

## REMARKS BY STANLEY KAMANGUYA, OGW. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ICT AUTHORITY DURING THE ISACA CONFERENCE, HELD ON 10TH APRIL 2024, IN MOMBASA.

Esteemed Guests,

Esteemed Members of the ISACA Kenyan Chapter,

Respected Delegates and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

### I. A Warm Welcome to the Digital Future

In the spirit of an old Kenyan saying, "*Mganga hajigangi*," which translates to "A healer doesn't heal themselves," it is both a profound pleasure and an honour to join you today at this significant ISACA conference, themed: "**Digital Trust; Charting the Course for a Resilient Future.**" This proverb reminds us that in our quest for digital transformation, much like the healer, we too cannot thrive in isolation. Just as the healer relies on the community, so must we depend on one another to navigate the vibrant and ever-evolving world of digital transformation. Today, here in Mombasa, we find ourselves at the confluence of innovation, inspiration, and integration, embarking on a journey not just to any destination, but towards a digitally resilient future for Kenya and beyond, under the banner of digital trust.

### II. The Era of Technological Renaissance

Gathered here under the banner of this theme, we stand at the dawn of a new era, one marked by a technological renaissance that is as vibrant as the dawn over the savannah. This is not merely an evolution; it's a revolution that is reshaping the very essence of how we live, work, and connect across the vast landscapes of Kenya. Imagine, if you will, a Kenya where technology is as ubiquitous as the acacia trees dotting the Mara plains, where innovation flows as freely as the waters of the Mara River, nourishing and transforming every aspect of our lives.

In this transformative era, Kenya is not merely adapting; we are leading, envisioning, and pioneering. Our journey is propelled by three powerful forces: the unparalleled opportunities that stretch before us like the endless horizons of the Rift Valley, the formidable challenges that stand as tall and as daunting as Mount Kenya, and the bright prospects for our future that shine as brightly as the morning sun cresting over the Indian Ocean.

As we navigate this technological renaissance, we do so with the spirit of the lionhearted, charting our course through the digital savannah with the wisdom of the elephant and the agility of the cheetah. This is our moment to transform not just Kenya's ICT landscape but to carve out our legacy in the annals of digital innovation.

### III. Kenya's Digital Pillars for Transformation

In our quest for advancement, the Kenyan Government has embraced technology as a cornerstone of its Transformation Agenda. Our vision is clear: to revolutionize service delivery through digital innovation. However, technology's potential is anchored in the strength of our data. Recognizing this, we have identified five critical areas for intervention to spur our nation's economic growth: Agriculture, MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), Healthcare, Lands and Settlements, and the twin pillars of Digital Superhighway & Creative Economy. These sectors stand as the beacons of our commitment to not just navigate but lead the digital transformation journey.

### IV. A Blueprint for Inclusive Growth

In our journey towards digital excellence, our compass points towards community empowerment, digital inclusion, and local economic development. Through strategic investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and environmental conservation, the Government of Kenya is laying the foundations for a bottom-up transformation. This holistic approach aims not just at technological advancement but at creating an ecosystem where sustainable development and prosperity are accessible to all citizens. It's a commitment to not only elevate the national economy but also to ensure that every Kenyan is a beneficiary of this digital revolution.

## **V. The Critical Role of Data Integrity**

At the core of our transformative agenda lies a vital resource: data, the lifeblood of the digital economy. In our interconnected era, data emerges as a strategic asset, essential for insights, decision-making, and innovation across every sector. Yet, the wealth of data carries with it a solemn duty: to manage it ethically, securely, and in compliance with global standards. It falls upon us, as stewards of Kenya's ICT landscape, to uphold data governance practices that are robust and transparent. Our goal is to foster an environment of trust and confidence, ensuring that our digital ecosystem thrives on integrity and respect for privacy.

## **VI. Empowering a Future-Ready Workforce**

The bedrock of our digital future is our people. The success of Kenya's ICT initiatives depends on our collective ability to cultivate a generation of digital pioneers. These are the bright minds who will propel our nation into the forefront of the global digital economy, armed with the skills and knowledge to innovate and lead. It is imperative that we invest in education, training, and capacity-building, to not only bridge the digital divide but to ensure that the digital revolution is inclusive, leaving no one behind. By fostering a digitally literate workforce, we guarantee that the future of Kenya is not only bright but also boundless.

## **VII. A Unified Vision for a Digital Renaissance**

As we gaze into the horizon, the future of Kenya's ICT landscape gleams with promise, yet it beckons us to a challenge—a challenge that can only be met with the united efforts of every sector: government, industry, academia, and civil society. Our call to action is clear: to collaborate with unwavering dedication, to innovate beyond the confines of our imagination, and to co-create solutions that leverage digital technology's boundless potential. This is our path to ensuring that the fruits of digital transformation are accessible to every Kenyan, lighting up every corner of our nation with the promise of progress and prosperity.

## **VIII. A Call to Action for a Collective Odyssey**

Let the saga of Kenya's digital transformation resonate far and wide, standing as a powerful testament to the remarkable feats we can accomplish when our hearts and minds unite in pursuit of a singular, noble purpose. Imagine our collective journey weaving through the tapestry of time, each thread a story of innovation, resilience, and community, interlacing to form a vibrant mosaic that reflects our shared aspirations. Envision a Kenya where every individual, regardless of their origin, has the key to unlock a future brimming with opportunities, where our digital landscape is as diverse and inclusive as the great savannahs that span our land, and where the light of technology illuminates every corner, banishing shadows of disparity.

This is not just a dream, but a destination within our grasp. As we chart this course together, let us harness the boundless energy of our spirit, the brilliance of our ideas, and the strength of our unity. Reflecting on a Swahili proverb, *"Umoja ni nguvu, utengano ni udhaifu,"* (Unity is strength, division is

weakness), may the story of our digital transformation echo through the ages. It serves as a beacon, inspiring generations to come with the profound truth that when Kenyans come together, there is no vision too vast, no challenge insurmountable, and no peak too high. Together, we are crafting a legacy of a brighter, more inclusive, and digitally empowered future for all.

Thank you and may God bless us ALL. **Shukran!**