

E-source educational platform to be outdoored before year

By **Chris Nunoo**, LEGON

A NEW technology, an e-resource platform designed to enhance education throughout the country, with or without Internet, will be outdoored by the end of the year, Vice-President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia has announced.

He said the Ghanaian technology, known as iBox, could be put in any school and educational materials on the platform would be immediately accessible to teachers and students.

The Vice-President, who was opening the second biennial Africa regional conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) at the University of Ghana yesterday, therefore, encouraged old students whose schools

did not have the iBoxes to purchase them for their schools.

The three-day conference, which is being organised by the School of Information and Communication Studies of the University of Ghana, has attracted delegates, including researchers, policy actors and industry players, from 11 countries on the continent and others from 12 other countries across the globe

It is on the theme: "African digital

cultures: Emerging research, practices and innovations".

Teachers/students website

Dr Bawumia also announced that a website to aid both teachers and students in teaching and studying would also be launched this year, so that all students and teachers who might find themselves in the remotest parts of the country would benefit from lessons, notes and question papers from well-endowed schools in other parts of the country.

That, the Vice-President explained, could be made possible by making recorded versions of all the lessons, notes and question papers provided, for instance, by the best teachers in Mathematics, English Language and Science, digitally available to students across the country on the website.

That way, he said, students who might not be in any of the well-endowed schools could access what was taught in the well-endowed schools.

"We are negotiating with the telecommunication companies, such that if students download lectures from these websites, they will not charge them," he added.

New emergency number

Still on the digitisation of systems, Dr Bawumia hinted that a new emergency number, 112, would soon be introduced and



• Vice-President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia opening the Africa regional conference of the ICA in Accra



• Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana, speaking at the conference



• Some of the participants at the conference in Accra

orm r end

Quick Read

The Vice-President, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, has announced that an e-resource platform invented by Ghanaian Information Technology (IT) experts to make classroom teaching digitally available in every part of the country will be outdoored before the year ends.

connected to the GPS digital address system.

The new emergency number, he said, would enhance access to all emergency services, such as security, health and the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS).

"One of the problems we have is that we do not have a working emergency number and so now the technical people are linking the new emergency number to the digital addresses," he added.

Dr Bawumia explained that the reason for that decision was that sometimes during emergencies, people did not have the time to tell the service provider their location, but with this system, the provider could easily trace the area.

The Vice-President urged all members of the public to make good use of the soft infrastructure introduced by the government since assuming power, such as mobile money interoperability, paperless goods clearing system at the ports, digital acquisition of passports and driving licences and digital business registration.

"It is the vision of the government to ensure that by next year everything will be electronic and there will be no cash payment for any government business," he said.

Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, who chaired the opening, said mobile technology was fast becoming an inherent part of contemporary Africa and so there was the need for a better understanding on the transformational nature that technology was having on the lives of people.

Professor Owusu also reiterated the need for all Ghanaians to put their shoulders to the wheel to develop the country.