

New forum to guide TV switch-over

JOHANNESBURG — A forum that will accelerate South Africa to digital switch-over in 2011 was launched in Johannesburg yesterday by Communications Minister Siphwe 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 30 October 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 government established Digital Dzonga as an inclusive forum to drive the digital migration process in South Africa. Cabinet took a policy decision in 2007 to migrate the country’s broadcasting system from analogue to digital.

“We knew that 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, including countries with bigger economies, had shown that migration was a challenging project.

— Sapa.