

SPEECH DELIVERED BY HON. DEPUTY MINISTER, AT THE DIGITAL MIGRATION IN  
GHANA MULTI - STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP , 9AM , THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 2011AT THE  
KAMA CONFERENCE CENTRE.

Mr. Chairman,

Representative from Balancing ACT ,Russell Southwood,

Management of APC,

Broadcasters,

Representatives from the Civil Society,

Friends from the Media,

Ladies ans Gentlemen.

Good Morning. I am particularly happy to be invited for this workshop and to make a few remarks on the process of migration from the analogue systems currently in use to a digital platform for Television Broadcasting. As you are aware, this subject matter is one of the cardinal policy issues that the government is keen and focused on to implement successfully.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in 2006, member countries of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) signed the Geneva 2006 Agreement, establishing the Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting Plan which set 17 June 2015 as the deadline for the cessation of international protection for analogue broadcasting transmission.

This was subsequently adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2006 and all Government are committed to switch –off analogue transmission on June 17, 2015. Ghana is therefore marching in on with the other countries that are feverishly working to migrate from analogue to digital broadcasting and as a global village, the onus lies on us to ensure that proper planning and policies are in place to implement within the agreed time line for the benefit of Ghanaians.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Communication at the beginning of the year, precisely on 13th January 2010 inaugurated a 26-member Technical committee made of various key stakeholders to make policy recommendations to Government to enable Ghana achieve a cost-effective and timely migration from analogue to digital broadcasting. The report of the Technical committee, prepared after the committee's several stakeholder engagements and presentations from equipment and technology vendors, was submitted to the Cabinet, and Cabinet subsequently granted approval to the recommendations contained in the report.

In approval the recommendations of the technical committee, Government directed the Minister of Communications to ensure that the transmission sites are strategically located to achieve the maximum effect and also to subject the procurement of the project to an open and competitive tender process. I am happy to indicate that in December 2010, an implementation Committee was inaugurated to implement the recommendations approved by cabinet for the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

As I speak, the Request for Proposal for a Turnkey Digital Terrestrial Television Network has been published in various media and on the committee's website. [www. Koodigi.org](http://www.Koodigi.org). The Government of Ghana seeks to establish a Digital Terrestrial Television Network throughout the country by December 2013 to ensure a complete switch-off of the analogue to terrestrial television broadcasting systems by December 2014.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this migration process would affect the over 24million population of Ghana. Most television sets currently used in Ghana do not have digital tuner built in. Therefore, TV views would have to either acquire integrate digital TV (IDTV) sets or convert their existing analogue TV sets using set-top boxes (STB's) popularly called decoders. The success of this program is so critical because it would boost the development of the local electronics manufacturing sector and

the opportunities for Set-top-Boxes to be manufactured locally with a possibility of export in Ghana to create employment and generate wealth.

We are mindful of the fact that this is a new dawn of broadcasting technology and it must be accompanied by a responsible code of conduct by all players. The new technology would free many frequencies to enable more players and new application in the industry. The migration will make it possible to dedicate channels to varied content on specialized topics such as: health, education, youth, transportation, education, science, culture, tourism, etc. Additionally, citizens would benefit from many advantages such as higher spectrum efficiency, better picture quality, clearer sound and more interactivity.

All broadcasters are also required to provide free-to-air channels, and the national Broadcaster will require support to replace the obsolete equipment and open its doors for investors to its platform.

Indeed, the process of migration from Analogue to Digital Broadcasting should not give opportunity for anyone to dump obsolete equipment in Ghana. We are very mindful of e-Waste and we would avoid the hurried exportation of abandoned and de-commissioned equipment from other countries to Ghana on account of their migration to the new technology. The security agencies are alerted so as to be vigilant at the various points of entry.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to conclude by reiterating that, as a country we have no alternative choice but to put in place the best solution that addresses the needs of our people and provide a better viewing experience. I hope that some of the recommendations from this workshop would be made available to the implementation committee for consideration. I wish you a faithful deliberation.

Thank you.