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 IEEE INTERNATIONAL MICROWAVE AND ANTENNAS SYMPOSIUM (IMAS 2025).

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

NAIROBI.

SALUTATION

- David Mugonyi, Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya
- Dr. Benson Ojwang, Technical Programme Committee Chair
- Dr. Aly Fathy, Workshop Chair
- Prof. Samir El Ghazaly and Prof. Yahia Antar, Advisory Co-Chairs
- Members of the IEEE Community,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

I. It is a great honour to join you this morning at the IEEE International Microwave and Antennas Symposium (IMAS) 2025, an event that brings together engineering and academic minds from across the globe to advance the frontiers of microwave, antenna and electromagnetic technologies.

II. The theme of this year's symposium captures Africa's transition from basic connectivity to advanced, high-capacity communication systems powered by microwave, antenna and wireless innovations. This aligns perfectly with the Government's vision under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and Kenya Vision 2030, which

prioritise digital inclusion, innovation and infrastructure as catalysts for socio-economic growth.

III. The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, recognises the foundational role of ICTs in national transformation. Our policy frameworks — including the National ICT Policy (2020), Kenya National Broadband Strategy (2018–2028), and National Digital Master Plan (2022–2032) — set the roadmap toward a digitally empowered nation anchored on universal access, innovation and resilience.

IV. We reaffirm our commitment to enabling policies, forward-looking regulation and robust infrastructure investment that will support the growth of advanced wireless technologies across Africa. Working with the private sector and development partners, the Ministry is ensuring that every Kenyan — from the savannahs of Turkana to the skylines of Nairobi — benefits from affordable, secure, and high-speed digital connectivity.

V. Over the past decade, Kenya has achieved significant progress in deploying microwave and radio-based backhaul technologies,

which remain the backbone of broadband connectivity, especially in rural and underserved areas. Today, 45% of Kenya's backhaul links for cellular mobile networks rely on microwave transmission — a testament to its reliability and cost-effectiveness.

VI. In collaboration with the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), the Ministry continues to advance the 5G Roadmap, spectrum refarming, and spectrum-sharing frameworks to harness emerging technologies, including millimetre-wave applications and satellite communications, for national development. These efforts are guided by the National Radiofrequency Spectrum Policy (2021) and align with ITU and ATU recommendations.

VII. Recognising that sustainable advancement depends on research and innovation, the Government, through the Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (GIEC) — a partnership between Kenya and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) — is nurturing a new generation of researchers and innovators in microwave and

antenna engineering, spectrum management and wireless communication systems.

VIII. Through CA, the Ministry has also initiated partnerships with universities to support postgraduate studies, promote academic research and establish Regulatory Sandboxes and Innovation Labs. These collaborations strengthen the bridge between academia, industry, and government, ensuring Kenya not only consumes technology but also creates and exports it.

IX. These engagements reaffirm Kenya's commitment to building a dynamic, inclusive and secure digital ecosystem that sustains our knowledge economy and positions the country as a regional innovation hub and trusted partner in shaping Africa's digital future.

X. Distinguished participants, the technologies showcased at IMAS 2025 — from adaptive beamforming and radar sensing to reconfigurable intelligent surfaces — are not merely academic pursuits; they are the foundations of Africa's next digital leap. I invite all participants — from industry, academia and government — to forge partnerships, inspire research and

translate engineering excellence into societal progress.

Together, let us move from Savannah to Skyline, harnessing microwave and antenna technologies for Africa's sustainable growth.

Thank you. Asanteni sana.