The RCoC signifies a paradigm shift where the public service is no longer a passive adopter of technology but an active driver of digital transformation. A more digitally skilled public service will lead to faster, more transparent and citizen-centric service delivery, in line with our Government's digital superhighway agenda.

VIII. I urge you, our Public Communications Officers, to take an active role in this journey. You are not only storytellers of Government's progress but also ambassadors of innovation. By communicating the benefits of these programmes and activating digital strategies within your MDAs, you will help reinforce Kenya's transformation toward a digital-first Government that delivers inclusive growth and citizen trust.

IX. As I conclude, digital and AI skilling is our gateway to the future. I call upon all our stakeholders, those in Government, academia, development and the private sector, to join hands in building a digitally skilled, innovation-driven Kenya. Together, we can unlock the full potential of technology to transform public

service, create new opportunities for our youth and secure a prosperous digital future for all Kenyans.

X. And with these few remarks, I hereby declare the Digital and Artificial Intelligence Skilling for Public Communication Officers Sensitisation Forum, open.

Thank you.