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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY


THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION - 2025

THE COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY BROADCASTING AND LIBRARY

REPORT ON

PARTICIPATION IN THE MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS HELD IN KIGALI,

RWANDA FROM 21<sup>ST</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2025

 <b>THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID</b>	
<b>DATE:</b> 04 DEC 2025	<b>DAY:</b> THURSDAY
<b>TABLED BY:</b>	HON. EPUTO NANOK, MP CHAIRPERSON PBL-COMMITTEE
<b>CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:</b>	FINLAT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
RECEIVED  
04 DEC 2025  
SPEAKER'S OFFICE  
P. O. Box 41842, NAIROBI.

*The Directorate of Audit, Appropriations  
& General-Purpose Committees  
The National Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
NAIROBI*

December, 2025

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AFCFTA	-	African Continental Free Trade
AU	-	African Union
CEO	-	Chief Executive Officer
EAC	-	East Africa Community
FWA	-	Fixed Wireless Access
GSMA	-	Global System for Mobile Communications Association
IA	-	Artificial Intelligence
ICT	-	Information Communication and Technology
IoT	-	Internet of Things
MWC	-	Mobile World Congress

## **CHAIRPERSON FOREWORD**

Kenya's delegation to the GSMA Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Kigali 2025 was drawn from the Members of the Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library and the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information & Innovation. The event was held at Kigali Convention Centre in Kigali, Rwanda, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025.

The Mobile World Congress (MWC) Kigali 2025 was Africa's premier connectivity and technology event, organized by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) in partnership with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda. The congress brought together leaders from across the mobile ecosystem, including operators, innovators, policymakers, and investors, to advance Africa's digital transformation agenda.

The event aimed to foster cross-border collaboration, investment, and policy dialogue among regional and global stakeholders. It served as a strategic platform to explore how technology and innovation can be harnessed to accelerate socio-economic growth, bridge the digital divide, and promote inclusive development across the African continent.

The overarching mission of MWC Kigali 2025 was to encourage Africa's digital transformation through connectivity. It focused on expanding mobile access, promoting affordable broadband, and leveraging emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), fintech, and 5G to empower people and businesses. The congress theme was Converge. Connect. Create a vision that captures bringing people, technology, and ideas together to shape a connected and innovative digital future.

A key feature of the congress was the GSMA Ministerial Program, which convened ministers, regulators, and industry leaders to engage in dialogue on critical policy and regulatory issues shaping Africa's digital future. These discussions were designed to strengthen public-private partnerships and create enabling environments for sustainable technological growth.

The 2025 edition featured a distinguished speaker, including Sunil Taldar (CEO, Airtel), Hassan Jaber (CEO, AXIAN Telecom), Frehiwot Tamiru (CEO, Ethiotel), Ralph Mupita (CEO, MTN Group), Yasser Shaker (EVP and CEO, Orange Middle East and Africa), and Hon. Paula Ingabire (Rwanda's Minister of ICT and Innovation). Their participation underscored the event's importance as a continental and global leadership platform.

Key topics of discussion at MWC Kigali 2025 included artificial intelligence, mobile money, humanitarian innovation, agriculture, climate resilience, and digital inclusion. Through these conversations, the congress seeks to address both opportunities and challenges in Africa's digital ecosystem, ensuring that connectivity, innovation, and investment work together to build a smarter, more inclusive, and sustainable future for all.

I would like to thank all Members of the Committee for their contributions and input during the deliberations and writing of this report. The Committee also wishes to record its appreciation to the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the logistical support provided.

It is now my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library, to present the report on participation in the Mobile World Congress held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025, pursuant to Standing Order 199, for consideration.

**Hon. Daniel Epuyo Nanok, CBS, MP – Chairperson**

## 1.0 PREFACE

### 1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library is established by Standing Order 212D of the National Assembly and is mandated to:
  - i. consider and report on all matters relating to broadcasting of the proceedings of the House;
  - ii. advise the House on matters related to public participation;
  - iii. make reports and recommendations to the House, including proposed legislation on matters relating to broadcasting of House proceedings;
  - iv. recommend to and advise the House on matters related to the provision of library, publications and research services in Parliament, including improvement of the library and research services; and
  - v. assist Members in utilizing the facilities provided by the library and research services, including the use of information and communication technology.

### 1.2 Committee Membership

2. The Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library comprises the following Members: -

#### **Chairperson**

Hon. Daniel Epuyo Nanok, M.P.  
Turkana West Constituency

**United Democratic Alliance Party**

#### **Vice- Chairperson**

Hon. (Eng.) John Kiragu Chege, M.P.  
Limuru Constituency

**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Waqo Naomi Jillo M.P.  
Marsabit County

**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Ahmed Shakeel Ahmed Shabbir,  
CBS, M.P.

Kisumu East  
**Independent**

Hon. Raphael Sauti Wanjala, M.P.  
Budalangi Constituency

**Orange Democratic Movement Party**

Hon. James Gakuya Mwangi, M.P.  
Embakasi North Constituency

**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. John Waluke Koyi, M.P.  
Sirisia Constituency

**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi Murwithania,  
M.P.

Buuri Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Adams Kipsanai Korir, M.P.  
Keiyo North Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Gachobe Samuel Kinuthia, M.P.  
Subukia Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Anthony Kenga Mupe, M.P.  
Rabai Constituency  
**Pamoja African Alliance Party**

Hon. Phelix Odiwuor Khodhe, M.P.  
Langata Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Movement Party**

Hon. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdi, M.P.  
Lafey Constituency  
**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.  
Makueni Constituency  
**Wiper Democratic Movement Party**

Hon. Edward Muriu Wakili, MP  
Gatanga Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Talib Ahmed Abubakar, MP  
Nominated  
**Wiper Democratic Movement Party**

Hon. Charles Onchoke Mamwacha, M.P.  
Bonchari Constituency United Progressive  
**Alliance Party**

Hon Koimburi George Ndung'u M.P.  
Juja Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

Hon. Nguro Onesmus Ngogoyo, M.P  
Kajiado North  
**United Democratic Alliance Party**

### 1.3 Committee Secretariat

3. The secretariat supporting the Committee comprises of the following staff; -

Ms. Ella Kendi

**Clerk Assistant I**

Ms. Fidlizah S. Mwagogo

**Clerk Assistant III**

Ms. Mercy Wanyonyi

**Senior Legal Counsel**

Mr. Silas Korir Lomutur

**Research Officer III**

Ms. Noelle Chelagat

**Media Relations Officer**

Mr. Jared Onyancha

**Public Communications Officer**

Ms. Jacinta Maru

**Sergeant at Arms**

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

4. The 2025 edition of GSMA's Mobile World Congress (MWC) Kigali was held at the Kigali Convention Centre from 21–23 October 2025. MWC Kigali continued to position itself as Africa's flagship connectivity and digital innovation forum, bringing together ministers, regulators, operators, investors, start-ups and civil society to discuss policy, infrastructure, AI and inclusive digital services for the continent.
5. The congress was formally opened on 21st October by H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, who used the platform to highlight Rwanda's digital transformation and to call for continued investment in connectivity, skills and regulatory frameworks that enable greater digital inclusion. The opening also marked the launch of public activities and the inaugural GSMA Ministerial Programme, a high-level track for policymakers and regulators.
6. A delegation from the National Assembly of Kenya attended MWC Kigali, comprising members from the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information & Innovation and the Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting & Library. The Kenyan parliamentarians fully participated in high-level Ministerial programs, highlighting the major achievements Kenya has made in digital transformation.
7. MWC Kigali 2025 combined exhibition and curated program tracks. The key thematic areas and sessions attended by the delegation included:
  - i. Ministerial Programme / Policy & Regulation: Focused on bringing ministers, regulators and parliamentarians together to discuss harmonized regulatory frameworks, spectrum policy, cross-border connectivity and enabling conditions for faster roll-out of networks;
  - ii. AI for Africa: Sessions on inclusive AI, localization of language models, data governance and developing African AI ecosystems that reflect local languages and values. Speakers called for industry-government cooperation on responsible, affordable AI services;
  - iii. Handset affordability and access: Workshops and panels addressed high device costs as a barrier to universal digital inclusion and discussed interventions such as taxes, subsidies, trade policies, and local manufacturing to expand smartphone ownership;
  - iv. Fintech and digital financial services: How mobile money and fintech innovation can deepen financial inclusion, and the regulatory approaches needed to balance inclusion and consumer protection;
  - v. Energy resilience and infrastructure: Sessions emphasized sustainable power for telecoms, such as renewable energy-efficient base stations to secure network uptime in rural and off-grid areas; and
  - vi. Digital inclusion and underserved populations: Mobile for Development track sessions highlighted practical projects and partnerships that accelerate digital access for women, people with disabilities and rural communities.

## **2.1 The Delegation**

8. The following Members were nominated to attend the Mobile World Congress held in Kigali 2025.

Hon. Shakeel Shabbir, MP

Hon. Timothy Toroitich, MP

Hon. Samuel Gachobe, MP

Hon. Umulkher Harun, MP

Hon. Joseph Tonui, MP

Mr. Jared Onyancha--Secretariat

## **3.0 PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE DELEGATION**

9. The delegation identified the following seven key priority areas to guide its engagements and strategic focus areas;

### **Handset Affordability and Access to Digital Tools**

10. The delegation identified smartphone affordability as a top priority for accelerating digital inclusion in Kenya. They explored taxation reforms, import duty exemptions, and local assembly incentives as possible measures to make smartphones more affordable for low-income citizens. Discussions with GSMA and regional partners focused on public-private financing models to increase smartphone penetration rates, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

### **Harmonization of Regional Digital and ICT Policies**

11. The delegation emphasized the importance of East African and continental harmonization of digital policies, especially in spectrum management, roaming regulations, infrastructure sharing, and cross-border data governance. The goal is to support regional digital trade and connectivity by aligning Kenya's legal frameworks with those of neighbouring countries, in line with the AU Digital Transformation Strategy and Smart Africa initiatives.

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance and Data Protection**

12. With AI emerging as a central topic at the Congress, the committee prioritized inclusive and ethical AI development. They highlighted the need to update Kenya's Data Protection and Consumer Laws to reflect new technologies such as AI, digital financial services, and cross-border data use. The MPs noted that AI models should be localized to support African languages and cultural contexts.

### **Strengthening Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity**

13. The delegation explored partnerships and policy incentives to accelerate rural network expansion, particularly through public private partnerships (PPPs) and Universal Service Fund utilization. They underscored energy resilience as a factor supporting investments in renewable energy solutions for telecom sites and community connectivity hubs.

### **Digital Financial Inclusion and Fintech Regulation**

14. The delegation observed Kenya's global leadership in mobile money but stressed the need for updated fintech oversight to protect consumers in an evolving digital economy. They supported frameworks encouraging innovation sandboxes, interoperability, and data-driven financial inclusion while maintaining strong consumer safeguards.

### **Digital Skills Development and Local Innovation**

15. The delegation recognized that connectivity alone is not enough; digital literacy and innovation ecosystems are essential. They prioritized capacity building, including collaboration with the Ministry of ICT, education institutions, and private sector accelerators to nurture local app developers, content creators, and AI researchers.

### **Parliamentary Oversight and Legislative Coordination**

16. The Committee reaffirmed Parliament's oversight role in ensuring that government and private-sector commitments on network expansion, affordability, and inclusion are implemented. They proposed to establish a regional parliamentary digital policy forum to coordinate digital legislation across East Africa.

## **3.1 SESSIONS**

17. The delegation attended the following key sessions:

### **Transforming the Telco: 5G and beyond. The Next Phase of Inclusive, Sustainable Connectivity**

18. This was a keynote session that opened one of the main tracks. It underscored Africa's transition from legacy networks to 4G/5G, along with the challenge of ensuring affordability and sustainability. High-level speakers (ministers, operator CEOs) emphasized that 5G is not just a faster network, but a platform for services, digital inclusion and enterprise transformation.
19. There was a strong emphasis on the distinction between coverage and use; the focus shifted to leveraging networks and devices so that end users, mostly in rural/underserved areas, can participate. Delegates engaged with questions around how economies of scale, shared infrastructure and regulatory incentives could drive cost efficiency.
20. The session reinforced the need to align our national network upgrade strategy with device affordability programs and regulatory reforms (taxes, duties, licensing) to ensure the benefits of 5G/4G reach the many, not just metropolitan centres.

### **Networks that Think: Harnessing AI for Scalable Telecom Growth**

21. This session centered on how AI, IoT and automation are reshaping telco operations, from Recorded Announcement management to customer engagement and enterprise connectivity. Presenters from major network vendors (e.g., Ericsson) illustrated case studies where AI enabled networks, reduced operational costs and improved uptime.

The panel discussion included regulators and operators debating how to ensure smart networks benefit smaller markets in Africa rather than remain pilot projects only for major cities.

### **Handset Affordability and Access: Bridging the Device Gap**

22. One of the major barriers to digital inclusion was identified as high device costs, limited subsidy models, trade policy, and local assembly. Speakers from device financing companies, e.g., platform players in distribution/fintech, described programs where buy now pay later, and operator subsidized models are expanding smartphone penetration in emerging markets. There was a lively debate on tax/duty regimes, where it was noted that many African countries still impose high import duties or lack incentives for local assembly, and panellists argued these must be revisited. It was suggested that African countries need to find resonance.

### **Digital Inclusion and the Underserved Women, Rural Communities and Persons with Disabilities**

23. This session under the Mobile for Development program focused on inclusive connectivity and how mobile ecosystems must deliberately serve underserved segments. Many case studies were presented on rural connectivity via FWA, solar-powered base stations, and gender digital divide initiatives. Having networks and devices is necessary but not sufficient; skills, content in local languages, digital literacy programs, and culturally appropriate designs matter. There was consensus among practitioners that governments must set measurable targets for inclusion, e.g., the percentage of women with smartphones and the percentage of rural communities connected by 2028.

### **Fintech, Mobile Money and the Digital Economy Africa Leading at the Frontier.**

24. The discussion focused on mobile connectivity, fintech innovation, regulatory sandboxing and how digital payments infrastructure is fueling growth in Africa's digital economy. Several mobile operators' CEOs highlighted how mobile money ecosystems, e.g., Kenya's own model MPESA, continue to evolve into credit, insurance, savings and platform-services. Regulators discussed cross-border payments Anti-Money Laundering/ Know Your Customer frameworks, and how mobile money may converge with banking. Audience questions probed Kenya's leadership and what next steps are for regional harmonization.

## **3.2 EXHIBITIONS**

25. The delegation visited several exhibition booths during the show. Below are the highlights of some of the booths visited:
- i. Airtel Africa: A major African operator that participated in keynotes and discussed its role in the digital future of the continent.
  - ii. MTN: Exhibited its work in advancing Africa's digital transformation and participated in keynote sessions.

- iii. Orange: Showcased its support for Africa's digital transformation and its role in shaping the future of connectivity
- iv. Ericsson: A leading technology company that showcased its 5G and network infrastructure solutions.
- v. Huawei; An exhibitor that presented its latest technology and services related to mobile and digital infrastructure.
- vi. Meta: Participated in the event, focusing on its role in connecting people and developing the metaverse.
- vii. Axian Telecom: A key participant and exhibitor, whose CEO was also a speaker at the event.

#### 4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

26. Following the deliberations, the Committee made the following observations; THAT

- (1) Africa's digital transition is accelerating but remains uneven across the continent. MWC Kigali 2025 showcased Africa's strong commitment to digital transformation driven by policy reforms, private investment, and innovation ecosystems. However, regional disparities persist, with East Africa, including Kenya, continuing to lead in mobile money and regulatory innovation while still facing infrastructure and affordability challenges, particularly in rural areas.
- (2) Connectivity emerged as the foundation of digital inclusion. Although network coverage continues to expand, usage gaps persist due to high data costs, limited smartphone access, and low digital literacy. It was emphasized that coverage does not equal inclusion and that there was a need for digital policy to prioritize affordability, accessibility, and the development of local content alongside infrastructure rollout.
- (3) AI, IoT, and 5G featured prominently, with many speakers noting that these emerging technologies are reshaping Africa's digital agenda. Governments and legislators were urged to proactively develop AI governance frameworks that balance innovation with ethics, data protection, and inclusivity, ensuring that African languages and cultures are adequately represented in AI models.
- (4) There was strong consensus that policy harmonization and regional cooperation are critical. Inconsistent policies, taxes, and regulatory barriers were identified as major hindrances to cross-border connectivity and innovation. Delegates called for harmonized digital laws within the East African Community (EAC) and alignment with the AfCFTA digital strategy framework.
- (5) Improving access to affordable devices and last-mile connectivity would require multisectoral financing approaches, including public-private partnerships, Universal Service Funds, and blended finance. Several countries shared success stories of co-investment with telecom operators and development partners to extend services to underserved areas.
- (6) Kenya was frequently cited as a model for mobile money innovation and digital policy leadership. Kenya's delegation participation in panel discussions on smartphone affordability underscored Kenya's proactive legislative role in driving digital transformation and strengthened partnerships with GSMA, regional regulators, and private innovators.
- (7) The need for inclusive digital transformation was a recurring theme. The gender digital divide, youth unemployment, and limited digital skills were consistently highlighted. Several sessions emphasized that digital transformation must intentionally target women, rural populations, and persons with disabilities through tailored training initiatives, financing support, and accessible digital content.

## 5.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

27. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy should; -

- (1) Review and harmonize national ICT and telecommunications policies to support 5G rollout and the adoption of AI and IoT technologies;
- (2) Strengthen East African Community cooperation on data flows, cross-border payments, and digital identity, and support parliamentary collaboration aligned with the African Continental Free Trade Area digital trade framework;
- (3) In collaboration with the Communications Authority, reduces spectrum licensing bottlenecks and introduce affordable 5G spectrum packages to attract private-sector investment;
- (4) Expand digital skills programs by increasing funding for the Digital Skills for Youth Programme, partnering with universities and industry, and updating ICT curricula to include AI ethics, blockchain, and digital entrepreneurship, with a focus on women, youth, and persons with disabilities;
- (5) Establish a Digital Access Fund similar to the Universal Service Fund to subsidize smartphones and support last-mile connectivity;
- (6) Strengthen policies that guarantee affordable access to smart devices and reliable internet connectivity for low-income households to bridge the digital divide, as outlined in the National Broadband Strategy;
- (7) Enhance the Office of the Data Protection Commission's operational capacity through increased funding, continuous professional training, and investment in modern regulatory tools to enable it to enforce the Data Protection Act (2019) effectively;
- (8) Upgrade and modernize national cybersecurity infrastructure to protect critical national infrastructure, support safe digital trade, and increase public trust in online government and financial services;
- (9) Introduce innovation-focused tax reliefs for SMEs investing in digital solutions aligned with Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA);
- (10) Develop and fast-track a National Innovation and Start-Up law that supports innovation hubs, incubation centres, and fintech start-ups, and establishes a regulatory sandbox framework in law for testing emerging digital solutions; and
- (11) Review the Data Protection Act (2019) and related regulations to align them with emerging technologies, including AI and cloud services.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

  
HON. DANIEL EPUYO NANOK, CBS, MP – CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY BROADCASTING AND LIBRARY



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION (2025)

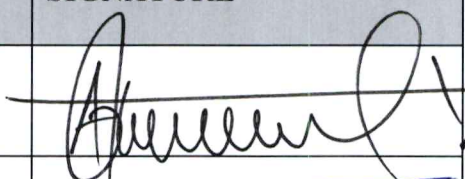







COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY BROADCASTING AND LIBRARY

ADOPTION LIST

Report on Participation in the global system for Mobile Communication Association, Mobile World Congress held in Kigali Rwanda from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025

We, the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this report to affirm our approval:

	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	The Hon. Daniel Epuyo Nanok, CBS, M.P. - <b>Chairperson</b>	
2.	The Hon. (Eng.) John Kiragu Chege, M.P. – <b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	
3.	The Hon. Waqo Naomi Jillo M.P.	
4.	The Hon. Ahmed Shakeel Ahmed Shabbir, CBS, M.P	
5.	The Hon. Koyi, John Waluke, M.P.	
6.	The Hon. Wanjala, Raphael Sauti Bitta, CBS, M.P.	
7.	The Hon. Gakuya James Mwangi, M.P.	
8.	The Hon. Murwithania, Rindikiri Mugambi, M.P.	
9.	The Hon. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdi, M.P.	
10.	The Hon. Edward Muriu Wakili, MP	
11.	The Hon. Gachobe Samuel Kinuthia, M.P.	
12.	The Hon. Khodhe, Phelix Odiwuor, M.P.	
13.	The Hon. Kiamba, Suzanne Ndunge, M.P.	

	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
14.	The Hon. Korir, Adams Kipsanai, M.P.	
15.	The Hon Koimburi George Ndung'u M.P.	
16.	The Hon. (Dr.) Mamwacha, Onchoke Charles, M.P.	
17.	The Hon. Mupe, Anthony Kenga, M.P.	
18.	The Hon. Nguro Onesmus Ngogoyo, M.P	
19.	The Hon. Salasya, Peter Kalerwa, M.P.	
20.	The Hon. Toroitich Timothy Kipchumba M.P.	
21.	The Hon. Abubakar, Talib Ahmed, M.P	

**MINUTES OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY BROADCASTING AND LIBRARY HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 7, MAIN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ON TUESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 12.00 PM.**

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**PRESENT**

1. The Hon. Daniel Epuyo Nanok, CBS, M.P. - **Chairperson**
2. The Hon. (Eng.) John Kiragu Chege, M.P. - **Vice Chairperson**
3. The Hon. Ahmed Shakeel Ahmed Shabbir, CBS, M.P.
4. The Hon. Koyi, John Waluke, M.P.
5. The Hon. Gachobe, Samuel Kinuthia, M.P.
6. The Hon. Khodhe, Phelix Odiwuor, M.P.
7. The Hon. Nguro, Onesmus Ngogoyo, M.P.
8. The Hon. Abubakar, Talib Ahmed, M.P.
9. The Hon. Korir, Adams Kipsanai, M.P.
10. The Hon. Toroitich, Timothy Kipchumba, M.P.
11. The Hon. (Dr.) Mamwacha, Onchoke Charles, M.P.
12. The Hon. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdi, M.P.
13. The Hon. Murwithania, Rindikiri Mugambi, M.P.

**APOLOGIES**

1. The Hon. Waqo Naomi Jillo, M.P.
2. The Hon. Wanjala, Raphael Sauti Bitta, M.P.
3. The Hon. James Gakuya Mwangi, M.P.
4. The Hon. Edward Muriu Wakili, M.P.
5. The Hon. Kiamba, Suzanne Ndunge, M.P.
6. The Hon. Koimburi, George Ndung'u, M.P.
7. The Hon. Mupe, Anthony Kenga, M.P.
8. The Hon. Salasya, Peter Kalerwa, M.P.

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ms. Ella Kendi     | Clerk Assistant I    |
| 2. Mr. Silas Lomutur  | Research Officer III |
| 3. Mr. Eric Lungai    | Hansard Reporter II  |
| 4. Mr. Danton Kimutai | Audio Officer III    |
| 5. Mr. Jared Onyancha | Protocol Officer     |

**AGENDA**

1. Preliminaries
  - i) Prayers
  - ii) Adoption of the Agenda
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous sitting
3. Matters Arising
4. **Consideration and adoption of the draft report on Participation in the Mobile World Congress held in Kigali, Rwanda from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025**
5. Any other Business

6. Adjournment and date of the next meeting

**MIN NO/DAA&GPC/PBL/2025/070: PRELIMINARIES**

The meeting was called to order at fifteen minutes past twelve (12.15 p.m.), followed by a word of prayer and introductions thereafter. The agenda was adopted having been proposed by Hon. Koyi John Waluke, MP and seconded by Hon. Nguro, Onesmus Ngogoyo, M.P.

**MIN NO/DAA&GPC/PBL/2025/071: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The confirmation of minutes was deferred to the next sitting.

**MIN NO/DAA&GPC/PBL/2025/072: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS HELD IN KIGALI, RWANDA FROM 21<sup>ST</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2025.**

The Committee was taken through the draft report on participation in the Mobile World Congress held in Kigali, Rwanda from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025 and adopted it having been proposed by Hon. Hon. Ahmed Shakeel Ahmed Shabbir, CBS, M.P and seconded by Hon. Koyi, John Waluke, M.P. The report was adopted with the following observations and recommendations; -

**Committee Observations**

The Committee observed as follows:

That; -

1. Africa's digital transition is accelerating but remains uneven across the continent. MWC Kigali 2025 showcased Africa's strong commitment to digital transformation driven by policy reforms, private investment, and innovation ecosystems. However, regional disparities persist, with East Africa, including Kenya, continuing to lead in mobile money and regulatory innovation while still facing infrastructure and affordability challenges, particularly in rural areas.
2. Connectivity emerged as the foundation of digital inclusion. Although network coverage continues to expand, usage gaps persist due to high data costs, limited smartphone access, and low digital literacy. It was emphasized that coverage does not equal inclusion and that there was a need for digital policy to prioritize affordability, accessibility, and the development of local content alongside infrastructure rollout.
3. AI, IoT, and 5G featured prominently, with many speakers noting that these emerging technologies are reshaping Africa's digital agenda. Governments and legislators were urged to proactively develop AI governance frameworks that balance innovation with ethics, data protection, and inclusivity, ensuring that African languages and cultures are adequately represented in AI models.
4. There was strong consensus that policy harmonization and regional cooperation are critical. Inconsistent policies, taxes, and regulatory barriers were identified as major hindrances to cross-border connectivity and innovation. Delegates called for harmonized digital laws within the East African Community (EAC) and alignment with the AfCFTA digital strategy framework.

5. Improving access to affordable devices and last-mile connectivity would require multisectoral financing approaches, including public-private partnerships, Universal Service Funds, and blended finance. Several countries shared success stories of co-investment with telecom operators and development partners to extend services to underserved areas.
6. Kenya was frequently cited as a model for mobile money innovation and digital policy leadership. Kenya's delegation participation in panel discussions on smartphone affordability underscored Kenya's proactive legislative role in driving digital transformation and strengthened partnerships with GSMA, regional regulators, and private innovators.
7. The need for inclusive digital transformation was a recurring theme. The gender digital divide, youth unemployment, and limited digital skills were consistently highlighted. Many speakers emphasized that digital transformation must intentionally target women, rural populations, and persons with disabilities through tailored training initiatives, financing support, and accessible digital content.

### **Committee Recommendations**

The Committee recommends that the, Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy to:

1. Review and harmonize national ICT and telecommunications policies to support 5G rollout and the adoption of AI and IoT technologies;
2. Strengthen East African Community cooperation on data flows, cross-border payments, and digital identity, and support parliamentary collaboration aligned with the African Continental Free Trade Area digital trade framework;
3. In collaboration with the Communications Authority, reduces spectrum licensing bottlenecks and introduce affordable 5G spectrum packages to attract private-sector investment;
4. Expand digital skills programs by increasing funding for the Digital Skills for Youth Programme, partnering with universities and industry, and updating ICT curricula to include AI ethics, blockchain, and digital entrepreneurship, with a focus on women, youth, and persons with disabilities;
5. Establish a Digital Access Fund similar to the Universal Service Fund to subsidize smartphones and support last-mile connectivity;
6. Implement green ICT policies, including incentives for solar-powered base stations, e-waste recycling, and energy-efficient data centres, and promote renewable-powered rural connectivity;
7. Strengthen policies that guarantee affordable access to smart devices and reliable internet connectivity for low-income households to bridge the digital divide, as outlined in the National Broadband Strategy;
8. Enhance the Office of the Data Protection Commission's operational capacity through increased funding, continuous professional training, and investment in modern regulatory tools to enable it to enforce the Data Protection Act (2019) effectively;
9. Upgrade and modernize national cybersecurity infrastructure to protect critical national infrastructure, support safe digital trade, and increase public trust in online government and financial services;
10. Strengthen regional cybersecurity and data protection cooperation through active engagement with the AU's Malabo Convention; and
11. Introduce innovation-focused tax reliefs for SMEs investing in digital solutions aligned with Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

12. Develop and fast-track a National Innovation and Start-Up law that supports innovation hubs, incubation centres, and fintech start-ups, and establishes a regulatory sandbox framework in law for testing emerging digital solutions; and
13. Review the Data Protection Act (2019) and related regulations to align them with emerging technologies, including AI and cloud services.

**MIN NO/DAA&GPC/PBL/2025/073: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at ten minutes past one o'clock (1.10 pm). The next meeting will be held on notice.

Signed.....Date.....



26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2025

**Hon. Daniel Epuyo Nanok, CBS, M.P.  
Chairperson**