

CONCEPT NOTE ON 2024 ICT WEEK AND KUZA ICT AWARDS

Theme: “*Innovation for sustainable digital future*”

I. Introduction

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) is the regulatory authority for the ICT industry in Kenya with responsibilities in telecommunications, cyber security, e-commerce, broadcasting and postal/courier services. CA is also responsible for managing the country’s numbering and frequency spectrum resources, administering the Universal Fund as well as safeguarding the interest of users of ICT services.

Since 2014, the Authority has hosted the *ICT Week* event as part of activities to mark World Information and Society Day (WTISD), observed on 17th of May to mark the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN specialized agency for ICTs.

The *ICT Week* provides the Authority with an avenue to foster conversations on emerging issues in the ICT sector, and to encourage honest engagements for the cohesion of the industry.

The Authority has also been hosting the Annual *Kuza Broadcasting Awards* since 2016 to fete excellence in the broadcasting industry. The Kuza Awards have seen recognition of broadcasters across various categories, with the highlight being the People’s Choice Award, in which consumers vote for their favourite broadcasters.

Over the past few years, the Authority has received invaluable feedback from stakeholders on the two events on the need to enhance their scope and make them more impactful on the entire ICT industry.

In light of these developments, the Authority is planning to host a revamped *ICT Week* as well as a broad-based ICT Industry Awards, to be known as the *Kuza ICT Awards* which will see recognition of excellence across the various regulated services in the ICT sector, celebrating outstanding achievements and contributions in the ICT industry.

Unlike previous years where the two events were hosted separately, this year, the *Kuza ICT Awards* will be a culmination of the *ICT Week*.

II. Objectives of the 2024 ICT Week and Kuza ICT Awards

Hosting of the 2024 ICT Week and Kuza ICT Awards seek to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhanced stakeholder engagement with licensees and stakeholders
- Celebrate excellence in Kenyan ICT sector
- Reward responsible and responsive ICT licensees, service providers, innovations and initiatives
- Enable consumer participation
- Encourage the use of ICTs for social economic development
- Enhance corporate brand equity and increase awareness of the CA mandate to stakeholders and general public
- Increased compliance levels with licence conditions
- Increased uptake of new technologies
- Enhanced consumer protection

III. HIGHLIGHTS / SUMMARY OF THE 2024 KUZA ICT WEEK AND KUZA ICT AWARDS

The table below summarizes all aspects of the 2024 ICT Week and Kuza Awards:

NO	ITEM	DESCRIPTION						
(a)	Theme	The theme for the 2024 ICT Week and Kuza ICT Awards is: <i>“Innovation for sustainable digital future”</i>						
(b)	Venue and Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: To Be Advised • 5th – 7th June 2024 						
(c)	Event Format	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Panel Sessions and discussions around the following thematic areas:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Day one: 5th June 2024</td> <td>Day Two – 6th June 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 1 Official Opening Ceremony</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Panel Sessions and discussions around the following thematic areas:		Day one: 5th June 2024	Day Two – 6th June 2024	Session 1 Official Opening Ceremony	
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		<p>Session 2: High-Level Roundtable Discussion: <i>Powering Kenya's Digital Transformation Agenda: Progress and Prospects</i></p> <p>Session 3: Leveraging new frontiers of emerging technologies: opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>Session 4: Achieving meaningful connectivity in the digital economy.</p> <p><i>Networking Cocktail</i></p>	<p>Session 5: Reorienting the ICT sector for growth through legal and regulatory reviews.</p> <p>Session 6: Consumer protection in the digital economy.</p> <p>Session 7: Managing competition in the ICT sector through collaborative regulation.</p> <p>Session 8. Innovation and sustainability in the ICT Sector</p>
		<p>Exhibition- 5th – 6th June 2024</p> <p>The Authority shall invite specific industry players to showcase products and services aligned with the theme of the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative products and services (across telecoms, broadcasting/postal/courier/ICT equipment) • Local content development • Cyber security • New technologies <p>Kuza ICT Awards Gala Ceremony: 7th June 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICT Week shall culminate into a Gala Awards ceremony aimed at celebrating excellence in the ICT industry. The winners and runners up shall be awarded trophies. 	
(d)	Awards Categories	<p>There are nine (9) broad thematic awards categories:</p> <p>i) Broadcasting Category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadcasting Regulatory Compliance Award 	<p>v) Telecommunications Category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecom Regulatory Compliance Award • Assistive Technology Award

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community/Commercial Radio b) Community/Commercial TV c) Subscription Broadcasting Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation in Broadcasting Technology Award • Broadcasting Accessibility Award • Community Radio Broadcasting Award <p>ii) Cyber Security Category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity Excellence Award • Cybersecurity Research and Development Award <p>iii) Postal and Courier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last-Mile Delivery Award • Innovative technology Courier solutions Award. <p>iv) Green ICTs Category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Waste (e-Waste) Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellence in Rural Connectivity Award <p>vi) Women in Tech Award</p> <p>vii) Child Online and Safety Award</p> <p>viii) Lifetime Achievement Award</p> <p>ix) People’s Choice Awards Categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Creator of the Year Award • Radio Station of the Year Award • TV Station of the Year Award • Mobile Service Provider of the Year Award • Internet Service Provider of the Year Award • Courier Service Provider of the Year Award • Customer Service Excellence Award.
(e)	Partnerships	The Authority shall engage in partnerships with public and private sector players to partner with the Authority in some of the event aspects including social events, promotional materials, awards prizes, expertise in jury panel, capacity building etc.	

(f)	Voting Process & Jury panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Authority has engaged a Bulk SMS Service provider to provide the SMS voting platform to the public for People’s Choice Category. The public will vote by sending the word Kuza to 15601 for FREE and online at: www.kuzawards.co.ke • The runs from runs from 22nd April to 22nd May 2024. • CA shall call for nominations from the ICT industry to submit verifiable evidence demonstrating their qualification to be considered and rated in all the other categories. • The Jury panel shall consist of officers from CA as well as other government and private partners to ensure an objective, balanced and fair outcome of the winner selection
(g)	Post Event	<p>A post event report shall be prepared as well as a postmortem meeting to determine areas of improvement going forward.</p> <p>The Authority shall also publish the list of all the winners on the website and print media.</p>

IV. Conclusion

The 2024 ICT Week and Kuza ICT Awards will serve as a cornerstone event in recognizing and promoting excellence in the ICT industry.

By celebrating achievements, fostering collaboration, and inspiring innovation, this initiative by CA aims to contribute to the growth and advancement of the ICT sector.