

Standard Group to unveil a 24-hour TV news channel

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The Standard Group will unveil a new television station, the second one in its stable. The new station, KtnNews Channel, is a 24-hour station that will focus on delivering comprehensive, incisive news, current affairs programming, documentaries and features.

According to Standard Online, the company's premier television channel, KTN, will continue airing its popular programmes while KtnNews will air features, business stories and sports and with time, it will have different channels like the DSTV module where viewers can choose to watch sports, documentaries or news.

Standard Group Chief Executive Officer Sam Shollei said the new channel will break new grounds in TV programming because it will give Kenyans a variety of news channels to watch. This, according to him will see more Kenyans access information both from county and national level and determine level of service delivery by both levels of governments.



"We will be moving to counties and give them platforms that wananchi can connect with their leaders. We will see a situation where governors will be interacting with other leaders and their electorate," he said.

The new channel can be accessed through all available digital platforms and regionally via DSTV on channel 274, ADN-KTN News, Gotv on channel 94, Zuku on channel 14 (on both Fibre and satellite). The group will also seek partnership with other TV stations in East and Southern Africa in the coming months to have it accessed in the region.

Shollei said the new station will ensure that programmes and news that have always got limited attention during prime time

are aired. "There is a lot that does not reach the common mwananchi in terms of news. Ordinarily, TV news bulletins have traditionally been aired between 7pm and 9pm. Now KtnNews will address the interests of viewers who are not at home around that time for one purpose or another," said Shollei.

Ordinarily, TV news bulletins have traditionally commanded the highest viewership numbers especially for the prime time bulletins at 7pm and 9pm. "There is more public need to know and I have to say the digital platform will play a great role in this country and this is the path Standard Group has taken by introducing the new station," he added.

Standard Group Managing Director, Broadcast Division Joe Munene said the new channel, which will broadcast in both English and Kiswahili, will serve as a one-stop shop of all the day's news and information, with emphasis on in depth analysis of news and people making the news.

"For the past 25 years, KTN has established a strong brand name for Television news. We are excited that on our 25th Anniversary and to ride on KTN's historical news tradition and reputation, we are launching a 24hr News Channel," he said.

Munene said news content and programming will largely be sourced and produced internally while most of the programmes will be local. It will also provide a wide variety of news, current affairs programming, documentary, business news and features content.

"There is need for hourly news updates and this is why KtnNews comes in. There will be no need to wait for news at particular time as our channel two will break news as it happens," he added.

Being a 24hr news channel, the new station will at its core be focused on timely delivery of relevant TV news content round-the-clock.

The TV schedule will include distinct flagship programmes that speak to the channel's agenda while meeting the public's needs for news and current affairs. Shollei said this was an advent of digital migration which offers a lot in terms of news channels which he says, places Kenya at par with developed countries.

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