

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

REMARKS BY MR STEPHEN ISABOKE, EBS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR BROADCASTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY DURING THE FLAG-OFF OF THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF LAPTOPS TO SCHOOLS.

TUESDAY, 09 JUNE 2026.

CEMASTEA, NAIROBI.

SALUTATION

- The Principal Secretary, State Department for Basic Education;
- The Board Chair, and the Board Members, ICT Authority;
- The Chief Executive Officer of ICT Authority;
- The Chief Executive Officer of CEMASTEA;
- The KDEAP Task Team Lead, World Bank;
- Representatives of the Teachers Service Commission, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development;
- County and sub-county education officials;
- School administrators and teachers;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon,

I. It gives me great pleasure to join you today as we officially flag off the first consignment of laptops and interactive smart boards for delivery to schools across the country. This occasion marks an important milestone in Kenya’s digital transformation journey and demonstrates our commitment to preparing learners for a future where technology will increasingly shape how we learn, work and create opportunities.

II. The Government of Kenya remains committed to building a digitally connected and knowledge-driven economy. Through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Digital Superhighway Programme and ongoing education reforms, we are investing in digital infrastructure, digital skills and digital opportunities to ensure no Kenyan is left behind.

III. Education sits at the centre of this transformation. The future workforce will require more than basic digital literacy. It will demand creativity, adaptability, problem-solving and innovation. Our schools must therefore become spaces where learners are exposed to technology early and empowered to use it responsibly and productively.

IV. We want our learners not merely to consume technology, but to create with it, innovate through it and apply it to solving real challenges facing their communities and our nation.

V. Under this phase of the programme, 10,382 schools across the country will benefit from the deployment of laptops and interactive smart boards. This represents a significant investment towards

building a more inclusive, technology-enabled and future-ready education system.

VI. This programme complements the Government's broader Digital Superhighway agenda, which includes the rollout of 100,000 kilometres of fibre optic cable and the establishment of 1,450 digital hubs across all wards in Kenya. Together, these investments are creating the foundation upon which Kenya’s digital economy will continue to grow.

VII. Inclusion must remain at the heart of this transformation. Whether a learner is in Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit, Kwale, Kisumu or Nairobi, every child deserves access to the same opportunities and the same digital future.

VIII. As we expand access to technology, we must also promote responsible and safe use. Learners should be equipped to navigate online spaces safely, use digital tools ethically and harness technology in ways that positively impact their lives and communities.

IX. Ladies and Gentlemen, even as we celebrate this important milestone, we remain mindful of the recent incidents of school unrest, fires and temporary closures that have affected learning in some institutions across the country. These unfortunate occurrences remind us that our schools must remain places of safety, discipline and opportunity. Protecting school infrastructure and maintaining a conducive learning environment is a shared responsibility involving learners, teachers, parents and the wider community.

X. As we continue investing in digital learning, we must equally nurture values of responsibility, dialogue and positive engagement among our young people. Technology should become a tool that inspires curiosity, innovation and hope, not frustration or destruction. Every classroom, every device and every facility represents an investment in the future of our children and our nation, and must therefore be protected.

XI. I commend the partnership between the Ministry of Education, ICT Authority, CEMASTEA, the Teachers Service Commission, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and the World Bank through the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project. This

collaboration demonstrates what can be achieved when institutions work together towards a common national goal.

XII. To our teachers, I encourage you to embrace these tools and integrate them effectively into teaching and learning. To our learners, I urge you to use these devices to explore, innovate and dream bigger.

XIII. Today, we are not merely flagging off devices. We are investing in human capital, digital skills and the future prosperity of our nation.

XIV. It is now my honour, together with my colleague the Principal Secretary responsible for Basic Education, to officially flag off the first consignment of laptops and interactive smart boards for delivery to schools under the Digital Literacy Programme Scale-Up.

Thank you.