

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR. JAMES KULUBI, Ag. DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OF KENYA DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
ITU'S REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR AFRICA ON FIXED CONVERGENCE, NAIROBI,
9TH MAY 2005**

Our guest of honour, Eng. James Rege, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications,

Seminar Chairman, Mr. John Visser,

Seminar Co-ordinator, Mr. Riccardo Passerini

Participants and speakers

Invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We at the Communications Commission of Kenya are extremely delighted at the opportunity accorded to us by ITU to co-host this important seminar. The topic of the seminar is highly relevant for our situation now and hosting this event in Kenya has given players in our local telecommunications sector a rare opportunity to participate in large numbers and prepare themselves adequately for the emerging market. I thank ITU for the gesture for choosing Nairobi as host of this seminar.

Honourable Minister, distinguished participants ladies and gentlemen,

The issue of fixed-mobile convergence is now slowly but surely becoming a reality, given its benefits to service providers, end users and vendors. This is an aspect that will also bring about regulatory challenges as communication authorities come up with new markets segments that address the realities of the converged environment. We do hope that this seminar will go along way in preparing the industry for these eventualities and make the ultimate telecoms merger not only a visible reality but also a desirable one.

With a huge telecommunications demand yet to be served, African regulators and service providers need to adopt regimes that promise the fastest and most progressive system that would ensure we enable the provision of the crucial services to the waiting population.

The local participants in this seminar are composed of key telecommunications and solutions service providers in the country. With the CCK's recently launched licensing structure, which is a first step to full liberalization of the industry, this seminar is a good forum for all of us to together look at the future. May I take this opportunity to thank the managements of our local industry for responding positive to the offer to attend this seminar.

The vision of fixed-mobile convergence is that all the separate efforts that have been put in place through use of various technologies to deliver service will come together to complement one another. This is a rare opportunity in the telecommunications industry, where traditional competitors will be adding value to one another's business with the consumer as the final focus as beneficiary. As it looks, everyone will be a beneficiary in the changed environment.

This, indeed, is the same vision regulators have: to ensure investor get return for their money as they all focus on satisfactory delivery of service to the consumer.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude my remarks let me take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in the preparation of this seminar. I am most grateful for excellent coordination that the ITU have offered our local coordinators in organizing this event. I, in particular, wish to single out Mr. Riccardo Passerini, the coordinator of the seminar, and his very able assistant Isabelle Simha, who have been of enormous assistance towards the preparation of this event. I wish to pledge here that the local organizing team will continue being at your service for the full period of the seminar to ensure that it runs smoothly.

With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite our chief guest, Eng. James Rege, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communications to deliver his keynote address and officially open the seminar.

Thank you.