



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Office of the Cabinet Secretary

Nairobi, Thursday, 30th July 2026

Public Statement

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON DIGITAL PIRACY

I received the Report of the National Steering Committee on Digital Piracy. In March this year, I convened the first National Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Digital Piracy and directed the establishment of a national steering committee.

That Committee, drawing together Government, regulators, broadcasters, rights holders, internet service providers, civil society and academia, has delivered a comprehensive national framework within its 100-day Rapid Result Initiative mandate.

The findings are significant. Digital piracy costs Kenya approximately KES 92 billion every year, about KES 252 million every day. It denies the Exchequer an estimated KES 17 billion annually in taxes.

It reduces the earnings of musicians, filmmakers, authors, journalists, software developers and sports broadcasters. It exposes consumers to malware, fraud and identity theft, and it is increasingly linked to transnational organized crime. Tackling it decisively could create or sustain more than 50,000 quality jobs in our creative and technology sectors.

Recommendations

The Report sets out practical recommendations for strengthening Kenya's response to digital piracy. Its centerpiece is an Inter-Agency Digital Piracy Enforcement Framework, coordinated by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy and bringing together the Kenya Copyright Board, the Communications Authority, the Media Council of Kenya and the Copyright Tribunal, to ensure that infringement is dealt with promptly and decisively.

The recommendations give particular attention to the protection of live sporting events and premium content, and to firm measures against persistent commercial-scale infringers

The framework contains strong safeguards. Every enforcement action will be subject to due process, consistent with the Constitution's protection of both intellectual property and freedom of expression.

In the coming weeks, the Ministry will commence immediate implementation priorities, including a national public awareness campaign; beginning with the formulation of a National Policy on Digital Piracy through a multi-stakeholder process; and, working with the Attorney-General and the Kenya Copyright Board, harmonize the recommended legislative amendments with the Copyright and Related Rights Bill, 2026, currently under public consultation.

The government will continue to support creators, enforce the law against those who profit from infringement, and work with industry to make legal content more accessible and affordable.

I thank the Chairperson, Mr. Waweru Kimani, the Vice Chairperson, Mr. Roy Gitahi, and every member of the Committee. Asanteni sana.

HON. WILLIAM KABOGO GITAU, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY
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