

## **PLANNING WEEKLY BLOG**

### **Kenya Unchained: Wiring Kilometers of Opportunities**

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The Kenyan government has been working tirelessly to expand digital access, where over 300,000 digital jobs have been created, with youth earning livelihoods globally. The Jitume Center at Kisii Polytechnic, being equipped with 100 computers, is a prime example of this transformation.

The digital economy is projected to be worth Sh1.3 trillion, with content creators driving growth through platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Facebook. This ordeal is fueled by rising smartphone penetration and mobile broadband expansion, benefiting not just urban areas but rural creatives too.

The government has rolled out 400,000 km of ocean optic fiber cables, with 100,000 km already stretched out, this will go along way in establishing and maintaining 1450 digital hubs in every ward level, providing 25,000 free public Wi-Fi hotspots, this will enhance network.

These efforts aim to foster inclusive economic growth, promote e-Government, bringing all government services, under one stop shop making it timely and efficient. This connectivity has enhanced youth employment. Also the government has emphasized that, linkage is vital for the creative economy, with google supporting the setup of free Wi-Fi hotspots. Through this initiative, lives have been transformed along key strategic pillars in creative economy through remote work in digitals hubs and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) centers.

Agriculture has also been transformed with this interfacing, with a lot of farmers registering online, e-Voucher fertilizer distribution, digital identification of livestock and drone spraying. Markets access has been enhanced, connecting farmers with buyers through online platforms.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has also benefited from this connecting, by registering the citizens on Social Health Authority (SHA), introducing digital records, which has reduced medical expenses.

Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) has been transformed with a majority of women and youth acquiring loans through the Hustler Fund and the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) platforms. These have greatly eased their pockets and reduced transport and accommodation when seeking services. A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES COUNTRYWIDE AS BETA PILLARS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

