

The Star

Digital switch-over forum set up

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A forum which would accelerate South Africa to digital switch-over in 2011 was launched in Joburg yesterday by Minister of Communications Sphiwe Nyanda.

"Today marks another major milestone in our journey to broadcasting digital migration as we formally launch Digital Dzonga, following the successful switch-on of the digital signal on October 30 2008," Nyanda said during the launch at Constitution Hill.

He said his department would in the next few weeks expedite the establishment of the Digital Migration Office to support the Digital Dzonga Council and management of the migration project daily.

Nyanda said the government had established Digital Dzonga as an inclusive forum to drive the digital migration process in South Africa.

The cabinet took a policy decision in 2007 to migrate the country's broadcasting system from analogue to digital.

"We knew we will be facing a huge challenge in this process. For us, broadcasting digital migration is not only about accessing digital television. It is also a means to address our socio-economic challenges and meet the Millennium Development Goals."

Nyanda said lessons learnt from other countries had shown that migration was a challenging project that no country could claim to have mastered.

"We all learn as we go along. I would like to see the rest of South Africa, with special emphasis on the rural areas, being galvanised and ready for digital switch-over. This is a responsibility... we have placed on Digital Dzonga." - Sapa