

DG SPEECH

**Honorable Authorities
Excellencies
Honorable guests,
Distinguished Guests from the ship ILE DE BATZ,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It's indeed a great pleasure and also a privilege for me to address to you tonight at this official dinner on behalf of Comoros Telecom for this event of Optical Fiber Cable laying in Comoros.

27th of April 2010 will remain a memorable date for us because it is the date the Union of Comoros is connected by Optical Fiber Cable of the Eastern African Submarine System EASSy with the rest of the world.

After completing the EASSy international portion landing at Itsandra beach today, the ship ILE DE BATZ is on the way for Dar-Es-Salam to lay Tanzania EASSy cable portion and will be back to Comoros on 21st April to connect the inter-islands national backbone with the first section from Chindini in Grand Comoro to Mutsamudu in Anjouan on 22nd April, the second section from Mutsamudu Anjouan to Fomboni Moheli on 23rd April and the third section from Fomboni Moheli to Chindini in Grande Comoro on 24th April for the purpose to have a meshed configuration system.

The whole submarine optical fiber cable system in our country is excepting to be finished by next first week of May 2010.

Comoros Telecom is quite proud to have fully financed this submarine optical fibre cable project international and inter-islands sections with a total investment amount of 13 billions Comoros francs and this is the biggest project ever undertaken within the history of our company and since the election of His Excellency Mr Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed SAMBI as President of Union of Comoros.

In order to extend this high capacity broadband and promote Information Communications Technologies ICTs in our country, an agreement of 11 billions Comoros francs has been signed on 14th December 2009 between our government and the government of China to achieve the intra-islands national backbone. The process is on the way to complete the whole intra-islands national backbone project by second quarter of next year 2011.

The East African Submarine System (EASSy) is a 10,294 km submarine cable system under construction along the East coast of Africa with nine landing stations in Soudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique and South Africa.

The cable incorporates the latest developments in submarine fibre-optic technology, making it economical to connect the east coast of Africa into the high-speed global telecommunications network.

EASSy will have the highest capacity of all submarine cable systems along the East coast of Africa, with a 1.4 Tbps, 2 fibre-pair configuration. It will interconnect with multiple international submarine cable networks for diverse, seamless onward connectivity to Europe, the American continent, the Middle East and Asia.

In a related project, investors in EASSy system are building terrestrial fibre backhauls to link the land-locked countries of the region to the cable

EASSy is owned and operated by a group of Telecommunications operators of Africa with an investment cost of 264 millions US dollars. The EASSy co-owners include Bharti Airtel, Botswana Telecommunications Corporation, British Telecom, Comores telecom, Etisalat, France Telecom, Mauritius Telecom, MTN Group, Neotel (TATA), Saudi Telecom Group, Sudatel Telecom Group, Tanzania Telecommunications Company Ltd, Telecom Malagasy, Telkom SA, Vodacom Group, Zambia Telecommunications Company and investment vehicle WIOCC comprising Botswana Telecommunications Corporation, DALKOM Somalia, Djibouti Telecom, Gilat Satcom Nigeria Ltd, the Government of Seychelles, the Lesotho Telecommunications Authority, ONATEL Burundi, Telkom Kenya, TDM Mozambique, UCOM Burundi, Uganda Telecom and Zantel (Tanzania).

Ladies and Gentlemen
Honorable guests

After two years construction phase, EASSy will be operational in a few months mainly by next July 2010. High speed broadband access will be available to enable The Information Communication Technologies ICTs and to shape the pave for economical development plan in our country.

We shall be pleased to meet you again during the inauguration date by July 2010 to share together one of our President dream which has turned to become a reality today.

I wish you an enjoyable and delicious diner and a safety return back home.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.