ICT Connectivity, Sustainable Energy and Regional Integration

Malawi has low internet connectivity. To address this challenge and also to improve the internet penetration among rural communities so that it may facilitate access to markets by our farmers, enhance the quality of learning in the education sector and delivery of services in the health sector, among others. The question of connectivity and speed of internet is being serious looked into. It is hoped that these challenges will be addressed with the introduction of fiber optic network which will promote e-economy.

Malawi is also working on energy infrastructure to ensure that the private sector gets adequate power. Under the Millennium Challenge Cooperation Compact whose five year project we have just concluded last month, we have massively improved the power transmission capacity and also reformed the energy sector to allow private investment in power generation for sale to the national grid. This has created a good opportunity for businesses operating in the energy sector across the globe to come and invest in our energy sector. With a population of 17.6 million people and at a current production level of 300 megawatts, there is a huge room for growth of the sector and there is a very high demand for energy. This also has created room for the regional power market through enhanced capacity for interconnection. We are already geared at connecting to the Southern Africa regional power pool. Recently we have just struck deals with the Government of the Republic of Zambia for importation of electricity. All this is being done on realization of the importance of the sector to mobilization of investment. Malawi is also promoting investment in alternative sources of energy such as renewable energy. The results are so far encouraging.