

Today, we are witnesses to how mobile connectivity is helping Africa's post-pandemic economic recovery by creating digital technologies and services needed to build back economies that are more productive and efficient.

To keep the momentum and create more jobs and foster inclusion and reduce inequality, we have to ensure that everyone has access to connectivity and can benefit from all it offers.

In the full realization that mobile connectivity and connected technologies are enablers, supporting our country as it builds forward better in pursuit of economic recovery, we have spearheaded initiatives that support our quest for a connected Kenya.

Indeed, our network is part of the critical infrastructure that allows for inclusive and sustainable economic development and innovation.

Today, our 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G networks in aggregate cover over 99 per cent of Kenya's population, while our fibre network has connected more than 200,000 homes to fast and reliable internet.

We also aim to expand fibre optic coverage to 80 per cent of the population.

Our goal is to establish universal coverage so that it is possible to enjoy excellent internet anywhere in the country.

Fast internet opens fresh opportunities for businesses by helping them access online marketplaces, reach new customers and implement innovative operating models to grow revenues.

This will help businesses reap the digital dividend, grow sustainably and be part of disruptions sweeping across many industries and sectors.

All these efforts go to show that we stand at a unique moment in time and the future looks bright if we can increase the number of connected people.

In fact, the Mobile Economy Sub-Saharan Africa 2022 report predicts that by 2025, mobile's contribution to the Sub-Saharan Africa GDP will grow by \$65 billion (to almost \$155 billion), as the countries increasingly benefit from increased take-up of mobile services

Further, with 5G-related activities beginning to pick up across Africa, including spectrum auctions, pilots and commercial trials, as well as efforts to develop locally relevant 5G use cases, Africa is set to realize its potential in the digital economy.

GSMA's new report dubbed, "5G Africa: realizing the potential," reveals that 5G will contribute \$26 billion to Africa's economy by 2030. Retail, manufacturing, and agriculture are among the sectors that will see the most impact. Additionally, 5G will account for 20% of mobile connections in Africa by 2030.