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 CLOSING CEREMONY OF CYBER WEEK 2025 AS DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY MR ALPHONCE KANUNGA, SECRETARY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES.

FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2025

NAIROBI.

SALUTATIONS

- Distinguished Guests
- Government Officials
- Development Partners
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Academia
- Innovators
- The Cyber Community

Good afternoon,

I. It gives me great pleasure to join you at the closing ceremony of this momentous Cyber Week Africa 2025, a forum that continues to shape dialogue and direction of cybersecurity governance across our continent and across the globe.

II. Allow me to extend deepest appreciation to our hosts—the Kenya School of Government, the Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy (MoICDE), and our strategic partners including the National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination

Committee (NC4), Cyberpro Global, Huawei and other partners for curating such an enriching and forward-looking platform.

III. The theme of this year's Cyber Week—"Compliance by Design", resonates deeply with the Government's vision under the Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy Pillar of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). It reminds us that cybersecurity must not be an afterthought but a foundation of our digital transformation, ensuring systems are secure by design, resilient by default

IV. In an era where our economies, institutions, and citizens rely heavily on interconnected network and systems, trust, accountability, and compliance must not be afterthoughts. They must be embedded into the DNA of our digital infrastructure, systems and applications—from code to policy and from innovation to implementation.

V. Kenya is committed to a safe and trusted digital ecosystem. In the ministry of Information Communication and the Digital Economy,

we view cyber security compliance and governance as integral to digital transformation.

VI. Allow me to highlight a few of our ongoing initiatives that directly speak to this year's theme:

a) The Ministry, through the Communications Authority of Kenya, is committed to strengthening Kenya's cyber resilience through Kenya Computer Incidents Response Team and Coordination Centre (KE-CIRT/CC). The centre provides timely advisories that serve to enhance our national cyber posture.

b) We are also, through the Communications Authority of Kenya, developing Cybersecurity Regulations as well as the Data Centre and Cloud Service Standards to ensure alignment with international best practices.

c) As a ministry, we are working closely with NC4 and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to develop harmonized cybersecurity compliance frameworks for critical information infrastructure operators.

VII. Our nation's ability to adequately secure its critical digital assets requires a robust and well-trained frontline cybersecurity workforce.

VIII. These efforts would not have been possible without the support of partners in both the public and private sectors, who recognize that the digital economy is a shared space and that we must therefore build safety and trust together through public-private collaboration.

IX. In recognition of this, Kenya continues to advocate for cross-border cybersecurity cooperation, harmonized standards, and trusted data governance frameworks at both regional and international forums, such as the Smart Africa Alliance, the Africa Union's (AU) Digital Transformation Strategy, while working closely with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on cyber preparedness.

X. As we close this year's Cyber Week, several insights stand out:

a) First, that compliance is not a checkbox exercise—it must evolve into a culture that guides our design processes, corporate governance, and citizen digital behaviour.

b) Second, Africa must invest in its human capital. Compliance by design begins with developers, policymakers, and consumers who understand their shared responsibility in securing digital trust.

XI. I extend my gratitude to all the participants who have enriched this dialogue with ideas and solutions that will shape Africa's secure digital destiny.

XII. Let us reaffirm a message echoed by delegates, ambassadors, and partners alike: Compliance by design is not just a technical framework—it is a mindset and a legacy. It is what will safeguard our people, our economies, and our democracy.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Cyber Week 2025, closed.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.