



From left Prof Timothy Waema ,lecturer School of Computing and Informatics, University of Nairobi together with Ms Mpho Moyo South African telecommunications, media and technology analyst and consultant, and Mr Michael Mudd, Managing Partner, Asia Policy Partners based in Hong Kong participating in the second annual Regional Network on IT Policies(RANITP) running from April 19 to April 20 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi.

The Government has been asked to fastrack the implementation of the fibre-based broadband connectivity plan to pave way for more private sector investment in cloud computing infrastructure.

“Given the potential of cloud computing for the economy of this nation, in that it can create efficiency in virtually all sectors including health, finance , agriculture and so forth, there is need for every Kenyan to go for an effective means of accessing, storing, and sharing data that is offered by cloud computing, “said Timothy Waema, Professor of ICT, School of Computing and Informatics, University of Nairobi.

” However, the mass shift to the cloud however much it has been hyped, has majorly been hampered by the scarcity of fast and efficient Internet connectivity that can only be provided by fibre-based broadband connectivity, “he explained.

Prof Waema was speaking on Tuesday during a panel discussion which brought together stakeholders of the Regional Academic Network on IT Policies (RANITP) for the second annual seminar at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi.

” Fibre-based broadband connectivity can work for Kenyan even as it looks to move to the cloud to store, access, share data because of its super-fast speed, with the slowest being 1 gigabit per second, ” Prof Waema noted.

At the same time, giving an example of South Africa, Ms Mpho Moyo, an independent telecommunications, media and technology analyst and consultant, said that, unlike Kenya which almost always waits for the Government to take the first step in putting up necessary infrastructure for every important project , in South Africa, the private sector is taking the lead, which is even driving the general public there to store almost all of their sensitive data in the cloud.

“It is the private sector there [in South Africa] that is driving, among other things, the general public to the cloud, after successfully lobbying the Government to adopt the so-called SA Connect Policy, which, among other things, seeks to ensure that first of all, all South Africans use the fastest 4G network,” she said.