



**REMARKS BY CA CHAIRMAN, MR. NGENE B. GITUKU, DURING
THE SIGNING OFF CEREMONY FOR THE AWARD OF
CONTRACTS FOR THE ROLL OUT OF PHASE ONE OF THE
EDUCATION BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROJECT ON 24TH
APRIL, 2017 AT THE CA CENTRE**

**Chairperson of USAC,
Dr. Catherine Ngahu,
CA Director General,
Mr. Francis Wangusi
Members of CA Management present
The Fourth Estate
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It will be recalled that in the fiscal year 2015/16, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) commissioned an ICT Access Gaps study to determine the levels of access to Information and Communications services in the country.

The Study was primarily meant to objectively identify priority areas in the implementation of the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fund is established by law to finance regulatory interventions towards ensuring universal access to ICT services across the country.

The study revealed that 5.6% of the population or about 2.66 million people have no access to telecommunication services. About 418 sub-locations have less than half of their population covered by communications services while another 164 sub-locations have no access to 2G mobile services at all.

In addition, the study established that 3G and broadband services are limited to urban areas. Only 2,454 sub-locations have 100% population coverage of 3G and broadband while 1,244 sub-locations have no access to this service at all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Access Gaps Study recommended that in order to address the prevailing disparities in access to ICT services, the Authority needed to immediately focus its attention on two priority areas. The two projects identified for the initial phase were the ‘Voice Infrastructure Project for mobile services in selected sub-locations’ and the ‘Education Broadband Connectivity Projects’ geared towards providing high-speed Internet connectivity to public secondary schools in the country.

In line with the above-cited recommendations, the Authority has commenced the implementation of the Education Broadband Connectivity Project, which targets to connect 896 public secondary schools across the 47 counties in Kenya.

The secondary schools were selected in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and will benefit from provision of 5 Mbps Internet connectivity in the initial phase of the project.

The first phase of the Education Broadband Connectivity project targeted e-ready schools based on criteria developed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The e-Readiness criteria included:

1. KPLC connection or secure electricity supply from a constant local diesel or solar powered generator station.
2. Secure computer lab with UPS and at least 10 computers in good working order, printer and projector.
3. At least one full-time, Government salaried TSC teacher of computer studies
4. Pursuing the KCSE Computer Studies Program from Form 1 to 4.
5. Presenting candidates to the KCSE Form 4 Examination in 2015 and/or 2016.

In this arrangement, the Authority has committed to meet the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) in all the schools. The Annual Operating Expenditure (OPEX) shall be graduated between the Authority and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as follows:

	CA	Ministry of Education
Year 1	100%	0
Year 2	75%	25%
Year 3	50%	50%
Year 4	25%	75%
Year 5	0%	100%

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are happy to report that the Authority has successfully finalized the tendering process for the project and three service providers have been competitively selected to provide broadband connectivity to the selected 896 secondary schools. The Authority has already awarded contracts to the three successful firms present here.

Allow me at this stage to point out that this was an open tender that was advertised in the local dailies in September 2016, which saw Thirteen (13) firms submitting their bids at the close of the bidding process on 19th October 2016.

To ensure a high response rate, the 896 schools in all the 47 counties were grouped into nine (9) lots designed with a mix of both low and high-cost counties.

This ensured participation of all the selected schools irrespective of their counties. The list of beneficiary schools will be provided to you at the end of this event.

The tender was designed to share out the lots among various players by ensuring that the maximum tender awarded per bidder was three (3) lots to ensure timely completion of the projects.

The capping of lots will not only ensure timely completion of the project but also cushion the Authority from the risks that may be associated with a single firm undertaking such a large project.

Upon evaluation, the following firms were awarded the tender:

	Firm	No. of Lots	No of Schools	Counties	Total Cost (CAPEX & OPEX)
1.	Liquid Telecom Ltd	3	321	14	218,038,836
2.	Xtranet Communications Ltd	3	284	15	318,827,848
3.	Commcarrrier Satellite Services Ltd	3	291	18	299,183,280
Total		9	896	47	836,049,964

We expect to commission the first group of schools in six weeks upon signing of the requisite contracts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is important to note here that the Education Broadband Connectivity Project will ultimately provide connectivity to all the 9,942 secondary schools in Kenya and some selected tertiary institutions.

The benefits of this project are manifold. We envisage increased broadband connectivity in all parts of the country including rural areas where majority of the schools are located.

The project will greatly improve access to education through digital learning by enabling access to online content by students and teachers. This will be actualized through creation of an education portal with digitized KCSE curriculum.

The schools will also be a launching pad for ICT capacity building and innovation across the country through training of teachers and the students. This will not only enhance ICT skills for the students but will also greatly improve their probability of finding employment after school.

We look forward to tremendous transformation of the educational standards and lives in the areas in which the beneficiary institutions are located. It is the beginning of a long journey towards building a digitally inclusive society that places ICTs firmly at the centre of socio-economic development.

The Authority remains committed to enhancing access to ICT services in Kenya through the Universal Service Fund (USF). I wish to thank the licensees who are contributing to the fund and wish to assure them that the resources will be prudently utilized to achieve the intended objectives.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Ngene B. Gituku