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Vodacom South Africa says KwaZulu-Natal floods hit mobile towers and fibre ducts

128 words

14 April 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa says widespread flooding in KwaZulu-Natal has damaged its network **infrastructure** in the province, including over 400 towers, MyBroadband reported. Spokesperson Byron Kennedy said the damage to its towers was primarily caused by disruptions to electricity supply. Some fibre customers are affected by waterlogged ducts, too.

Kennedy said several coastal regions have intermittent mobile connections for the time being, from Ballito in the north to Amanzimtoti in the south. He added that service to some Vodacom fibre customers is affected by waterlogged ducts, although the operator has contingency plans to manage such situations. Vodacom is working hard to restore **connectivity** in impacted areas as quickly and as safely as possible, Kennedy said.

Document TELAFR0020220414ei4e0002w

Vodacom hands over 257 new cold chain units for vaccine storage to Western Cape health dept

112 words

11 April 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa and the Western Cape Department of Health have announced the distribution of 257 new cold chain units worth ZAR 3.6 million across the province for Covid-19 vaccine storage. They consist of six vaccine freezers, 40 ice-lined vaccine fridges, 80 cooler boxes, 125 electronic temperature loggers, two remote temperature **devices** and four remote probes. The equipment is being distributed to 51 sites in all six districts, namely Cape Town Metro Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Central Karoo District Municipality, Garden Route District Municipality, Overberg District Municipality and West Coast District Municipality.

Document TELAFR0020220411ei4b000b6



Vodacom expands m-mama mobile maternity transport app across Tanzania

by Harry Baldock, Total Telecom

639 words

7 April 2022

Total Telecom Plus

TOTEL

English

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The app will see network of local taxi drivers act as 'taxi ambulances' when pregnant women need emergency transport to hospital

Vodacom's m-mama mobile service, developed by the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and the Vodafone Foundation, is set to be scaled up to cover over half of Tanzania using a \$10 million **investment** over the next six years.

The m-mama programme aims to help pregnant women received vital medical assistance as quickly as possible, especially in rural areas where ambulances are rarely available. To do this, the m-mama app creates a network of local taxi drivers, each ready to transport a pregnant woman to the nearest medical facility during an emergency. When needed, the patient makes a free call to a 24/7 dispatch centre, which then uses the app to alert the nearest driver and direct them to the patient's location.

Upon delivery to the medical centre, the driver is paid immediately for the journey via Vodacom's mobile money transfer system, M-Pesa.

Piloted in six regions by Vodacom alongside the Tanzanian government since 2013, m-mama has been proving its effectiveness for over almost a decade; between 2013 and 2022, the programme reached 10,455 women and 2,200 new-borns, with over 200 drivers registered and trained as community taxis. In the Shinyanga region, m-mama has contributed to a reduction 38% in maternal deaths and 45% in perinatal deaths.

Now, with a pledge of an additional \$10 million in fresh investment from the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and the Vodafone Foundation over the next six years, the m-mama programme is set to be expanded to roughly half of Tanzania.

"Too many pregnant women, women in childbirth and new-borns die each year from largely preventable causes," said Vodacom Tanzania's Managing Director, Sitholizwe Mdlalose. "For nine years, we have been working with the Government to develop a practical, sustainable and scalable solution to reduce maternal and new-born deaths in the country. We have built a system that strengthens health care delivery and connects the community and lower-level health facilities to responsive emergency transport."

Starting from 2022, the programme expects to transport over 300,000 women, certify over 1,400 community drivers, and ultimately save more than 9,000 lives. If the programme proves successful, it is hoped that m-mama will be introduced to neighbouring African countries.

Tanzania's president Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was present at the app's wider launch in the capital Dodoma, said m-mama would "definitely save the lives of rural maternal mothers and newborn children".

"For effective and efficiency service delivery, we must embrace digital technology and such innovations are what we should advocate for under the Public, Private Partnership," said Suluhu, who noted that a new law would be drafted to ensure that user data would be protected.

In the longer term, it is hoped that m-mama will be integrated it into the national healthcare system by 2027.

While maternal mortality in Tanzania – and indeed all of Sub-Saharan Africa – has been improving in the past decade, it still remains an enormous challenge for national healthcare systems. In 2017, Tanzania's maternal mortality rate was recorded as 524 per 100,000 live births, roughly 1 in every 200 cases. By contrast, in more developed countries like the UK and Germany, this rate was just 7 per 100,000.

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National
Rostam Aziz is the new owner of Tigo, Zantel

Josephine Christopher

552 words

7 April 2022

The Citizen

CITTAN

English

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Dar es Salaam. Almost two years since selling his shares in Vodacom Tanzania, tycoon Rostam Aziz has now set his foot on Tigo and Zantel.

Axian Group of Madagascar said in a statement yesterday that in **partnership** with Mr Aziz, it has closed the acquisition of Tigo and Zantel in Tanzania.

Prior to the \$100 million deal, Tigo and Zantel were owned by the Nasdaq (New York City) and Stockholm (Sweden) listed telecom firm, Millicom International Cellular S.A. (Millicom).

"The consortium led by Axian Telecom and Mr Rostam Aziz announced today it has closed the acquisition of Millicom's merged entity MIC Tanzania Public Limited Company (Tigo and Zantel) in the United Republic of Tanzania. The transaction brings approximately 14 million mobile customers to Axian Telecom and accelerates the development of the group in Africa which now operates in eight markets," the statement reads.

In September 2019, Rostam Aziz earned Sh499.8 billion after selling his 26.25 percent stake - which was held in form of 588 million shares under 'Mirambo Holdings' - in Vodacom Tanzania Plc - through the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

In 2014, Aziz sold off a 17.2 percent stake in Vodacom Tanzania to Vodacom South Africa for a reported \$240 million. At the time, Aziz held the shares via Cavalry Holdings, a Jersey island-registered private investment company.

In its statement, Axian Group quotes its chairman, Hassanein Hiridjee as saying that the company would accelerate the digital inclusion and open access to innovative services for clients while supporting economic growth.

"We're delighted to start this exciting journey with our colleagues here and I believe together we will achieve great things and contribute to shaping the digital future of the country. We express our gratitude to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for helping us bring this transaction home, and look forward to continuing to work alongside them," he said.

The statement quotes the incoming chairman of Mic Tanzania Plc, Mr Aziz as saying that when he began the telecoms adventure more than twenty years ago, the issue was connectivity.

"We were pioneers in building mobile coverage, especially in rural areas, that so many of my fellow Tanzanians now enjoy. Looking forward together with Axian Telecom, we will push the boundaries of digital inclusion while zooming in on specific customer solutions for Tanzanian people and businesses,"

The consortium by Axian Telecom and Mr Rostam Aziz has promised to support the country's digital transformation and its access to submarine cables to enable faster connections.

Other plans is to provide affordable services, using international experience to provide world-class mobile financial services and develop and nurture local talents

Support the digital transformation of the country with the deployment of cutting-edge technologies and services benefiting Tanzanian consumers and businesses alike.

The deal includes strategic ownership in the EASSy cable landing station in Dar es Salaam and a consortium network with over 3,200km of backbone and over 600km of metro fibre.

The Axian-led alliance said it plans “to significantly increase the coverage of Tigo Tanzania and Zantel, especially for 4G network” and to “extend access to affordable mobile services and accelerate digitalisation in the territory”.

Document CITTAN0020220407ei470003c

National
How e-platform will save lives of mothers

Gadosa Lamtey

537 words

7 April 2022

The Citizen

CITTAN

English

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Dar es Salaam. President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday launched a system dubbed "M-Mama" that uses a mobile **platform** to connect pregnant women in rural areas to emergency transport in an effort to reduce maternal deaths.

Funded by Vodacom Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the **platform** was introduced as a pilot in Shinyanga and Sengerema in 2017 where it helped a total of 12,000 mothers and children and reduced deaths caused by lack of emergency transport.

Speaking during the launch in Dodoma yesterday, President Hassan said the platform was complimenting a 2017 government campaign known as "Jiongeze Tuwavushe Salama" which focused on a similar issue of reducing maternal deaths.

"The comfort I have today is to see this system we are launching today has gone to pilot and has produced positive results to save the lives of pregnant women and their babies, but also I heard processes are underway under the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Vodacom to design a system that will track drugs from the manufacturer to the end users," she said.

The Heald of State said after the official launch the service would now be rolled out in 14 regions under Vodacom funding. Ms Hassan added that in Africa there were challenges and shortcomings in the health sector which are related to quality of availability of services and to manage so dealing with it there is a need for public private partnership like what has been done by Vodacom.

However, to support what has been done by the telco, Ms Hassan said the government has bought 233 ordinary ambulances that are expected to be deployed across Tanzania while another 25 with referral status are also expected to arrive.

In his remarks Vodacom Tanzania managing director Sitholizwe Mdlalose said: "The pilot phase of the M-Mama programme, we managed to serve almost 10,500 women and 2,300 new-borns. We registered 200 drivers and gave entrepreneurial training to 100 in the Sengerema District in Mwanza and Shinyanga. Childbirth is a joyous occasion as per many African traditions. It is a cause for celebration. No woman should have to give up her life to bring in the next generation. We can do better," he added.

Speaking at the event, Health minister Ummy Mwalimu said pregnant women who deliver in health centers have reached 84 percent after improving the health sector.

"We expect to receive \$200 million from the World Bank to ensure the M-Mama system spreads to the remaining regions and Zanzibar."

Ms Mwalimu said the ministry in collaboration with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in October this year will launch results of a Health Demographic Survey that shows maternal deaths declined to around 5,000 cases from 11,000 cases that were recorded in 2015-2016.

Information, Communications and Informational Technology minister Nape Nnauye said Vodacom introduced a system that helps women to get information. This is due to investment in ICT. There are a large number of innovations which have been created in the country. "In short the ministry will strengthen the national broadband network so that the M-mama can reach in many areas."

Document CITTAN0020220407ei470002x

Vodacom, Vodafone to invest USD 10 mln to expand 'm-mama' service in Tanzania

165 words

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Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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The mobile 'm-mama' service developed by the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and Vodafone Foundation that provides emergency transport for pregnant and postpartum women will be scaled up from one Tanzanian region to cover more than 50 percent of the national population across fifteen regions, Vodafone announced. The expanded m-mama programme in Tanzania is expected to transport more than 300,000 women, empower more than 1,400 community transport drivers and could save more than 9,000 lives.

The programme has been developed by Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, Vodafone Foundation and the government of Tanzania. Both foundations have committed to invest USD 10 million over six years to roll out the programme, guided by a steering committee from Tanzania's Ministry of Health and public health delivery agency PO-RALG. Over the next six years the government will increase its **funding** and the programme will be fully integrated into the healthcare system by 2027.

Document TELAFR0020220407ei47000b5

Vodacom South Africa offers Linea emergency contact watch

157 words

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Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa has introduced Linea, a watch that enables customers to obtain assistance if needed. Linea is available online and in store and retails for ZAR 499, with no monthly **payments** to access the service. The watch has been launched under the "Connected by Vodacom" range and has a panic button that sends an SMS to five pre-determined trusted contacts with 30-minute live monitoring.

When the SOS button is pressed, contacts immediately receive an alert via SMS, with a date, time and live GPS location link to a map to click on. The Linea has a 48-72 hour battery life, It comes with an embedded Vodacom Smart SIM. Once the watch is switched on, the user connects it to the Linea+ app, which is downloadable from the Android Google Play Store and iOS Apple Stores. They can then add and link their trusted contacts.

Document TELAFR0020220407ei470002u

Vodacom South Africa invests ZAR 430 mln in Eastern Cape network in past year

278 words

28 March 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa has spent more than ZAR 430 million in the past year in improving network service and extending coverage in the Eastern Cape. Much of the **investment** was allocated to providing broadband **connectivity** in rural areas to previously under-served places, it said. Broadband **connectivity** has been densified in 30 urban areas, and 5G brought to two metro areas, with plans to bring the next generation technology to other parts of the region in the near future.

Vodacom Eastern Region has reached 86 percent 4G coverage and this is set to increase in the coming year. Load-shedding is an ongoing problem and there has been a 76 percent increase in theft and vandalism at base station sites. Vodacom has spent more than ZAR 43 million on back-up power and security. Heavy storms at the end of 2021 caused extensive damage to network **infrastructure**, resulting in extended power outages and limited access to **connectivity** for many Eastern Cape residents.

Vodacom Eastern Region has attempted to connectivity more affordable via personalised data offers through Just4You and by raising awareness about its zero-rated online platforms, such as the Connect U portal. Free Wi-Fi access has been introduced in certain populated areas, such as taxi ranks, and the centre of townships and restaurants, to accelerate digital inclusion. Vodacom has partnered with the Eastern Cape Department of Health to provide Internet of Things (IoT) services to manage data related to Covid-19 pandemic. The company has worked with the Department of Basic Education to integrate ICT platforms at schools in the region, too.

Document TELAFR0020220328ei3s0005n

Vodacom announces expansion of rural **connectivity** in Eastern Cape

719 words

24 March 2022

00:00

MarketLine News and Comment

DTMNTR

English

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Vodacom announced that it has spent more than R430 million this past year in improving network experience and extending coverage in the Eastern Cape.

A large portion of this **investment** has been allocated to providing broadband **connectivity** in rural areas in the region to enable previously under-served communities to take advantage of the digital age and reap the associated benefits.

"As part of Vodacom's purpose-led strategy to extend digital inclusivity, we now have 400 base station sites in rural areas in the Eastern Cape, introducing 4G connectivity to more than 19 villages this past financial year. This forms part of our ambition to improve the lives of all our customers, no matter where they live, through access to the life-changing benefits of digital technology and close the gap on existing inequalities," says Mpumelelo Khumalo, Managing Executive for Vodacom Eastern Cape Region.

The region has seen broadband connectivity densified in 30 urban areas, and 5G rolled out to two metros, with plans to bring this next generation technology to other areas of the region in the near future. By expanding connectivity in both urban and rural areas, Vodacom Eastern Region boasts 86% 4G coverage, which is set to increase in the coming year.

Load-shedding is an ongoing challenge to the availability of network services across the region, exacerbated by a 76% increase in theft and vandalism at base station sites. Vodacom has invested more than R43 million in back-up power and security to improve resilience to these issues. In addition, heavy storms at the end of 2021 caused extensive damage to network infrastructure, resulting in extended power outages and limited access to connectivity for many Eastern Cape residents.

"Despite these challenges, Vodacom Eastern Region's network teams continue to work against the odds to limit any service disruptions. These efforts, along with our significant investment into network capacity and coverage, ensures our Eastern Cape customers receive the best quality network performance under increased demand. In fact, we have seen an 19.8% growth in our customer base, with our voice and data speeds outranking our competitors in independent benchmarking and customers voting us as the network of choice in a Net Promoter Score survey," adds Khumalo.

Socioeconomic development is another huge hurdle the region faces. The Eastern Cape has the highest unemployment rate of all the provinces in South Africa at 47.4%, according to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey released by Stats SA. To encourage employment opportunities for young people, Vodacom Eastern Region launched the For Money programme, which enables youth to start their own microbusinesses, using their talents such as baking or fashion. Vodacom assisted these entrepreneurs with start-up stock and hosted live business tutorials on Facebook.

Providing further support for small to medium enterprises (SMEs), Vodacom Eastern Region extended its development programme for women-led SMEs in the information, communications and technology (ICT) space, offering technical advice, office space and access to facilities.

In a drive to bring down the cost to communicate, Vodacom Eastern Region has made connectivity more accessible and affordable through personalised data offers through Just4You and by raising awareness about its zero-rated online platforms, such as the Connect U portal. Free Wi-Fi access has been introduced in certain populated areas, such as taxi ranks, the centre of townships and restaurants, to accelerate digital inclusion.

Education and health are key focus areas for the region. As such, Vodacom has partnered with the Eastern Cape Department of Health to provide Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to manage data relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The relationship between the technology company and Department of Basic Education has also been strengthened through the integration of ICT platforms in schools in the region to support access to quality education.

Other education initiatives in the region include the Vodacom Sustainable Living project, in which more than 70 schools have joined the Agriculture School Programme that aims to improve food security and inspire youth to enter the agriculture sector by leveraging digital technology. Furthermore, Vodacom Eastern Region donated scientific calculators to encourage greater participation in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects, as well as hygiene supplies and over 600 school shoes to local schools across the Eastern Cape.

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Document DTMNTR0020220327ei3o0000k

Vodacom in multimillion dollar Eastern expansion

263 words

24 March 2022

CAJ News

CAJNEW

English

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by MTHULISI SIBANDA
JOHANNESBURG, (CAJ News) VODACOM has spent more than R430 million (US\$29 million) this past year in improving network experience and extending coverage in the Eastern Cape province. A large portion of this **investment** has been allocated to providing broadband **connectivity** in rural areas in the province.

Vodacom now has 400 base station sites in rural areas in the Eastern Cape, introducing 4G **connectivity** to more than 19 villages this past financial year. "This forms part of our ambition to improve the lives of all our customers, no matter where they live, through access to the life-changing benefits of digital technology and close the gap on existing inequalities," said Mpumelelo Khumalo, Vodacom regional Managing Executive.

The investment has culminated in broadband connectivity densified in 30 urban areas and 5G rolled out to two metros. By expanding connectivity in urban and rural areas, Vodacom Eastern region boasts 86 percent 4G coverage.

Meanwhile, load-shedding is an ongoing challenge to the availability of network services across the region, exacerbated by a 76 percent increase in theft and vandalism at base station sites. Vodacom has invested more than R43 million in back-up power and security to improve resilience to these issues.

In addition, heavy storms at the end of 2021 caused extensive damage to network infrastructure, resulting in extended power outages and limited access to connectivity for many Eastern Cape residents. "Despite these challenges, Vodacom Eastern region's network teams continue to work against the odds to limit any service disruptions," Khumalo said.

CAJ News

Document CAJNEW0020220324ei3o00001

Over 1.6 million users pay waters bills through M-Pesa

DAILY NEWS Reporter

453 words

22 March 2022

Daily News

DNTANZ

English

Copyright 2022 Tanzania Standard (N) Ltd.

Dar es Salaam, March 22 -- As Tanzania joins the global community to mark the Water Day, Vodacom Tanzania has said its M-Pesa **platform** enables more than 1.6 million users in the country to pay for their water bills digitally to some 23 water authorities in all regions.

According to Vodacom Tanzania, these **payments** that go through M-Pesa amount to 36bn/- annually.

Vodacom Tanzania M-Pesa Director, Epimack Mbeteni said, "As we all know, the government is determined to ensure that Tanzania becomes digital especially on matters of government utility and bills payments.

This is in line with our purpose to empower our communities to digitalize, to ensure people are able to communicate digitally and are able to give and receive various services digitally.

This is a service that saves time and reduces inconvenience and so gives time to users and the authorities to engage in other activities.

As Tanzania joins the global community to mark the Water Day Vodacom believes that through M-Pesa, users will be able to make payments that will build on the sustainability of water services. Through M-Pesa, our users will be able to pay for many other government services,"

In this way, Vodacom Tanzania assists the country to meet its SDG 6 commitments which requires the government to ensure availability of clean water and sanitation services.

The intent with the observation of this day is to join other countries in the world to evaluate the implementation, successes, and challenges and also to identify strategies in a bid to improve delivery of clean water as well as environmental conservation and responsive governance of water resources in the country.

For a number of years Vodacom Tanzania through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm and Vodacom Tanzania Foundation (VTF) has been involved in environmental conservation and water sources protection.

This technology company has been at the forefront collaborating with the government to fulfil its SDG 13 commitment that covers climate action.

For example, VTF was a partner in the "Greening Dodoma project by contributing over 300m/- and planting over 96,000 trees in various locations in Dodoma City.

Together with this project, Vodacom Tanzania Foundation has also run different programs on environmental conservation in other regions of Tanzania.

Just to add on that, the company is also using self-sensing water taps in all its premises, in a way of retaining/not wasting water because its becoming a scarce resource.

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Over 1.6 Million Users Pay Waters Bills Through M-Pesa

Tanzania Daily News

416 words

22 March 2022

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AllAfrica

AFNWS

English

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As Tanzania joins the global community to mark the Water Day, Vodacom Tanzania has said its M-Pesa **platform** enables more than 1.6 million users in the country to pay for their water bills digitally to some 23 water authorities in all regions.

According to Vodacom Tanzania, these **payments** that go through M-Pesa amount to 36bn/- annually.

Vodacom Tanzania M-Pesa Director, Epimack Mbeteni said, "As we all know, the government is determined to ensure that Tanzania becomes digital especially on matters of government utility and bills payments.

This is in line with our purpose to empower our communities to digitalize, to ensure people are able to communicate digitally and are able to give and receive various services digitally.

This is a service that saves time and reduces inconvenience and so gives time to users and the authorities to engage in other activities.

As Tanzania joins the global community to mark the Water Day Vodacom believes that through M-Pesa, users will be able to make payments that will build on the sustainability of water services. Through M-Pesa, our users will be able to pay for many other government services,"

In this way, Vodacom Tanzania assists the country to meet its SDG 6 commitments which requires the government to ensure availability of clean water and sanitation services.

The intent with the observation of this day is to join other countries in the world to evaluate the implementation, successes, and challenges and also to identify strategies in a bid to improve delivery of clean water as well as environmental conservation and responsive governance of water resources in the country.

For a number of years Vodacom Tanzania through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm and Vodacom Tanzania Foundation (VTF) has been involved in environmental conservation and water source's protection.

This technology company has been at the forefront collaborating with the government to fulfil its SDG 13 commitment that cover's climate action.

For example, VTF was a partner in the 'Greening Dodoma project' by contributing over 300m/- and planting over 96,000 trees in various locations in Dodoma City.

Together with this project, Vodacom Tanzania Foundation has also run different programs on environmental conservation in other regions of Tanzania.

Just to add on that, the company is also using self-sensing water taps in all its premises, in a way of retaining/not wasting water because it's becoming a scarce resource.

Document AFNWS00020220322ei3m000na

Vodacom's ZAR1bn Western Cape investment - connectivity crucial

Athenkosi Baliso

356 words

16 March 2022

15:00

bne IntelliNews

BNEINT

English

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The Vodacom group in Western Cape South Africa invested over ZAR1bn (\$66.63mn) to expand population connectivity in the last financial year.

The group says the investment reflects its commitment to building a digitally inclusive society and increasing access to essential online services and information, employment, education platforms and digital marketplaces.

Carol Hall, Vodacom Western Cape Managing Executive says the project has the ability to transform people's lives.

"Our purpose-led goal at Vodacom is to ensure digital inclusion for all. By expanding our network coverage and capacity and upgrading existing base station sites across the Western Cape, 3G and 4G population coverage in the region is now 99.5% and 97.6%, respectively," Hall said.

"This increase in access to connectivity has the potential to transform lives, especially in previously underserved areas in which existing inequalities continue to widen."

This investment includes: building 38 new 3G and 4G enabled base station sites, including 16 in townships and six in rural communities; implementing LTE capacity upgrades to over 75% of base stations in the province.

Fifty new 5G base station sites in the region have already been built and are ready for the next-generation technology roll-out. Vandalism, battery and cable theft at base station sites remain a challenge, according to Vodacom.

According to the group, five to seven base stations are vandalised each week in the Western Cape. Vodacom upgraded 240 base station sites in the Western Cape with anti-theft infrastructure.

Vodacom SA has also been on a pricing transformation journey to reduce data and voice rates and drive adoption, introducing exclusive data offers to NXT LVL customers under 25, providing SIM cards loaded with 5GB data and 200 airtime minutes to almost 3,000 University of Cape Town students affected by a fire that damaged campus buildings in April 2021.

The group has implemented support strategies to its SME customers known as 'Payment holidays', deferring payments from customers that meet necessary requirements and withholding penalty fees for businesses downgrading services to get back on their feet in the post-pandemic recovery.

Document BNEINT0020220316ei3g004h5

Vodacom makes FY investment of ZAR 1 bln in Western Cape

232 words

16 March 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Western Cape invested over ZAR 1 billion in the last financial year to enable more communities in both urban and rural areas to benefit from connectivity. The includes building 38 new 3G and 4G-enabled base station sites, sixteen of them in townships and six in rural communities, and making LTE capacity upgrades to over 75 percent of base stations in the province. Vodacom has also built 50 new 5G base station sites in the region, which are ready for the next-generation technology roll-out.

Vandalism and battery and cable theft at base station sites continue to be problems. Typically, five to seven base stations are vandalised each week in the Western Cape. This can affect network availability, particularly during load-shedding when back-up batteries and generators are needed to minimise service disruption. To mitigate this, Vodacom Western Cape has upgraded 240 base station sites with new batteries and anti-theft infrastructure and relocated mobile generators to outlying areas.

Communications costs are a big issue in South Africa and in 2021, Vodacom Western Cape introduced WhatsApp bundles starting from ZAR 2 on the Just4You Town platform. Through efforts to make connectivity more affordable, Vodacom Western Cape has seen a 13 percent increase in data traffic and a 2.2 percent rise in data-active customers in the region.

Document TELAFR0020220316ei3g0002t



Vodacom, Eutelsat to Spread High-Speed Broadband to Underserved Regions

Tanzania Daily News

401 words

16 March 2022

06:49

AllAfrica

AFNWS

English

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VODACOM Tanzania Plc has signed an agreement with Eutelsat Communications to create packaged services to bring **connectivity** to underserved regions by utilizing Eutelsat's Konnect high-throughput satellite.

The new facility which will primarily provide services for business users and the hospitality industry comes after successful trials by Vodacom Tanzania to extend coverage to previously unreachable users.

These services will be delivered under Vodacom's brand and installation of equipment at customer locations will be done by Konnect Africa.

This new facility is in line with Vodacom Tanzania's dedication to improving access to high-speed digital connectivity to more people and businesses in the country by finding new ways and innovative ways to deliver relevant products and services to the Tanzanian market.

Speaking when announcing the agreement, Managing Director of Vodacom Tanzania, Sitholizwe Mdlalose said, "We are delighted to incorporate satellite to our suite of services, leveraging the state-of-the-art Eutelsat Konnect satellite to fulfill our mission, which is to deliver connectivity to all regions within the country."

He added that with Konnect, Vodacom will cover 100 per cent of the country, which means connecting all regions, districts and villages no matter how remote they are, 'with this service, we will connect everyone, this includes areas which are not covered today, giving access to services up to 100Mbps'

One of the Vodacom Tanzania strategies is inclusion for all while bridging the digital divide gap as a result this partnership means a lot to Vodacom as it will serve people who have been without connection since independence.

In service since the end of 2020, Eutelsat Konnect is a new-generation high throughput Satellite, offering unprecedented operational flexibility.

Delivering significant resources for broadband services with quasi-complete coverage of Sub-Saharan Africa, it addresses direct-to-user consumer and enterprise broadband services.

Commenting on the agreement, Philippe Baudrier, the Chief Executive Officer of Konnect Africa said: "We are excited to partner with Vodacom, a leading pan-African telecom operator, to extend the reach of its services in Tanzania.

"This agreement illustrates the unparalleled resources of our powerful Eutelsat Konnect satellite to satisfy the strong demand for connectivity in underserved regions of the African continent and marks another success in the development of our distribution capabilities following recent additions in Nigeria, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),"

Document AFNWS00020220316ei3g000e7

Vodacom, Eutelsat to spread high-speed broadband to underserved regions

DAILY NEWS Reporter

441 words

16 March 2022

Daily News

DNTANZ

English

Copyright 2022 Tanzania Standard (N) Ltd.

Dar es Salaam, March 16 -- VODACOM Tanzania Plc has signed an agreement with Eutelsat Communications to create packaged services to bring **connectivity** to underserved regions by utilizing Eutelsats Konnect high-throughput satellite.

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Document DNTANZ0020220315ei3g0008f

Vodacom spends R1 billion in Western Cape upgrades

281 words

15 March 2022

CAJ News

CAJNEW

English

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by DION HENRICKbr CAPE TOWN, (CAJ News) VODACOM has invested over R1 billion (US\$66 million) in the last financial year to enhance **connectivity** in the Western Cape. The province's urban and rural areas are to benefit.

This forms part of the company's commitment to building a digitally inclusive society. The increased access to online essential services and information, employment and **education** platforms, digital marketplaces and much more are anticipated to promote socio-economic empowerment and close the digital divide.

"Our purpose-led goal at Vodacom is to ensure digital inclusion for all," said Carol Hall, Vodacom Western Cape Managing Executive. By expanding its network coverage, capacity and upgrading existing base station sites across the Western Cape, 3G and 4G population coverage in the region is now 99,5 percent and 97,6 percent respectively.

"This increase in access to connectivity has the potential to transform lives, especially in previously underserved areas in which existing inequalities continue to widen," Hall said. The investment includes building 38 new 3G and 4G enabled base station sites, including 16 in townships and six in rural communities, and implementing LTE capacity upgrades to over 75 percent of base stations in the province.

Vodacom has also built 50 new 5G base station sites in the region. Vodacom Western Cape has upgraded 240 base station sites with new batteries and anti-theft infrastructure and relocated mobile generators to outlying areas to fast-track restoration in the event of power failures.

Vodacom Western Cape has meanwhile reported a 13 percent increase in data traffic and a 2,2% rise in data-active customers in the region. CAJ News

Document CAJNEW0020220316ei3f00002



Virtual Classroom Agile, Innovative and Modern - Motshekga

SAnews.gov.za

585 words

15 March 2022

12:56

AllAfrica

AFNWS

English

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Basic **Education** Minister, Angie Motshekga, says the Vodacom **Virtual Classroom** innovation allows the country to have all learning resources in one fit-for-purpose portal designed by experts with the interest of learners and teachers in mind.

Motshekga was speaking at the handover ceremony of Vodacom's **Virtual Classroom** Solution held in Midrand.

This forms part of the COVID-19 Disaster Regulations imposed by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) to support online learning and ease congestion on the country's telecommunication network.

The Minister said that government and ICASA agreed that all mobile network operators must establish a Virtual Classroom solution to support virtual learning and teaching during COVID-19 induced intermittent school closures.

She said that it was pleasing to note that Vodacom has complied with the ICASA regulations without external pressure.

Motshekga has lauded the Virtual Classroom solution as agile, innovative and modern.

"This clearly indicates that Vodacom takes corporate citizenship more than seriously beyond compliance issues. The investment made by Vodacom in public schooling today has the ripple effect of benefiting the next generation of learners and teachers," she said.

The Minister said the country must learn not to spend its children's inheritance; but invest to benefit the next generation.

"In the main, the Virtual Classroom will make a difference to teachers and learners in selected schools by improving connectivity and making gadgets accessible, thus enhancing computing skills and appreciation of the power of ICTs," she said.

Motshekga said that this solution in secondary schools will allow teachers to transform their pedagogical practices by providing improved educational content and more effective teaching and learning methods.

The Minister emphasized that the ICT professional development for teachers is pivotal for the success of this project.

She added that this solution will improve the learning process by providing more interactive educational materials that increase learner motivation and facilitate the easy acquisition of basic skills in various subjects.

"We are slowly beginning to narrow the great digital divide in the public schooling sector, which warms my heart," she said.

The Minister said that the Vodacom Virtual Classroom complements the department's first-of-its-kind online programme dubbed: The Comprehension Across the Curriculum, which was recently launched to turbocharge reading for meaning.

Minister Motshekga reported that the department has finalised a plan to deploy digital Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM) through ICTs at all levels of the basic education sector since 2019.

The plan provides the Basic Education Department with a strategy to make the vision of the White Paper on e-Education a reality.

"At the heart of basic education, reforms are imperative to eliminate the digital divide by ensuring that all schools and education offices access the internet and data within six years," she said.

The Minister said that education, skills development, and jobs are vital national imperatives to unlock economic growth and sustain livelihoods.

"We are proud that Vodacom has responded positively to the NDP's clarion call for partnerships to improve education for all.

"Thanks to a meaningful partnership with Vodacom, we can reach needier schools in the shortest possible time," the Minister said.

The Minister praised Vodacom for becoming an ally for the growth of public schooling.

"With the innovation and commitment to societal change by Vodacom and its stakeholders, today's launch of the Virtual Classroom Solution is a giant leap into the digital future," the Minister said.

Document AFNWS00020220315ei3f0018l

Virtual Classroom agile, innovative and modern: Motshekga

585 words

14 March 2022

South African Official News

SFOFNE

English

Copyright 2022 Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)

Basic **Education** Minister, Angie Motshekga, says the Vodacom **Virtual Classroom** innovation allows the country to have all learning resources in one fit-for-purpose portal designed by experts with the interest of learners and teachers in mind.

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Document SFOFNE0020220315ei3e00001

Vodacom Lesotho and Udacity offer 50 IT training scholarships

180 words

11 March 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Lesotho Foundation has announced a **partnership** with Udacity to provide 50 Nanodegree programme licences, valued at LSL 800,000, ITWeb reported. The scholarships will cover subjects such as **cloud** computing, programming, artificial intelligence (AI), and data science and will run over a period of eight months. Applications opened on 09 March and will close on 20 April and licences will be issued to Basotho aged 22 to 35 years old.

The scheme provides material for the most in-demand tech opportunities, such as programming for data science with Python, and business analytics. The aim of this new scholarship opportunity is to provide educational opportunities leading to technical jobs. The course material incorporates real-world projects that must be completed. This provides students with both the theory and practical application of the subject, enabling them to be more ready to enter the workforce. The courses are aimed at students regardless of their current role or educational status. They are available online and have flexible accessibility, with 24-hour support from mentors.

Document TELAFR0020220311ei3b0008d

DR Congo: Intelsat to help Vodacom achieve rural expansion

Ecofin Agency

274 words

4 March 2022

10:54

Ecofin Agency

ECOFI

English

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Telco Vodacom DRC announced the deployment of its services in remote rural areas across the country. The company will be assisted in this project by satellite-based telecom services operator Intelsat.

The cooperation deal between the two parties will see Vodacom use Intelsat's end-to-end managed CellBackhaul service in areas where fiber or microwave backhaul networks are not yet available or cannot be deployed. According to Didier Kabongo, CNO of Vodacom DRC, "expanding mobile service to the underserved and unserved population of the Democratic Republic of Congo is a key pillar of our Vision 2025 strategy." The project focuses on connecting and improving the lives of 100 million customers in the context of accelerating demand for high-speed Internet **connectivity** in Africa. Vodacom DRC plans to bring together available transport networks and hybrid power solutions to improve and upgrade communication services in rural areas.

The agreement between Vodacom DRC and Intelsat is part of the actions undertaken since January by the satellite operator to strengthen its revenues and get out of the bankruptcy it found itself in on May 13, 2021. Last January, Intelsat ordered two software-defined satellites from the manufacturer Thales Alenia Space. The operator wants to return to profitability as the demand for connectivity increases on the continent. For Vodacom DRC, which is in competition with Airtel, Orange, and Africell in the country, this is an opportunity to increase both its customer base and revenues. The company leads the market with a market share estimated at 34.64% in Q2 2021.

Isaac K. Kassouwi

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Document ECOFI00020220304ei3400001

News

Multimillion-Rand cold chain **investment** to boost vaccine rollout in SA

Faizel Patel

418 words

3 March 2022

The Citizen

CZEN

English

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As South Africa ramps up its Covid-19 vaccination drive, the Health Department and mobile operator Vodacom have announced the acquisition of several million Rand worth of new cold chain equipment.

The cold chain equipment which is expected to boost Covid-19 vaccine storage, is currently being distributed around the country.

The initiative follows the donation of €4.2 million (R74 million) by Vodacom Group and Vodafone Foundation to procure cold-chain equipment to ensure that Covid-19 vaccines and other lifesaving medicine, are safely delivered to several countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Vaccine storage is a challenge for various countries on the African continent.

A recent survey of 34 African countries by the African regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that in 31% of countries, more than 50% of districts have challenges with cold-chain capacity that are significantly prohibitive for vaccine rollout.

Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla said partnerships with the private sector plays an important role in assisting with the vaccine rollout.

"As the government we appreciate the continued support from the business sector since the outbreak of the pandemic, and believe this huge contribution by Vodacom will go a long way in safeguarding vaccines from avoidable loss. However, we now need to intensify vaccine demand creation to ensure that our people continue to come forward in numbers to vaccinate and get booster shots in order for the country to reach population immunity."

CEO of Vodacom Group Shameel Joosub said they are pleased to be able to work closely with the Health Department and support the vaccine rollout programme, ensuring that much needed Covid-19 vaccines reach vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.

"Moreover, the cold-chain equipment, which includes freezers, refrigerators, cold boxes and carriers, can also assist government beyond the Covid-19 pandemic and assist with the storage and distribution of other life-saving vaccines, including those used for child immunisations."

Procurement of the life-saving equipment was managed through the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT), established by the African Union as a component in support of the Africa Vaccine Strategy.

The Health Department said it is at the forefront of distributing the cold-chain equipment across the country, including dispatching it to remote areas that do not have the infrastructure required for extended vaccine refrigeration.

ALSO READ: Govt reduces time intervals between Covid-19 vaccine doses

Image: Clinical Lab Manager

Document CZEN000020220304ei3300013

Vodacom launches Africa's first AWS Outposts Innovation Lab

265 words

2 March 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Group has launched Africa's first Amazon Web Services (AWS) Outposts Innovation Lab with AWS and Intel. The laboratory will accelerate technology innovations in different industries and create the opportunity to use **infrastructure** to solve business problems. The lab will help enterprise and public sector customers of Vodacom Business to speed up their digital transformation by building, managing and scaling their local applications using AWS services and tools.

Customers can contact Vodacom to validate their hybrid use cases and test their workloads on AWS Outposts before deploying them in production. The laboratory is located in Johannesburg and will serve as a Proof of Concept (POC) set-up for customers to test their applications and environments. Intel-powered AWS Outposts is a fully managed service to provide AWS **infrastructure**, services, APIs, and tools to virtually any on-premises or edge location.

It enables the running of applications with low latency, data residency and local data processing needs on-premises and cuts time, resources and operational risk required to procure, manage and upgrade on-premises infrastructure. AWS Outposts uses Intel Xeon Scalable processors and offers the same Amazon EC2 infrastructure-as-a-service on the edge as in the cloud. Applications running on AWS Outposts can be migrated smoothly to the Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) and back to place your workloads securely where they perform the best.

Intel is working with AWS to promote the laboratory's offering and Vodacom uses its position as an APN member to test and deliver the migration to AWS Outposts.

Document TELAFR0020220302ei320005n

Vodacom Central Region extends coverage with 40 new sites in FY

247 words

2 March 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Central Region, covering the Free State and Northern Cape provinces, has invested ZAR 181 million in the 2021/2022 financial year on network coverage, capacity and battery upgrades. This brings **investment** into the region over the last three years to ZAR 550 million. It has connected villages in parts of Northern Cape and Free State provinces that had been without network **connectivity** since the early 1990s.

Part of Vodacom's investment in the Central Region for the last financial year was spent on installing new 3G and 4G-enabled base station sites in 25 urban centres and in fifteen rural areas. The region launched its first live 5G network footprint in the Northern Cape province in September 2021. Vodacom says accelerating coverage in remote rural areas enables users to access zero-rated sites through ConnectU, browsing job portals or essential resources on health and education. By December, online traffic in the region had seen a year-on-year increase of 60.2 percent. Vodacom has also boosted the capacity of its networks in high-volume areas such as Bloemfontein, Kimberly and Kathu.

To drive prices down, the region has adopted the use of personalised platforms, adopting a segment of one approach where they provide personalised offers based on customer needs and usage through platforms such as Just4U and Just4YouTown. The region also launched low-priced voice and data deals for elderly pensioners across the region.

Document TELAFR0020220302ei3200001

Simple, Seamless Customer Experience Seen as Key to Digital Payment Progress -- Market Talk

124 words

1 March 2022

16:20

Dow Jones Institutional News

DJDN

English

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1620 GMT - The world of digital **payments** is evolving very quickly and those who create simple, seamless customer experience will be the winners, Vodacom Group's Chief Executive of Financial and Digital Services Mariam Cassim says at the MWC Barcelona trade show. What is more, the use of payment applications can empower small, medium and micro enterprises to connect with millions of customers, allowing them to punch above their weight, she says. On data protection, Cassim says users expect companies to use their data in a responsible way, for example for personalized experiences. (kyle.morris@dowjones.com)

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

March 01, 2022 11:20 ET (16:20 GMT)

Document DJDN000020220301ei31002m2

Intelsat Secures Extension of Vodacom DRC Ku-band Contract with Managed CellBackhaul Service

471 words

1 March 2022

M2 Presswire

MTPW

English

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McLean, Va. Intelsat, operator of the worlds largest integrated satellite and terrestrial network, has been selected by Vodacom DRC, a leading mobile telecommunication company in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to provide its Ku-band satellite services. Intelsats end-to-end managed CellBackhaul service will serve as an alternative backhaul service to certain sites as a component of Vodacoms Rural Communication Solution (RCS) initiative to bring mobile services to deep rural sites in DRC.

As part of the Inclusion for All pillar of their Vision 2025 strategy, Vodacom brings together available transport networks and hybrid power solutions to enhance and upgrade rural communication services. Intelsats Ku-band capacity and the CellBackhaul managed service enable Vodacom to extend mobile **connectivity** to areas where fiber or microwave backhaul networks are not yet available or unfeasible to deploy.

We are pleased to continue to work with Intelsat on their new Ku-Band managed service as an alternative backhaul solution to support our rural expansion objectives, said Didier Kabongo, CNO of Vodacom DRC. Expanding mobile service to the underserved and unserved population of the Democratic Republic of Congo is a key pillar of our Vision 2025 strategy.

Intelsat CellBackhaul combines the extended reach and resiliency of Intelsats largest-of-its-kind global network with network design, installation, and operation services, making it possible for mobile network operators to deploy services in areas where traditional terrestrial backhaul services are unavailable. CellBackhaul DRC extends Intelsats portfolio of managed cellular backhaul solutions that includes platforms in Europe, the United States and Japan.

Rhys Morgan, Intelsat's vice president, and general manager, EMEA Media and Networks Sales said, CellBackhaul managed services bring together the right capacity, services, and expertise to provide customers economical alternatives to expand into difficult areas. Intelsat is dedicated to this important partnership with Vodacom DRC, helping to deliver solutions that fill gaps where other technologies are unworkable.

About Intelsat

As the foundational architects of satellite technology, Intelsat operates the worlds most trusted satellite telecom network. We apply our unparalleled expertise and global scale to connect people, businesses, and communities, no matter how difficult the challenge. Intelsat is building the future of global communications with the worlds first hybrid, multi-orbit, software-defined 5G network designed for simple, seamless, and secure coverage precisely when and where our customers most need it. Follow the leader in global connectivity and Imagine Here, with us, at Intelsat.com.

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Document MTPW000020220301ei31000uv

South Africa - Mobile Phones - Competitive Landscape

3,577 words

28 February 2022

MarketLine Industry Profiles

DMRP

English

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Just a handful of large mobile network operators (MNOs) dominate mobile service revenues and subscribers in South Africa, including Vodafone owned Vodacom, which has established a market leading position in South Africa and continues to expand across the continent. Domestic MNOs MTN Group and Telkom SA also wield significant market share and serve consumers through several mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) that lease cellular coverage and data bandwidth at wholesale prices from the big four mobile network operators. Investing in **infrastructure** remains a key priority for leading players to expand their mobile coverage and reach new customers. However, leading players have also launched updated 5G networks which will drive mobile service revenues over the forecast period as data consumption continues to dictate consume trends.

Who are the leading players?

Vodacom is a South African mobile communications company majority owned (60.5%) by Vodafone Group Plc a British multinational telecommunications company with over 625 million global customers including 300 million mobile customers and more than 94 million business IoT connections. It provides a range of mobile services, enabling customers to call, text and access data whether at home or travelling abroad. The group operates primarily across Europe but Vodacom operates exclusively in Africa, where 11% of Group service revenue is produced, which was valued at EUR4.08 billion (\$4.6 billion) in FY2021.

MTN Group Limited is a South African multinational mobile telecommunications company. The group offers voice, data and digital services to retail customers in 19 markets. The company served 280 million customers in 2020 including 141 million active data users.

Telkom SA SOC Limited is a South African wireline and wireless telecommunications provider. It is one of South Africa's leading mobile service providers operating through the brands Telkom Mobile, Cell C and Virgin Mobile. The South African government owns 40.5% of Telkom. 49.6% of company shares are held by institutional shareholders, 3.4% treasury shares and 6.5% by non-institutional shareholders. In the year ending March 31, 2021, Telkom generated ZAR 43.2billion (\$2.8 billion) in mobile service revenues; 45% of revenue is generated from its mobile business.

What strategies do leading players follow?

Data consumption continues to grow and become an increasingly lucrative business segment for mobile phone operators. The emergence of the 5th generation mobile network (5G) - a new global wireless standard designed to connect machines, objects, and devices - has created a strong demand for new mobile phones. With many consumers eager to adopt new technologies it is important for mobile companies to be the first to introduce 5G networks as it increases their chance of acquiring customers before rivals offer the new technology. However, cost is also an important factor with consumers most likely to gravitate to 5G mobile plans that are most beneficial. Coverage can also play an important factor; costumers want to purchase 5G mobile services from companies that have the widest coverage so that they can access the technology wherever they are in the country.

Vodacom has worked with African Operator Liquid Telecom, a company that has been working on the development of a wholesale 5G network that would be available from early 2020. Vodacom finally launched commercial 5G services at the start of May 2020 in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town with intentions to expand its network coverage once the regulator, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ICASA, auctions off additional spectrum and more 5G enabled smartphones are released.

MTN Group has also launched 5G services 2020 almost two months after Vodacom at the end of June 2020. The group's 5G infrastructure network has been built by Ericsson, a Swedish multinational networking and telecommunications company and one of the world's leading providers of 5G technology. Ericsson has received 127 commercial 5G agreements and contracts with different mobile operators. The company hopes that its partnership with Ericsson will help boost network efficiency and enable a cost-effective and rapid extension of 5G across South Africa. The company launched services across 100 network towers in

Johannesburg, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth and several smaller towns. The company also plans to negotiate a commercial agreement with the government to convert the temporary spectrum into a permanent one for a fee when the government auctions off future 5G spectrum. MTN is focused on the acceleration of mobile internet services across Africa and hopes to double the number of active mobile data users on its network to over 200 million by 2025.

Vodacom now operates as a standalone business as the company seeks to expand its mobile services over Africa. The company has already expanded across Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Lesotho, Egypt and Ghana as well as acquiring a 26.1% share in Kenyan telecom, Safaricom. Vodacom added 2.5 million prepaid customers during FY2021, fueled by the company's successful 'Shake-off' summer campaign and new behavioral loyalty program launched during the second half of the year. The company has also invested in innovative methods to improve mobile services in rural parts of Africa. In 2020 the Vodacom entered into an agreement with Loon, unit of Google's owner Alphabet Inc, which uses high-altitude balloons to provide mobile internet to remote areas. Together the group hopes to provide mobile services in Cabo Delgado and Niassa, two provinces in Mozambique that have proven hard to cover in the past due to their size.

Telkom SA has achieved most of its growth from mobile data revenues which grew 41% Y-o-Y during FY2021 supported by a 27.8% increase in mobile broadband subscribers, as well as attractive data propositions. Telkom has continued to invest in the expansion of its mobile networks, increasing capital expenditure by 22.1% with an emphasis on 4G infrastructure development. The expansion aligns with the group's strategy of building a 4G and 4.5G data network to carry big volumes of data traffic. The group's pre-paid customer base experienced strong growth, expanding by 35.1% to 12.7 million and pre-paid ARPU increased by 17.5% which contributed to 10.1% Y-o-Y increase in operating revenue from its consumer business during FY2021.

This section contains brief overviews of the leading companies in the South African mobile phones market.

Company

Company Name: Vodacom Group Limited

Vodacom Group Limited (Vodacom or 'the company'), a subsidiary of Vodafone Group plc, is a mobile communications services provider. It provides a range of communication services, including mobile voice, messaging, data, financial, and converged services. The company operates customer service operation centers and offers carrier service products, including wholesale APN data, microwave, managed satellite, WiFi, international private leased circuit, fiber, and IP-virtual private network. It also offers low-cost handsets with voice, messaging and data services. Vodacom has business presence in Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho and Kenya. The company is headquartered in Midrand, South Africa.

The company reported revenues of (Rand) ZAR98,302 million for the fiscal year ended March 2021 (FY2021), an increase of 8.3% over FY2020. In FY2021, the company's operating margin was 28.1%, compared to an operating margin of 29.6% in FY2020. In FY2021, the company recorded a net margin of 16.9%, compared to a net margin of 17.6% in FY2020.

Head office: Vodacom Corporate Park 082 Vodacom Boulevard, Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Number of Employees: 7875

Website: www.vodacom.com

Financial Year End: March

Ticker: VOD

Stock Exchange: Johannesburg Stock Exchange

Company Overview

Vodacom Group Limited (Vodacom or 'the company'), a subsidiary of Vodafone Group plc, is a mobile communications services provider. It provides a range of communication services, including mobile voice, messaging, data, financial, and converged services. The company operates customer service operation centers and offers carrier service products, including wholesale APN data, microwave, managed satellite, WiFi, international private leased circuit, fiber, and IP-virtual private network. It also offers low-cost handsets with voice, messaging and data services. Vodacom has business presence in Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho and Kenya. The company is headquartered in Midrand, South Africa. The company reported revenues of (Rand) ZAR98,302 million for the fiscal year ended March 2021

(FY2021), an increase of 8.3% over FY2020. In FY2021, the company's operating margin was 28.1%, compared to an operating margin of 29.6% in FY2020. In FY2021, the company recorded a net margin of 16.9%, compared to a net margin of 17.6% in FY2020.

Business Description

Vodacom Group Limited (Vodacom or 'the company'), a subsidiary of Vodafone Group, is an African unified communications provider offering mobile voice, messaging, data, financial, and converged services.

The company classifies its service offerings into five categories: Mobile contract revenue, Mobile prepaid revenue, Mobile interconnect, Fixed service revenue and Other service revenue.

In FY2021, Mobile prepaid revenue category accounted for 55.9% of the company's total income, followed by Mobile contract revenue with 28.7%, Fixed service revenue with 5.7%, Mobile interconnect with 3.3%, and Other service revenue with 6.4%.

The company operates through two geographic segments: South Africa and International. In FY2021, South Africa segment accounted for 78% of the company's revenues, followed by International with 22%. Vodacom provides voice and data services in South Africa.

The company operates through subsidiary Vodacom Business Africa. Vodacom Business Africa provides business-managed services to enterprises in 51 countries. It also offers end-to-end information and communications technology (ICT) service solutions from basic connectivity to hosted services, converged communications and M2M solutions. The company provides various services that include messaging, mobile and fixed voice, data, Enterprise IT, financial and converged services to customers. It offered access of M-Pesa financial service to customers. Vodacom's mobile network cover a total population of more than 289 million people.

As of March 2021, it had 22,930 base station sites. In FY2021, it introduced 885 new 3G sites, 787 new 2G sites, and 1,883 4G sites. Vodacom's core consumer services include voice, messaging, and data services that are offered as either contract or prepaid services. The company's various contract, top-up and prepaid plans and ultra-low-cost handsets offer services such as voice, messaging and data. Vodacom's enterprise group provides connectivity, internet and virtual private network (VPN) services over a range of wireless, fixed-line, satellite, mobile, and converged technologies. It also offers hosted cloud services and other enterprise services such as enterprise mobility, unified communications, machine-to-machine (M2M), mobile health (mHealth) for healthcare providers, and mEducation mobile education solutions. As of March 2021, South Africa had 44.1 million active customers, 14.9 million customers in Tanzania, 15.2 million in DRC, eight million in Mozambique and 1.7 million in Lesotho.

Company

Company Name: MTN Group Limited

MTN Group Limited (MTN or "the company") is a mobile operator offering communications products and services such as traditional and mobile voice, data, digital and mobile financial services, and enterprise services. The company also offers messaging services such as SMS, MMS, Email2SMS, and SMS2Email; mobile banking services; and broadband services. MTN holds ISP licenses in Namibia and Kenya and value-added service license in Ethiopia. It serves to small and medium enterprises (SME), public sector and corporate clients. MTN operates in South Africa, Nigeria, South and East Africa and Ghana (SEAGHA), West and Central Africa (WECA), and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The company is headquartered in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa.

The company reported revenues of (Rand) ZAR179,361 million for the fiscal year ended December 2020 (FY2020), an increase of 18.4% over FY2019. In FY2020, the company's operating margin was 24.9%, compared to an operating margin of 20.8% in FY2019. In FY2020, the company recorded a net margin of 9.5%, compared to a net margin of 6% in FY2019.

Head office: MTN Group Limited Innovation Centre 216 - 14th Avenue Fairland, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

Number of Employees: 19295

Website: www.mtn.co.za

Financial Year End: December

Ticker: MTN

Stock Exchange: Johannesburg Stock Exchange

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Company Overview

MTN Group Limited (MTN or "the company") is a mobile operator offering communications products and services such as traditional and mobile voice, data, digital and mobile financial services, and enterprise services. The company also offers messaging services such as SMS, MMS, Email2SMS, and SMS2Email; mobile banking services; and broadband services. MTN holds ISP licenses in Namibia and Kenya and value-added service license in Ethiopia. It serves to small and medium enterprises (SME), public sector and corporate clients. MTN operates in South Africa, Nigeria, South and East Africa and Ghana (SEAGHA), West and Central Africa (WECA), and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The company is headquartered in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. The company reported revenues of (Rand) ZAR179,361 million for the fiscal year ended December 2020 (FY2020), an increase of 18.4% over FY2019. In FY2020, the company's operating margin was 24.9%, compared to an operating margin of 20.8% in FY2019. In FY2020, the company recorded a net margin of 9.5%, compared to a net margin of 6% in FY2019.

Business Description

MTN Group Limited (MTN or "the company") is a telecommunications services provider which offers local, national, and international telecommunications services; broadband and internet products and services; and converged fixed/mobile products and services.

The company serves more than 280 million customers in 21 markets. The company offers a range of telecommunications services, including voice and data; business services; mobile money; and digital services. The voice solutions offered by the group include outgoing voice and incoming voice services.

The company's voice products include MTN Roam Like Home. In addition, MTN offers data services via third generation (3G) and long-term evolution (LTE) technologies. MTN's network services include MTN global MPLS VPN which reduces traffic, linking remote corporate networks using a single secure network. The company also offers a range of high-speed wireless, broadband and satellite internet technology.

MTN's business services include MTN cloud, infrastructure, network, and software and enterprise mobility. The cloud and data center services offered by the group include co-location services, managed hosting, server virtual hosting, and hosted SharePoint services.

The MTN cloud services include cloud email, security, customer relationship management (CRM) products and accounting software products such as Sage. The infrastructure services offer a range of products and services which improves the online infrastructure of the client's business. The client's data is backed up and secured with MTN Online Backup. The Desktop as a Service offers a shared pool of computing resources in a self-service, scaled and metered manner.

The company classifies its services into six categories: Voice, Data, Digital, Fintech, Wholesale, and other. In FY2020, the voice services accounted for 53.6% of the company's revenue, followed by data services (28%), Fintech (8%), digital (1.8%), wholesale (2.5%), and other (4.4%). As of December, 2020, the company had 280 million subscribers in 21 markets, 114 million active data users and 46 million active MoMo users.

Geographically, the company classifies its business operation into five categories: South Africa, Nigeria, South and East Africa and Ghana (SEAGHA), West and Central Africa (WECA) and Middle East and North Africa (MENA). In FY2020, Nigeria accounted for 33.4% of the company's revenue, followed by South Africa (26.2%), SEAGHA (19.2%), WECA (15.6%) and MENA (5.6%).

Company

Company Name: Telkom SA SOC Limited

Telkom SA SOC Limited (Telkom or "the company") is the leading telecommunications service providers. It offers fixed-line access, fixed-line usage and business solutions. The company provides broadband and internet, voice, mobile, modems, cell phones and devices, tablets, fiber cables, IT and cloud services, convergence, equipment and devices, and data network solutions. It also offers mobile voice services, handset sells, transiting of traffic, application services, hosting services, security solutions and data storage services for both residential and business centers. Telkom offers wireless data and tower management solution. It provides services to home, small and medium sized enterprises. The company is headquartered in Centurion, Gauteng, South Africa.

The company reported revenues of (Rand) ZAR43,222 million for the fiscal year ended March 2021 (FY2021), an increase of 0.4% over FY2020. In FY2021, the company's operating margin was 11.2%, compared to an operating margin of 6.1% in FY2020. In FY2021, the company recorded a net margin of 5.6%, compared to a net margin of 1.2% in FY2020.

Head office: 61 Oak Avenue Highveld, Centurion, South Africa

Number of Employees: 11853

Website: www.telkomsa.net

Financial Year End: March

Ticker: TKG

Stock Exchange: Johannesburg Stock Exchange

Company Overview

Telkom SA SOC Limited (Telkom or "the company") is the leading telecommunications service providers. It offers fixed-line access, fixed-line usage and business solutions. The company provides broadband and internet, voice, mobile, modems, cell phones and devices, tablets, fiber cables, IT and cloud services, convergence, equipment and devices, and data network solutions. It also offers mobile voice services, handset sells, transiting of traffic, application services, hosting services, security solutions and data storage services for both residential and business centers. Telkom offers wireless data and tower management solution. It provides services to home, small and medium sized enterprises. The company is headquartered in Centurion, Gauteng, South Africa. The company reported revenues of (Rand) ZAR43,222 million for the fiscal year ended March 2021 (FY2021), an increase of 0.4% over FY2020. In FY2021, the company's operating margin was 11.2%, compared to an operating margin of 6.1% in FY2020. In FY2021, the company recorded a net margin of 5.6%, compared to a net margin of 1.2% in FY2020.

Business Description

Telkom SA SOC Limited (Telkom or "the company") along with its subsidiaries offers multimedia, telecommunications, technology, information and other related information technology (IT) services, as well as mobile communications services. The company primarily operates in South Africa.

The company operates services through four business segments: Openserve, Consumer, BCX, Gyro and Other.

The company's Openserve segment provides information and communication technology (ICT) wholesale facilities and solutions to mobile cellular operations and broadcasters, both locally and internationally. The company also maintains Telkom's network and provide network provisioning and assurances to all wholesale clients and customers. In FY2021, the Openserve segment reported revenue of ZAR3,690 million, which accounted for 8.5 of company's revenue.

Telekom's Consumer segment is engaged in developing of smart devices and oriented network to improve communication services for various customers. The company also provides fixed-line and mobile services to offices, home, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In FY2021, the Consumer segment reported revenue of ZAR25,520 million, which accounted for 59% of company's revenue.

Telekom's BCX segment provides business solutions based on information and communications technology and runs ICT systems and manages products, services and solutions. In FY2021, the BCX segment reported revenues of ZAR13,324 million, which accounted for 30.8% of the company's revenue.

Under Gyro segment, it is involved in real estate, tower management and Telkom properties including multi-tenant leases, asset management, and project development management. In FY2021, the Gyro segment reported revenues of ZAR688 million, which accounted for 1.6% of the company's revenue.

The company's Other business segment represents Swiftnet, Trudon and other non-trading entities. The company offers wireless data and tower management solution.

As of March 2021, the company had 15.3 million active mobile subscribers and 10.3 million mobile broadband subscribers. It operated 6,430 base stations.

Market Definition

The Mobile Phones market includes mobile phone service revenues and average minutes of use (MOU). Market values are made up of total mobile revenues containing revenues from mobile service providers and other members of the mobile service value-chain for the provision of mobile telephony services, excluding revenues from the sale of devices. Market volumes are made up of two segments: prepaid and postpaid, which consist of prepaid average monthly MOU and postpaid average monthly MOU. Minutes of use are made up from the average of voice minutes used in mobile subscriptions, including both incoming and outgoing calls, but not including M2M/IoT voice services.

All market data and forecasts are represented in nominal terms (i.e. without adjustment for inflation) and all currency conversions used in the creation of this report have been calculated using constant 2021 annual average exchange rates.

Forecast figures in this report have taken into account the estimated impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the market, though the length of the pandemic and restrictions imposed by governments around the world is not certain, therefore the impact on the market is difficult to predict.

For the purposes of this report, the global market consists of North America, South America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, South Africa and Nigeria.

North America consists of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

South America comprises Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru.

Europe comprises Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Scandinavia comprises Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Asia-Pacific comprises Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Middle East comprises Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

Document DMRP000020220322ei3m0006e

Vodacom South Africa supports education scheme for sustainable horticulture

176 words

24 February 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa says its new Vodacom Green Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme will oversee vegetable planting at ECD centres across the country to ensure access to food through sustainable farming, improving the quality of life for the children and communities they serve.

Takalani Netshitenzhe, External Affairs Director for Vodacom South Africa said urgent, immediate action is needed through sustainable farming practices, which can help to reduce food gaps now and in the future, as well as to support education while preserving our planet for the next generation.

Eight ECD centres in Vodacom's education network will benefit from a six-step plan where viable food gardens are being planted and will supplement feeding schemes, while promoting sustainable practices.

Through partnerships with local NPOs and private businesses, the Green ECD Programme will see vegetables and fruit trees being planted at the ECD centres to supply the children with healthy food. It will run educational workshops and sustainable farming training for teachers and parents in sustainable farming practices.

Document TELAFR0020220224ei2o00002

Vodacom South Africa FY investments in Mpumalanga exceed ZAR 450 mln

196 words

21 February 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Mpumalanga region invested over ZAR 450 million in network and power backup upgrades in the province during the 2021/2022 financial year. This helped the region expand **connectivity** in deep rural areas and townships that had no **connectivity** before and enabled hundreds of thousands of people to participate in the digital economy for the first time. This, and a concerted effort to cut communication costs via platforms such as Just4U and Just4YouTown, has lowered voice and data rates in the province.

Most of the capital expenditure went on deploying new base stations sites, improving network capacity, upgrading power back-up and rolling out 5G. As a result, over 20 new deep rural sites in areas such as Amersfoort and Thuthukani were switched on. Vodacom became the first network to launch 5G in Mpumalanga in Mbombela, and is extending coverage there, including in Ermelo, Secunda, Leslie and Emalahleni. The region has exceeded its 5G rollout targets by 200 percent.

To improve digital inclusion, over the past three years, Vodacom has been cutting data and voice rates. The region has adopted the use of personalised platforms.

Document TELAFR0020220221ei2l0005o

Safaricom lifts M-Pesa transaction values by 16% in Q3

214 words

18 February 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Kenyan operator Safaricom registered further growth in M-Pesa transaction values in the quarter ended December 2021, Business Daily reported. According to figures from parent company Vodacom Group, the M-Pesa **platform**'s transaction values rose 16.1 percent to over KES 3.2 trillion per month. Safaricom, which only publishes results for the half year to September and full-year to March, accounts for more than half of continental M-Pesa transaction values.

Growth in transaction values means more revenue for the company, especially after it returned to charging for most M-Pesa deals in January 2021, said Business Daily. M-Pesa is also available in Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) through Vodacom subsidiaries. Safaricom and the multinational also run the joint venture M-Pesa Africa, which takes the **platform** beyond existing markets served separately by the partners.

There are now 51.3 million M-Pesa users across Africa. Safaricom is expected to announce its results for the full year ending March in mid-May. Safaricom recorded a 12.1 percent net profit jump in the half-year ended September 2021, helped by revenue growth as it reinstated charges for M-Pesa transactions of less than KES 1,000.

Document TELAFR0020220218ei2i0008f

Vodacom announces investment of R450m in Mpumalanga

758 words

17 February 2022

00:00

MarketLine News and Comment

DTMNTR

English

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Vodacom Mpumalanga region has invested over R450 million into the network and power backup upgrades across the province during the 2021/2022 financial year.

This significant investment into the network has helped the region expand connectivity in deep rural areas and townships that had no connectivity before. This has enabled hundreds of thousands of people to participate in the digital economy for the first time. This coupled with a concerted effort to drive down the cost to communicate through innovative platforms such as Just4U and Just4YouTown, has lowered voice and data rates across the province.

The bulk of the capital expenditure was used to deploy new base stations sites, improve network capacity, perform power backup upgrades due to power outages, and roll out 5G to accelerate digital inclusion. As a result, over 20 new deep rural sites in areas such as Amersfoort and Thuthukani were switched on. Vodacom became the first network to launch 5G in Mpumalanga in Mbombela, and continues to extend coverage throughout the province, including Ermelo, Secunda, Leslie and Emalahleni. The region has exceeded its 5G rollout targets by 200%.

Zakhele Jiyane, Managing Executive for Vodacom Mpumalanga region commented:

"I am pleased with the positive results the team has produced under difficult market conditions during the FY 2021/2022. Our mobile networks are our key differentiator, and as a result, we continue to invest more money to expand networks to give our customers exceptional service. We became the first mobile network to launch 5G in Mpumalanga and continue to accelerate our rollout. This is a full demonstration of our commitment to invest in the latest network technology infrastructure to give our customers access to networks that provide fast speeds. Data traffic grew by 25% and voice 6% the highest in Vodacom SA due to attractive rates and network rollout. As a result, the region became the leader in voice network performance in SA as measured by in-house monthly benchmarking and network net promoter score (NPS)."

Cost to communicate remains a big issue in emerging markets like South Africa. As part of its strategy to drive digital inclusion for all, over the past three years, Vodacom has been cutting data and voice rates to drive adoption across all its market. To drive prices down, the region adopted the use of personalised platforms, adopting a segment of one approach where they provide personalised offers based on customer needs and usage. For instance, our Just4U and Just4YouTown platforms have shown a great adoption figure, with such offers as 1GB valid for 7days at R19, a 76% discount, or even 1GB WhatsApp + 500MB FB for only R35, representing the best social offer in the region. Jiyane added: "I am delighted of the strides we've made as a business to make data prices and smart devices more affordable, truly democratising the access to the internet and leading to a growth of over 18% in the number of smart devices in our region. Our customer consideration scores, including NPS, have been on the rise, with customers scoring us better on measures such as value for money as they see the overall value we provide, from service to network to price."

Working with the Department of Higher Education, the region's enterprise business unit launched Edu bundles to support varsity students during the pandemic. The significantly reduced bundles enabled students across the province to access educational content remotely and not miss out on lectures. The technology powering Edu bundles is not only helping students access academic content but is also helping to improve learners' digital literacy, a key competence in this digital society.

Critically, there is a growing expectation for big businesses to serve a social purpose, and to use their resources and core capabilities to make a meaningful contribution to poor communities. In this regard, last August, the region, in partnership with Google South Africa gave away Android powered smartphones at no cost to scores of people in villages of Mbuzini, Mangweni, Stenborg and Magogeni in Nkomazi. This forms part of Vodacom's continued efforts to reduce the digital divide and offer many who reside in deep rural communities in Mpumalanga province access to the internet for the first time. The region continues to

accelerate its investment in education through ICT centres in schools, Teacher Centres, Schools of Excellence, e-School platform, establishing Early Childhood Development centres to improve education in the early years and by rolling out Vodacom's #CodeLikeAGirl programme aimed at developing coding skills among girls.

877569A6-8351-4DA6-BE48-5BB24E3661CF

Document DTMNTR0020220218ei2h0002g

BUSINESS DAILY

Data Hub

Super-apps now seen disrupting traditional mobile money platforms

VICTOR JUMA

1,558 words

15 February 2022

Business Daily

BUSIDA

English

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When Safaricom #ticker:SCOM became the first company in the world to launch a mobile money transfer **platform** in March 2007, the service was only accessible to the telco's customers through a SIM card.

The service, M-Pesa, grew rapidly as it made it relatively cheaper, faster, and convenient for individuals to send money and later pay for goods and services.

The wide adoption of M-Pesa was largely driven by the ubiquitous mobile telephony technology, with the country now having more handheld handsets than the population.

But the future of financial technology (fintech) is now seen to lie in developing internet-driven apps that are not necessarily tied to a particular telecoms operator.

The experience of South Africa's Vodacom Group, previously a sister company of Safaricom and now the parent firm of the Kenyan telco with a 35 percent stake acquired in August 2017, signals the shifts in the digital financial services space.

Vodacom launched M-Pesa in South Africa in 2010, hoping to mirror the success Safaricom was witnessing with the service in the Kenyan market.

By this time, Safaricom's M-Pesa users had grown to 10 million, marking the fastest customer acquisition seen in Kenya's private sector.

For Vodacom, however, the mobile money service was a nonstarter. In June 2016, the multinational pulled the plug on M-Pesa, which had garnered a cumulative 76,000 active customers against its goal of signing up 10 million users in five years.

"Based on our revised projections and high levels of financial inclusion in South Africa, there is little prospect of the M-Pesa product achieving this in its current format in the mid-term," said Vodacom's chief executive Shameel Joosub at the time.

But Vodacom would make a second stab at fintech last year, this time partnering with China's technology behemoth Ant Group to develop a "super-app" that puts a virtual marketplace in the hands of users.

The multinational says the adoption of its VodaPay service has exceeded its expectations, adding that the platform offers an insight into how M-Pesa could evolve in the future. One does not have to be a Vodacom subscriber to use the app.

"In South Africa, the launch of our VodaPay super-app in October last year has exceeded our expectations by attracting 1.4 million downloads and 1.0 million registered users in its first three months," the Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed firm said in its third-quarter trading update.

In its first three months, Safaricom's M-Pesa customers had grown to only 169,114.

"We see VodaPay as a precursor to M-Pesa's evolution and further strengthening our fintech position across our footprint," Vodacom said.

The contrast in the performance of VodaPay compared to M-Pesa in South Africa appears to reflect the impact of changes in technology and value-addition.

In Kenya, the basic M-Pesa service became popular as it could be used on feature phones without an internet connection and gave millions of unbanked people access to formal financial services.

The use of traditional bank accounts in the country dropped to 23.8 percent last year from 29.6 percent in 2019, according to the 2021 FinAccess Household Survey.

The fact that one has to be a Safaricom subscriber to use M-Pesa has not deterred its growth since the telco has the largest market share in the telecoms sector.

In South Africa, the uptake of banking services was higher and a new way of sending money was not as compelling, with the use of transactional bank accounts estimated at above 80 percent.

But VodaPay, coming at a time when smartphones and the Internet are more widespread, has added value to the base mobile money platform and made it available to those not subscribing to its traditional telecom services.

Smartphone penetration had already 91.2 percent in 2019, according to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa.

A smartphone is a mobile phone with advanced features including Wi-Fi connectivity, web browsing capabilities, a high-resolution touchscreen display, and the ability to use apps. Most of the devices run on Android and iOS mobile operating systems.

“Through innovative digital technologies, VodaPay provides you with inclusive mobile and financial solutions to make your life a little easier, and a little cheaper,” Vodacom says of the service.

“As a super app, VodaPay offers a whole suite of some of the products and services that you use, order, and buy every day, all in one app.”

The company added that it also offers customers exclusive deals and discounts from brands and partners within the app, with Vodacom customers benefitting further from waiver of data charges.

Some of the companies that have partnered with Vodacom to offer discounts in South Africa are fast-food chain KFC and home improvement materials supplier Builders.

Vodacom’s new experience shows that the fight for customers in the fintech space will, going forward, be characterised by enhancing convenience, offering deals, and aggregating a wide range of providers of goods and services.

The VodaPay app is powered by China’s online payment platform Alipay, which has more than one billion users and is owned by Ant Group.

The full Alipay app has a wide range of capabilities ranging from financial services, entertainment, shopping, merchant services, and direct marketing.

Most of these features are best suited for smartphones, with Vodacom saying it will use the learning experience in South Africa, which has greater uptake of the high-end phones to inform the expansion of similar apps in other markets.

Falling Internet charges and smartphone prices are expected to make Kenya and other African countries ripe for widespread uptake of financial services apps that are not bundled with traditional telecom services such as voice.

The number of smartphones in Kenya had grown to 26 million in the quarter ended September 2021, accounting for 44 percent of the total 59 million mobile devices in use in the period.

It remains to be seen whether other telcos will copy Vodacom to offer a network-neutral fintech service. Safaricom has been modifying M-Pesa to cater to the tech-savvy generation but with a preference to limit it to its customers.

The M-Pesa app launched last year, for instance, requires one to have the telco’s SIM card and be a registered user of the service when signing up.

“The myM-Pesa App is available for Safaricom PrePay and Postpay subscribers who utilize android and Apple iOS devices but are registered on Safaricom’s M-Pesa service,” the company says in the service’s terms and conditions document.

“Safaricom reserves the right to offer or decline access to the myM-Pesa App to non-Safaricom customers for technical or operational reasons.”

On subsequent use, one can use mobile data or Wi-Fi to operate the app. Safaricom's rivals Airtel Kenya and Telkom Kenya have been pressuring government regulators to order the company to open up its mobile money service, saying the status quo is hurting their ability to compete.

Safaricom charges more for cash transfers to customers of rival networks than on-net transactions. The company has defended itself, saying every operator has an opportunity to grow its market share through innovation and the necessary capital investment.

Mobile operators, who are the biggest players in Africa's fintech sector, are attracting investors and global payment service providers seeking to ride on their large market shares and brand acceptance.

Vodacom has received unsolicited offers to sell a stake in the continental M-Pesa business at a major premium but has rebuffed the proposals, saying it could get even better exit prices in two to three years after growing the platform further.

Airtel Africa, meanwhile, has raised a total of \$550 million (Sh62.4 billion) by selling minority stakes in its pan African mobile money business.

Financial services firm Mastercard, for instance, invested \$100 million (Sh11.3 billion) to acquire undisclosed minority ownership in Airtel Money last year, with the parties agreeing on a commercial partnership.

It was one of several investments in Airtel Money which also featured financial investors without operations in the global payments sector.

The partnerships being developed by Airtel and Mastercard will be available in 14 African markets where Airtel Money is available including Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda.

"Alongside the investment, the group [Airtel] and Mastercard have extended commercial agreements and signed a new commercial framework which will deepen their partnerships across numerous geographies and areas including card issuance, payment gateway, payment processing, merchant acceptance, and remittance solutions, amongst others," the telco said in a statement earlier.

Mastercard will become the latest partner to boost Airtel Money's array of services including mobile wallet deposit and withdrawals, merchant and commercial payments, benefits transfers, loans and savings, virtual credit cards, and international money transfers.

The telco has sought to expand the subscriber base and use of its mobile money platform through partnerships with multiple financial services firms.

It has, for instance, signed agreements with cash remittance companies MoneyGram, Mukuru, and WorldRemit.

The telecoms operator also plans to introduce new banking and remittances services in partnership with London-based lender Standard Chartered Plc which has subsidiaries operating in 16 African markets.

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Document BUSIDA0020220215ei2f0000j

Vodacom Mozambique transitions to VMware **cloud**

153 words

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Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Mozambique has moved to virtualised VMware **infrastructure** for its IT and telecommunications private clouds. It has improved time to market and cut time taken to deploy new customer services from eight months to almost immediately, the group said. Working with VMware, the operator virtualised its IT **infrastructure**, and is now moving to a VMware product-based Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) **platform** for its telecommunications **cloud**.

Vodacom Mozambique is the first Vodafone subsidiary on the African continent to deploy such a comprehensive virtualisation system for its telco **cloud**. Moving to VMware products has reduced IT downtime and improved monitoring capabilities, which enables potential issues to be forecast and remedied. Vodacom Mozambique can experiment with innovative feature sets that contribute to core growth and its future roadmap. It has also provided customers with space in its data centres to host their servers and manage them within its **infrastructure**.

Document TELAFR0020220211ei2b0005n



Vodacom, Acp Starts School Digitilisation

Tanzania Daily News

407 words

9 February 2022

06:55

AllAfrica

AFNWS

English

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VODACOM Tanzania Foundation and the African Child Projects (ACP) yesterday flagged off the upscaling of their school **connectivity** project with a launch event at Mawenzi Secondary School in Moshi Municipality.

The project aims to provide e-contents through Vodacom's E-Fahamu e-learning portal, extend Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and internet **connectivity** to schools across the country.

Under the agreement of this partnership, ACP is the implementer of the upscaling activity that will reach 50 schools in 10 regions.

The schools will receive 186 computers, 246 tablets and 50GB per month for internet connectivity each for a year.

The Vodacom Tanzania Foundation has had education interventions in Tanzania for some years now by bringing innovative ideas and solutions to make quality education accessible to children in marginalized communities.

Speaking of the benefits that this project will bring, Sitholizwe Mdlalose Vodacom Tanzania Plc Managing Director said, "To be competitive and have any meaningful share of the global economy, we as a country cannot be left behind and, consequently, we cannot afford to deny any of our young people the benefits that digital learning can bring them.

Vodacom Tanzania has invested heavily in cutting-edge technology and expanded its network to have the largest geographical coverage in the country, offering the fastest connection speeds.

Vodacom has created the E-Fahamu platform and invested over 1.7bn/- over the years since activation, enabling 81,500 pupil and student beneficiaries across Tanzania to learn more and learn faster.

Additionally, the E-Fahamu programme, working with other stakeholders such as Universal Communication Services Access Fund (UCSAF), has provided over 1,400 free computers, routers and free internet connections to primary and secondary schools in areas of the country that would otherwise have remained unconnected.

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Adolf Mkenda said, "Being responsible for the policies on education, research, library services, science, technology, innovation, skills, training development and their implementation, we are continuously looking for ways to better deliver this vital social service to our communities, especially the isolated areas.

The ACP Executive Director, Catherine Kimambo, said, "We are extremely proud to be entrusted with such an important task. We pledge to make sure that we deliver to the best standards. We do this because we believe that education is the foundation on which we the youth can build on to achieve the life we dream of."

Document AFNWS00020220209ei29000e3



Mdundo Music Hits 22pc Growth in Africa

Correspondent

Tanzania Daily News

686 words

9 February 2022

06:55

AllAfrica

AFNWS

English

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PAN African music streaming service, Mdundo, has announced a 22 percent growth in its user base in the last quarter of 2021. The **platform** recorded 20 million users at the end of further quarter, up from 16.3m/-, in the third quarter and that is driven by strong demand for an easy-to-use music service coupled with aggressive expansion into new territories in Africa.

The company also attributes sustained growth to strong partnerships with telecommunications firms and top consumer brands such as MTN Nigeria, Vodacom Tanzania, Guinness, SportPesa and Standard Chartered Bank and that has seen the service increase its audience in the mass, mid-income market especially among the youth aged between 18 and 24 years.

"We have noted increased the demand for music served online mainly among the youthful consumers, an audience that is actively looking for new products and solutions to support their lifestyle," says Rachel Karanu, the Head of Brand Partnerships at Mdundo.

The most notable growth was recorded in Tanzania, Nigeria and Kenya and was powered by rising popularity of the platform especially among the 18-24 age bracket.

The total Q4 unique users in the three markets now stand at 12.1m; Tanzania (3.7m), Kenya (4m) and Nigeria (4.4m). Other big markets for Mdundo include Uganda (1.8m) and Ghana (1.6m). Mdundo currently boasts over 13.3 million users monthly across the continent.

Mdundo is eyeing a continued growth through innovations aimed at attracting new users even as consumer markets recover from the prolonged impact of the Covid-19 crisis.

"In 2022, we forecast sustained growth as we innovate not only around acquiring new users, but also offering an effective platform for our advertising partners. In the prevailing environment, this means lowering the cost per reach and using targeted consumer campaigns to grow the reach of our partner brands on the continent," said Karanu.

She adds that Mdundo is firmly focused on expansion within the African continent.

"Africa holds immense potential due to rapid growth of the middle-income market. We are active in all African countries, with our main commercial markets being Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria, we are looking to expand our commercial interests to Ghana and Uganda in 2022."

Launched in 2013, Mdundo is a mobile-web based music service offering free downloads of millions of songs from Africa and other parts of the world.

The platform's users can download and stream music legally from Mdundo website and Android app free of charge and is integrated into a growing digital advertising ecosystem comprising some of the world's biggest marketing brands.

The platform works with over 100,000 artists from across the continent as well as some of the top recording labels globally. It also champions legal consumption of music and has been instrumental in eradicating illegal music downloads on online platforms.

Mdundo also provides leading consumer brands with a unique and culturally relevant brand marketing approach aimed at building loyalty and growing sales.

Its major clients include big brands across Africa including; Coca-Cola, Standard Chartered, Safaricom, KCB Bank, Kenya Breweries Limited, Serengeti Breweries Limited, Tanzania Breweries Limited, Guinness Nigeria and Nivea.

"People love music. That's why we believe that music is the most powerful way of connecting with people on an emotional level. Our audio ad campaigns are delivered in parallel with music from top musicians creating a trusting and personal message influencing real customer decisions."

"We believe in a fair and open music industry on the continent, where African artists are remunerated for their great music and fans can listen to all the music they want at an affordable price," explained Karanu.

According to a 2017 survey by PwC, 38 percent of Africa's 300m smartphone users listen to music on their phone monthly. Growth in online commerce is expected to drive increased consumption of music, movies and other entertainment solutions using smart phones.

Mdundo listed its shares on the Nasdaq First North Growth Market Denmark in September 2020 raising \$6.4 million to fund expansion across Africa.

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Vodacom, ACP starts school digitilisation

DAILY NEWS REPORTER

447 words

9 February 2022

Daily News

DNTANZ

English

Copyright 2022 Tanzania Standard (N) Ltd.

Dar es Salaam, Feb. 9 -- VODACOM Tanzania Foundation and the African Child Projects (ACP) yesterday flagged off the upscaling of their school **connectivity** project with a launch event at Mawenzi Secondary School in Moshi Municipality.

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Document DNTANZ0020220209ei290002y

Mdundo music hits 22pc growth in Africa

By CORRESPONDENT

731 words

9 February 2022

Daily News

DNTANZ

English

Copyright 2022 Tanzania Standard (N) Ltd.

Dar es Salaam, Feb. 9 -- PAN African music streaming service, Mdundo, has announced a 22 percent growth in its user base in the last quarter of 2021. The **platform** recorded 20 million users at the end of further quarter, up from 16.3m/-, in the third quarter and that is driven by strong demand for an easy-to-use music service coupled with aggressive expansion into new territories in Africa.

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Document DNTANZ0020220208ei29000dz

African music streaming service Mdundo passes 20 mln users in Q4

148 words

8 February 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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African music streaming service Mdundo announced that the **platform** recorded 20 million users at the end of Q4, up from 16.3 million in Q3. This was driven by strong demand for an easy-to-use music service coupled with aggressive expansion into new territories in Africa, the company said.

It also attributes sustained growth to strong partnerships with telecommunications firms and consumer brands such as MTN Nigeria, Vodacom Tanzania, Guinness, Standard Chartered Bank and Safaricom. These partnerships it says have seen the service increase its audience in the mass, mid-income market, especially among the 18-24 age bracket.

The total Q4 unique users stand at 3.7 million in Tanzania, 4 million in Kenya and 4.4 million in Nigeria. Other big markets for Mdundo include Uganda (1.8 million) and Ghana (1.6 million).

Document TELAFR0020220208ei2800001



Vodacom subsidiary XLink appoints Govender as new MD

102 words

7 February 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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XLink, a subsidiary of the Vodacom Group that provides secure payment **connectivity**, has appointed Thanusha Govender as its new managing director from 01 February. She replaces Hymie Marnewick. Govender has a track record of overseeing business transformation at companies such as Barclays Africa and Accenture.

Prior to joining XLink, Govender spent five years as head of corporate strategy and planning at the Absa Group. She has expertise in strategy development and execution, R&D, data analytics, and culture transformation. She will be applying her knowledge of the financial services and retail sectors at XLink.

Document TELAFR0020220207ei270002t



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation donates computers, supplies connectivity to 50 schools

83 words

3 February 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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The Vodacom Tanzania Foundation has announced a partnership with African Child Projects (ACP) to connect 50 schools to the internet and provide computing devices. It will supply free educational material for 40,000 pupils through the E-Fahamu portal, 186 donated desktop computers and 246 tablets with a year's internet connectivity to 50 secondary schools in ten regions. The regions are Kilimanjaro, Mara, Tabora, Katavi, Morogoro, Iringa, Ruvuma, Njombe, Kigoma and Tanga.

Document TELAFR0020220203ei230002t

Vodacom, ACP set to digitize learning in 50 schools

DAILY NEWS Reporter

561 words

3 February 2022

Daily News

DNTANZ

English

Copyright 2022 Tanzania Standard (N) Ltd.

Dar es Salaam, Feb. 3 -- VODACOM Tanzania Foundation, the social **investment** arm of Vodacom Tanzania Plc has partnered with African Child Projects (ACP) to provide internet **connectivity** as well as computing **devices** to schools across the country.

The agreement aims to connect 50 schools and establish the path towards a nationwide sustainable model for school **connectivity** in Tanzania.

The project is designed to contribute to the effort for school connectivity, mapping of all schools and will provide solutions for demands in resource-constrained environments.

Vodacom Tanzania Foundation Director Rosalynn Mworio said, "Our vision at Vodacom is to lead Tanzania into the digital age and transform lives through technology.

We are keen to partner with the government, and other stakeholders to foster an enabling environment for rapid digitalization and speed up infrastructure investments to realize real gains as we work towards building a digital economy in Tanzania.

We also believe very strongly in the power of education to secure the future and so we have invested heavily in the sector over the past years.

Under this partnership, Vodacom Tanzania Foundation will provide free learning content to students through the EFahamu portal as well as connectivity through a donation of 186 desktop computers, 246 tablets together with a years internet connectivity to 50 secondary schools in 10 regions across the country.

The schools are in the regions of Kilimanjaro, Mara, Tabora, Katavi, Morogoro, Iringa, Ruvuma, Njombe, Kigoma and Tanga.

The Director General of the ICT Samson Mwela said, "The characteristics of ICT generally play an important role in national growth and development thus requiring strategic coordination for any country to realize the benefits of ICT growth.

In the current ICT driven economies, all technology driven sectors need to cope with the dynamics of ICT in the country and around the world. So it is of great benefit to see the private sector working with CSOs to help realize national policies and priorities. We commend such initiatives; In today's world, digital connectivity is becoming more important in education delivery and educational content. Vodacom will continue to invest heavily in rural connectivity to ensure it meets targets and that every Tanzanian can reap the benefits of digitization.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Catherine Kimambo the Executive Director of African Child Projects said, Covid-19 has highlighted the need for digital inclusion and accelerated the digital uptake in unexpected ways.

However, the digital divide has increased, as those having broadband connectivity could follow remotely both education and work-related activities, while those without digital connectivity, mostly from rural areas, were left behind.

"It is our determination at ACP to work to reduce this divide as much as possible for the education sector," she said.

This project is one of many activities that Vodacom Tanzania and the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation will be engaged in as part of their ongoing efforts with Africa.

A connected campaign that aims to bridge the digital divide on the African continent. Guests for the signing ceremony included representatives from COSTECH, TIE, TEA, DIT, CAMARA Education Tanzania and the Segal Family Foundation and journalists.

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Vodacom Group and Amdocs to create African COE

Saf Malik

196 words

2 February 2022

Capacity Magazine

CAPMAG

English

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The COE will allow Vodacom to deliver its services to customers in Tanzania, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by introducing standardised, flexible configuration while providing a unified IT architecture across the three countries.

Vodacom previously signed a service agreement with Eutelsat Communications to deliver **connectivity** to underserved regions of Tanzania.

The new COE will also enable Vodacom to achieve greater operational efficiencies by launching new products, services and tariffs more quickly, including bringing 5G services to customers.

The COE will be launched soon, with operational and commercial details yet to be finalised.

Dejan Kastelic, Group Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Vodacom, said: "Vodacom will continue to seek strategic partnerships as we evolve from a telco to a techco.

"This will allow us to realise our Tech 2025 strategy by investing in modern network technologies and digital IT systems to scale our products and services.

"Vodacom's partnership with Amdocs enables us to move to a cloud-native, standardised architecture and develop a single Centre of Excellence in Africa which will in turn allow us to deliver a consistent, next-generation customer experience across our operations."

Document CAPMAG0020220221ei220000I

Companies

Vodacom enjoys fintech boost as its Vodapay platform gains momentum

Karl Gernetzky and Mudiwa Gavaza

641 words

2 February 2022

Business Day

MEWBUD

Business Day

9

English

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Share price weakens as investors apparently unimpressed by division underperforming rival Karl Gernetzky and Mudiwa Gavaza. Vodacom, SA's biggest mobile phone operator, says it is pleased with the take-up of its new fintech offerings as revenue from financial services rose above R2bn for the first time in its third-quarter to the end of December.

Investors, however, appear to have been less impressed with the division's performance compared with rival MTN.

Vodacom's share price was 1.26% lower at R144.98 at close of trade on Tuesday, while MTN's eased 0.17% to R191.80. The JSE all share rose 0.79% to 74,889 points.

Group revenue grew 6.4% to R26.7bn in the three months to end-December, Vodacom said on Tuesday.

Financial services revenue grew 12.5%, and its new services contributed 17.7% of group service revenue.

Vodacom is diversifying its business away from basic telecommunications, where margins are under pressure from stiffer competition and greater regulatory scrutiny from the Competition Commission.

The group is targeting new services accounting for 25%-30% of service revenue by its 2024 year.

Vodacom's financial services strategy has been driven by fintech business M-Pesa outside SA, focusing on mobile payments and lending. It has also launched its Vodapay app as a one-stop platform for individuals to buy anything from electricity to insurance.

Vodapay was launched in October and the group said it had exceeded expectations, attracted 1.4-million downloads and recorded 1-million registered users by the end of December.

Vodacom's M-Pesa platform, including Safaricom, continues to scale up with transaction values rising 16.1% to exceed R430bn a month, the group said.

MTN reported fintech growth in Nigeria on Monday and the share price of Africa's biggest mobile operator shot up by a tenth.

Asked about the lacklustre response to Vodacom's fintech performance, David Lerche, a senior analyst at Sanlam Private Wealth, said that the market was less excited because Vodacom is more exposed to SA, "where the fintech opportunity is less clear".

"In SA we have high banking penetration, and thus the need for financial services is already met by our very strong financial system. This may change with Vodacom's imminent purchase of parent Vodafone's Egyptian business, where the fintech opportunity appears attractive," he said.

Vodacom's international revenue from financial services also outperformed SA, growing 12.9% to R1.32bn on a reported basis, while local revenue from this business line grew 11.8% to R692m.

In SA, the company grew its customer base by 3.3% year on year to 45.77-million, while its international customer base grew 6.9% to 42.12-million.

Shaun Murison, a senior analyst at IG Markets, said that Vodacom's quarterly results were "slightly below consensus although shows a positive recovery from what was a soft preceding quarter".

Murison said that the group's SA operations remain the biggest source of operating profit, accounting for more than three-quarters of the number. "Local prepaid revenue was stagnant despite an increase in prepaid subscribers.

"The near 8% increase in contract-based revenue was solid in what is a saturated market," said Murison.

Vodacom CEO Shameel Joosub said in a statement: "The third quarter of our financial year coincided with a fourth wave of milder Covid-19 infections across most of the world but was largely shaped by economies beginning to recover from the impact of the pandemic."

Vodacom remained committed to focusing on economic recovery in its markets, Joosub added. The group is pursuing a six-point plan, which includes expanding network coverage and resilience, accelerating support to governments as well as enhancing digital accessibility and adoption.

Picture: BLOOMBERG/WALDO SWIEGERS

Document MEWBUD0020220202ei220000b



Vodacom Group Partners with Amdocs to Create African Centre of Excellence for Next-Generation Customer Experience in 5G Era

posted by Amdocs

336 words

2 February 2022

Total Telecom Plus

TOTEL

English

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Amdocs (NASDAQ: DOX), a leading provider of software and services to communications and media companies, today announced that it has partnered with Vodacom Group (Vodacom), a leading African **connectivity**, digital and financial services company, to create an African Centre of Excellence (COE). The COE will enable Vodacom to deliver next-generation experiences to its customers in Tanzania, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by introducing a standardised, flexible configuration, monitoring and monetisation of differentiated services while providing a unified IT architecture across the three countries.

The COE will be launched as soon as all operational and commercial details have been finalised. It will also enable Vodacom to achieve greater operational efficiencies by launching new products, services and tariffs more quickly, including bringing 5G services to its customers, by harnessing Amdocs' Openet charging solutions.

Dejan Kastelic, Group Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Vodacom, said: "Vodacom will continue to seek strategic partnerships as we evolve from a telco to a techco. This will allow us to realise our Tech 2025 strategy by investing in modern network technologies and digital IT systems to scale our products and services. Vodacom's partnership with Amdocs enables us to move to a cloud-native, standardised architecture and develop a single Centre of Excellence in Africa which will in turn allow us to deliver a consistent, next-generation customer experience across our operations."

"We're delighted that Vodacom is leveraging Amdocs' Openet platforms to create next-generation experiences in Africa," said Anthony Goonetilleke, Group President of Technology and Head of Strategy at Amdocs. "We're passionate about creating the best-connected experiences, and Vodacom's adoption of a unified, 5G-ready architecture means more rapidly bringing those experiences to life for customers in Tanzania, Mozambique and the DRC." Supporting Resources • Keep up with Amdocs news by visiting the company's website • Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube

512327

Document TOTEL00020220203ei2200002

Vodacom earmarks Egypt to execute growth plan

240 words

1 February 2022

CAJ News

CAJNEW

English

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by TINTSWALO BALOYI
JOHANNESBURG, (CAJ News) THE Vodacom Group has recorded 6,4 percent revenue growth to R26,7 billion (US1,75 billion) in the quarter ended December 31, 2021. Group service revenue was up 5,3 percent, supported by sustained demand for **connectivity** and growth in new services such as financial services. The company reported South Africa service revenue grew 4,5 percent with excellent growth in Vodacom Business.

International service revenue increased by 6,7 percent, supported by data and M-Pesa revenue growth. Financial services revenue increased 12,5 percent to R2 billion, with strong adoption of the South African super-app, VodaPay.

Shameel Joosub, Vodacom Group Chief Executive Officer said the company remained committed to focusing on the economic recovery through the execution of a six-point plan. This includes expanding network coverage and resilience, accelerating support to governments, enhancing digital accessibility and digital adoption, supporting customers adapt to new ways of working and promoting financial inclusion.

Joosub anticipates the acquisition of a majority interest in Vodafone Egypt and a strategic stake in the fibre assets of Community Investment Ventures Holdings to be instrumental for this plan. Minority shareholders recently overwhelmingly voted in favour of the R4- billion Vodafone Egypt transaction.

"This approval represents an important milestone in our target to close the transaction by 31 March 2022" Joosub stated. The transaction remains subject to regulatory approval.

CAJ News

Document CAJNEW0020220201ei210008d

Vodacom Group revenue up over 6% in Q3

239 words

1 February 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Group said its revenue growth improved to 6.4 percent year-on-year in the fiscal third quarter ended 31 December 2021, to ZAR 26.74 billion. In a quarterly trading update, the company said the growth came from sustained demand for **connectivity** and new services, such as financial and digital services, IoT and fixed.

Service revenue was up 5.3 percent. Growth was supported by M-Pesa and data revenue, which rose 12.9 percent and 21.2 percent, respectively. M-Pesa growth reflects ongoing customer and service adoption, consistent with a focus on financial inclusion, Vodacom said. The strong performance in data was underpinned by increased smartphone adoption and strong commercial execution.

Service revenue growth was however impacted by government levies imposed on mobile money and airtime recharges in Tanzania. The levies diluted International service revenue by an estimated ZAR 250 million and growth by 4.4 percentage points. In total, the International operations grew revenue 7.5 percent to ZAR 6.11 billion, while revenues in South Africa increased by 5.8 percent to ZAR 20.87 billion.

Vodacom's customer base grew 6.9 percent to 42.1 million at the end of December. While the economies across its International segment are recovering, constraints on consumer spending remain evident in the voice segment, the operator said.

Capital expenditure increased 28 percent year-on-year to ZAR 895 million.

Document TELAFR0020220201ei210002u

Vodacom Tanzania's M-Pesa customers earn over TZS 3 bln in Q3

130 words

31 January 2022

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Tanzania said that it will pay TZS 3.4 billion in dividends to M-Pesa customers who have used the service between October and December 2021, which is the third quarter of the company's financial year. M-Commerce director Epimack Mbeteni said that the profit will be paid to all individual customers, retail agents and other M-Pesa business partners who will receive payment based on transactions made via their mobile wallets. Vodacom Tanzania has over 11 million customers on its M-Pesa **platform** and a market share of 40 percent, according to TCRA.

The company has so far paid TZS 171 billion as interest since July 2015 when the Bank of Tanzania enacted the relevant regulation.

Document TELAFR0020220131ei1v0005n

News

Government for smart partnership in addressing digital divide

Josephine Christopher, Ramadhani Ismail

836 words

28 January 2022

The Citizen

CITTAN

English

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Dar es Salaam. The government is looking up to a smart partnership with the private sector in efforts to bridge the digital divide, a Cabinet minister said yesterday.

Gracing the Mwananchi Thought Leadership Forum symposium yesterday, Information, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye said the internet has reached a point whereby it could be regarded as a human right, hence the need to bridge the gap so that it will be accessible to all.

"It is clear that Information, Communications and Information Technology and internet have become vital in maintaining continuity of businesses, education, employment, provision of basic citizen services, entertainment and socialising," he said.

Organised by Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL) and sponsored by Vodacom Tanzania, the symposium run under the theme: "Leave no one behind: Uniting to bridge the digital chasm in Tanzania".

He said the administration of President Samia Suluhu Hassan was ready to listen to views from different stakeholders and make constructive adjustments to the legal and policy frameworks.

"On its own, the government won't be able to bridge the gap. It needs a comprehensive effort and I urge you to continue the discussions and air suggestions on what should be done to improve the environment," said Mr Nnauye.

He expounded on Tanzania's digital journey, including why the country decided to build the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) and benefits that have so far been obtained.

"In the past year, the government managed to connect 25 regions to the National ICT Broadband Backbone," Mr Nnauye said.

It has also connected seven neighbouring countries of Malawi, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Mozambique and Burundi, noting that plans were underway to extend it to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

"We have completed a feasibility study to connect the DRC, either through Lake Tanganyika or through Burundi and Rwanda. It is expensive but we believe we can do it. In short, a lot of work has gone into this," he said.

Mr Nnauye said when President Hassan visited Rwanda, an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on how to extend the ICT backbone to Rwanda via Ngara.

With various initiatives, being undertaken by both the government and the private sector, said Mr Nnauye, the number of internet users has risen from five million in 2010 to 31 million in 2021 internet users.

"In the same vein, fixed and mobile subscriptions have increased from 21 million to over 50 million," he said.

In his remarks, Vodacom Tanzania chief executive officer Sitholizwe Mdlalose said the company was joining in the government efforts to facilitate connectivity and ensure that every Tanzanian was able to afford and get connected digitally.

He said the contribution of the digital revolution was profound in all key sectors of the economy from education, finance and health to agriculture, saying it was precisely for that reason that Vodacom, Vodafone and Safaricom had launched a special campaign known as Africa.Connected.

The campaign across eight markets seeks to accelerate economic recovery by driving digital inclusion, making devices more affordable, empowering small businesses and improving digital literacy.

"I would like to emphasize that our journey to digital economy and digital society in Tanzania can only be successful if we work together, if we strengthen each other and collaborate to address the challenges meaningfully and effectively," said Mr Mdlalose.

According to MCL managing director Bakari Machumu, while digital transformation has brought some challenges to the traditional media outlets, the advancement in digital technology has also brought new business opportunities for media companies.

He said the traditional press was undergoing digital disruption that has deprived it [the traditional media] of their usual monopoly.

This was so because technology has created the rise of citizen journalism whereby every individual was able to compile and disseminate news via social media.

"As this happens, the world has found itself in a situation whereby people get information from various channels.

The only challenge is whether it is true and credible or not....Consumer demands have also increased. As a result, newspaper copy sales have gone down and the same has been TV viewership and radio listenership," he said.

He said however despite the fall in copy sales, TV viewership and radio listenership, media outlets were now designing different models that help them to reach their audience wherever they are.

"As MCL, we currently reach 23 million people through all its social media platforms. At the same time, according to Ipsos 2020 data, Mwananchi newspaper is read by 2.9 million while The Citizen is read by 580,000 whereas MwanaSpoti is read by 2.48 million people," he said.

He noted however that for the media to effectively get into the digital area, journalists need to unlearn and re-learn the rules of the game.

To the government he said: "The media needs to be taken as a partner and an enabler in the digital development so long as they remain within the laws of the land".

Document CITTAN0020220128ei1s00037

News

Tanzanians should reap the fruits of digital revolution, says Vodacom CEO

Bethsheba Wambura

237 words

27 January 2022

The Citizen

CITTAN

English

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Dar es Salaam. Vodacom Tanzania Plc, Managing Director Sitho Mdlalose has said their telecommunications vision is to unite all Tanzanians in the digital world so that they can reap the benefits of the revolution.

Mdlalose said on Thursday January 27, during the Bridging the Digital Divide symposium held at Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam which organised by Mwananchi Thought Leaderships Forum (MTLF) of Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL) in **partnership** with Vodacom.

"Our targets are in line with the Government's plans to ensure that more than 80 percent of Tanzanians have access to the Internet and have access to affordable communication equipments," said Mdlalose.

He said Vodacom supports the government in the achieving that goal but that cannot be achieved overnight but it is a process that requires the all people efforts.

"Digital has a huge impact in many economic issues, digital is set to become the fuel to drive development in the coming decades, the agricultural, education and health sectors are benefiting the most from the digital revolution," he said.

However he noticed that, Vodacom, Vodafone and Safaricom have recently launched a campaign called Africa Connected to its eight markets across the continent that focuses on promoting the uses and access of digital services by making internet devices more affordable.

"But also we aim in educating people about digital use," he said

Document CITTAN0020220128ei1r00006

Vodacom introduce 'Ntlatse' overdraft facility

144 words

21 January 2022

Public Eye

PUBLY

English

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'Mabeleme Mokete

Maseru – Vodacom Lesotho (VCL) Financial Services in **partnership** with Redeem Financial Services yesterday launched an overdraft facility called 'Ntlatse'.

Speaking at the event managing director VCL Financial Services, Palesa Mphunyetsane, indicated that 'Ntlatse' is a short term loan which is accessible on the M-Pesa platform which tops up a customer when they have insufficient funds while doing a transaction.

She further indicated that with this innovative solution, they are creating a better experience for their customers by affording them instant access to credit to enable them to make money transfers, pay bills, purchase from merchants even when they have insufficient funds in the M-Pesa accounts.

'Ntlatse' is available to all M-Pesa customers and the awarding of limits will depend on a customer's credit viability and how long they have been using M-pesa.

Document PUBLY00020220121ei1I00002

Vodacom Group's shareholders approve the acquisition of majority stake in Vodafone Egypt

Ecofin Agency

251 words

20 January 2022

18:18

Ecofin Agency

ECOFI

English

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South African telco Vodacom Group announced it has received the support of its shareholders to acquire 55% of Vodafone Egypt. The share will be acquired from Vodafone Group Plc for R41 billion (\$2.7 billion).

Vodacom Group plans to issue 242 million new ordinary shares at R135.75 per share to finance 80% of this **investment**. The remaining R8.2 billion will come from its cash resources. "This is an exciting and important step for Vodacom, as the acquisition of Vodafone Egypt will allow us to transition from a telecommunications company to a technology company," said CEO Shameel Joosub (pictured).

The deal aligns with Vodacom's ambition to strengthen its presence in Africa. Once completed, it will offer the company new growth opportunities beyond its key markets in sub-Saharan Africa. Vodacom will therefore benefit from Vodafone Egypt's financial services platforms, which concentrate more than 80% of the unbanked Egyptian population.

For Vodafone Egypt, the success of the transaction will ensure that it will have closer cooperation with Vodacom Group, enabling it to accelerate its growth in financial services and the Internet of Things (IoT). Vodacom Group expects the deal to be completed before the end of its 2021 fiscal year, which is March 2022. However, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Egypt's National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA), and Egypt's Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) should first give their green light.

Isaac K. Kassouwi

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Document ECOFI00020220120ei1k0005m



Vodacom M-Pesa Users to Share 5bn/ - Profit

Dailynews Reporter
Tanzania Daily News
294 words
14 December 2021

08:23
AllAfrica
AFNWS
English

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Vodacom Tanzania has started the disbursement of 4.9bn/- it's over 10 million M-Pesa users as a share of the profit accumulated on M-Pesa Trust Accounts.

These **payments** are expected to be completed by Wednesday by which time all subscribers will have received their share.

Vodacom Tanzania Director of M-Pesa Epimack Mbeteni said M-Pesa service continues to be a major foundation for their economic activities despite a number of challenges facing the industry.

"We are currently disbursing 4.9bn/- to our customers who have been using the platform during third quarter of this year, and the payments will go directly into their M-Pesa accounts," Mr Mbeteni said in a press statement.

The profit will be paid to individual customers, retail agents, and other M-Pesa business partners based on their M-Pesa wallet transactions between July to September.

Share of profit is dependent on the level of activity the user has had on M-Pesa for the said period.

Such activities include money transfers, bill payments, and airtime purchases to name a few.

Mr Mbeteni said the revolutionary mobile money platform has played a huge role in building inclusion and access to services in the country.

"M-Pesa has also been a key resource empowering small businesses to weather the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic," Mr Mbeteni said.

M-Pesa is the country's largest mobile financial service introduced by Vodacom in 2008.

Now GSMA certified and with over 10 million users, M-Pesa has significantly increased financial inclusion and economic activity in the country.

Customers deposit and withdraw money from their M-Pesa accounts through over 108,000 agents across the country.

Document AFNWS00020211214ehce000jm



Vodacom Tanzania distributes nearly TZS 5 billion profits to M-Pesa users

90 words

13 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Tanzania has started the disbursement of TZS 4.9 billion to its over 8 million M-Pesa users as a share of the profit accumulated on M-Pesa Trust Accounts. The **payments** are due to be completed by 15 December. Customers can text the word 'KIASI' to 15300 to find out how much interest they will receive. They can redeem the interest via cash withdrawal, airtime, or bundle purchases, and transact the bonus to pay bills or purchase products.

Document TELAFR0020211213ehcd000dz

Court dismisses tax appeal against TRA

FAUSTINE KAPAMA

670 words

13 December 2021

Daily News

DNTANZ

English

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Dar es Salaam, Dec. 13 -- THE Court of Appeal has finally dismissed the appeal by Vodacom Tanzania Public Limited Company, formerly Vodacom Tanzania Limited, opposing **payments** of withholding tax of over 3bn/- to Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) made for acquisition of software licence.

Justices Jacobs Mwambegele, Rehema Kerefu and Issa Maige ruled against the Telecommunication Network and Wireless Services Provider Company after holding grounds of appeal lodged to oppose the findings of the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal (Tribunal) lacked merits.

“All grounds of appeal, except the second, are lacking substance; this appeal is, ultimately, wanting in merit.

It is dismissed with costs,” they declared in their judgment delivered recently at the Courts Registry in the capital city of Dodoma in favour of TRA, the respondent. During the hearing of the appeal, the justices had to determine whether the payment made by the appellant to M/S Siemens Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd for purchase of computer software constituted royalty taxable under section 34 (1) (c) of the Income Tax Act.

Referring to various previous decisions, they held that payment for software and to use the software is a royalty and therefore subject to withholding tax.

The justices noted that the appellant was accorded the right to use the software.

That right, according to the justices, was non-exclusive and non-transferable.

It was their view that, it was a hallmark of a royalty subject to withholding tax and the Tribunal was justified to so hold.

“We hold that the payment made by the appellant to M/S Siemens Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd for computer software was in the nature of, and is taxable as, royalty in terms of section 34 (1) (c) of the Act.

The Tribunal rightly so held. We find no legal justification to meddle with its decision,” they ruled.

The appellant had also faulted the Tribunal that it did not strictly interpret a taxing provision, which was contrary to the cardinal principle governing taxing statutes.

However, having read the judgment of the Tribunal the justices failed to comprehend the appellants complaint in this regard.

“As we have stated, the Tribunal well interpreted the statutes under consideration.

We do not see any intendment, presumption, equity or interpolation on the part of the Tribunal.

If anything, the Tribunal looked at the statute as clearly said by the relevant provisions,” they said.

On November 10, 2006, the respondent served on the appellant preliminary audit findings after he had conducted a tax audit earlier on.

A meeting between the parties was convened to consider the appellants misgivings on the preliminary audit findings after which the respondent revised the preliminary audit findings on April 24, 2007.

The revised preliminary audit findings did not make the appellant happy.

Another meeting was, thus reconvened and the issues of complaint by the appellant with regard to the revised preliminary audit findings were addressed.

As a result, on December 29, 2007, the respondent issued a final audit report, which did not make the appellant happy either.

She thus appealed to the Tax Revenue Appeals Board.

Her main complaint before the Board was that the respondent ought not to have required her to pay withholding tax on payments made for acquisition of software license granted to her exclusively for her data transmission purposes.

The Board disagreed with the appellant. It held that the respondent was entitled to withholding tax for payments she made to her supplier for the software license.

Aggrieved, the appellant appealed to the Tribunal which, though for somewhat different reasons, upheld the decision of the Board.

Having, once again, being aggrieved with that decision, the appellant decided to take the matter to the Court of Appeal for further adjudication.

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Document DNTANZ0020211213ehcd00002

Vodacom South Africa launches ConnectforChange

334 words

10 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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South African operator Vodacom has launched ConnectforChange, a donation **platform** which enables customers to donate their airtime or cash to a worthy cause. Customers can make a donation via the My Vodacom App, a USSD string as well as the newly-launched VodaPay app. Customers also have the option to make a cash donation via EFT or bank deposit.

Vodacom postpaid (contract) and hybrid (top-up) customers can make a donation ranging from as little as ZAR 2 up to ZAR 50 by adding the amount to their monthly bill, and prepaid customers can make a fixed donation of ZAR 1 or ZAR 2 which will be deducted from their airtime balance.

Contract customers have the option to make a once-off or recurring donation, while prepaid customers can donate as often as they wish for as long as they have a positive airtime balance. The donations, which will be facilitated through an independent trust, will be directed to the ConnectforChange beneficiaries.

At launch, Vodacom and its trustees identified The Lunch Box Fund (LBF), an organisation which has responded to the education crisis faced by millions of South Africans since 2005. The LBF is a national organisation that offers turnkey nutritional solutions as a foundation to learning across all education settings in South Africa.

Customers are also able to donate their earned VodaBucks, Vodacom's virtual currency, towards a meal hamper which will be distributed by the LBF. Situated under the Food & Household tab in the VodaBucks Store, customers are able to donate 20 VodaBucks. Plans are underway to ramp up additional opportunities and beneficiaries to expand the scope of donations. In 2021, the LBF reached 31,033 children in 996 schools, serving over five million hot, nutritionally fortified meals throughout the year. It also extended its reach to include Early Childhood Development centres and home-based programmes, to libraries and come-and-play buses. The aim is to support quality education for children in under-resourced rural areas.

Document TELAFR0020211210ehca00002

Vodacom South Africa launches Easy2Own smartphone instalment scheme starting with Samsung models

102 words

7 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa has launched the Vodacom Easy2Own proposition to encourage smartphone uptake. Customers on the Vodacom network can purchase a smartphone by paying a deposit and then eleven monthly **payments** via direct debit or EFT. Vodacom will offer Samsung phones starting from ZAR 129 for the down payment then eleven instalments of ZAR 99.

A greater selection of brands will be introduced over time. Customers who settle their monthly instalment on time will receive a 1 GB data bundle, valid for seven days each month, simply for honouring their agreement.

Document TELAFR0020211207ehc70002u

Eutelsat's Konnect Africa, Vodacom To Bring High-Speed Broadband to Tanzania

197 words

6 December 2021

Internet Business News

INTA

English

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Eutelsat Communications (Euronext Paris: ETL) (Paris:ETL) and Vodacom Tanzania PLC have signed a service agreement for packaged services to bring **connectivity** to underserved regions of Tanzania, leveraging Eutelsat's EUTELSAT KONNECT high-throughput satellite, the company said.

Following a successful Proof of Concept trial, Vodacom will commercialize services on the EUTELSAT KONNECT satellite under its own brand, building out its service offer to customers previously unreached by its existing **infrastructure**, notably in the B2B and hospitality verticals. Installation services will be undertaken by Konnect Africa on behalf of Vodacom.

Founded in 2000, Vodacom Tanzania, part of the UK's Vodafone Group, is Tanzania's telecommunications company providing a wide range of services for consumers and enterprise including voice, data, messaging, financial services and enterprise solutions and counting over 15 million customers.

In service since end 2020, EUTELSAT KONNECT is a new-generation High Throughput Satellite offering unprecedented operational flexibility. Delivering significant resources for broadband services with quasi-complete coverage of Sub-Saharan Africa, it addresses direct-to-user consumer and enterprise broadband services.

((Comments on this story may be sent to info@m2.com))

Document INTA000020211206ehc600005

Eutelsat and Vodacom to deliver connectivity to unserved regions of Tanzania

Natalie Bannerman

325 words

3 December 2021

Capacity Magazine

CAPMAG

English

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Using Eutelsat's EUTELSAT KONNECT high-throughput satellite and following a successful Proof of Concept trial, Vodacom will sell services on the EUTELSAT KONNECT satellite under its own brand. As a result, Vodacom will expand its service offering to customers previously unreached by its existing infrastructure, particularly in the B2B and hospitality space. Konnect Africa will carry out installation services on behalf of Vodacom.

"We are delighted to incorporate satellite to our suite of services, leveraging the state-of-the art EUTELSAT KONNECT satellite to fulfil our mission to deliver connectivity to all regions of Tanzania," said Sitholizwe Mdlalose (pictured), managing director of Vodacom Tanzania.

"With Konnect, Vodacom will cover 100% of the country, connecting all regions, districts and villages no matter how remote they are. With this service, we will connect everyone, this includes areas which are not covered today, giving access to services up to 100Mbps."

Vodacom Tanzania, part of the UK's Vodafone Group, provides a wide range of services for consumers and enterprise including voice, data, messaging, financial services and enterprise solutions and counting over 15 million customers in Tanzania.

Part of the company's strategy incorporates inclusion for all while bridging the digital divide gap. As a result, this partnership with Eutelsat supports this and will serve people who have been without connection since independence.

"We are excited to partner with Vodacom, a leading pan-African telecom operator, to extend the reach of its services in Tanzania," said Philippe Baudrier, chief executive officer of Konnect Africa.

"This agreement illustrates the unparalleled resources of our powerful EUTELSAT KONNECT satellite to satisfy the strong demand for connectivity in underserved regions of the African continent and marks another success in the development of our distribution capabilities following recent additions in Nigeria, South-Africa and DRC."

Launched in 2020, EUTELSAT KONNECT is a new-generation high throughput satellite offering 'unprecedented' operational flexibility.

Document CAPMAG0020211220ehc30001d



Eutelsat's Konnect Africa inks high-speed broadband deal with Vodacom Tanzania

92 words

2 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Eutelsat Communications and Vodacom Tanzania have signed a service agreement for packaged services, to bring **connectivity** to underserved regions of Tanzania using Eutelsat's Eutelsat Konnect high-throughput satellite. Following a successful Proof of Concept trial, Vodacom will commercialise services on the Eutelsat Konnect satellite under its own brand. Vodacom will build out its service offer to customers previously unreachable by its existing **infrastructure**, notably in the B2B and hospitality verticals.

Installation services will be undertaken by Konnect Africa on behalf of Vodacom.

Document TELAFR0020211202ehc2000dx

Vodacom South Africa launches new 'phygital' concept store

225 words

2 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa says its launching a new store concept in the Fourways and Midrand area of Johannesburg, that will introduce customers to a digital-first and energy efficient as well as positive retail experience. The new 'phygital' store will evolve to respond to customer needs and future retail trends. The new stores' capabilities and services will feature in-store touch screens that allow customers to book appointments, scan through Vodacom's catalogue, secure the best package for their budget and so much more.

Customers will be able to use express self-checkout kiosks to buy airtime, pay their accounts, browse new **devices**, and check upgrade eligibility. They will be able access store services 24/7 through the self-service facility located at the front of the shop.

The Store of the Future takes inspiration from Vodacom World in Midrand, which was transformed into the first digitally connected mall in Africa. Vodacom's Insights and research identified the key opportunities and considerations for the localised store design. The new stores are also in line with Vodacom's 'Red Loves Green' philosophy, in which business success and consumer satisfaction can run in tandem with a commitment to the environment. Each store will use design principles to reduce waste and minimise the maintenance of furniture, shop fittings and assets.

Document TELAFR0020211202ehc2000dy

Technomobi launches Vodacom Upgrade and Contract Deals

124 words

2 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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South Africa's Technomobi said it has launched a New Vodacom Upgrade and Contract Deals **Platform**, with deals on a variety of popular smartphones. Also, customers signing up for a Vodacom upgrade or new contract from 29 November to 31 December will be entered into a draw to win an LG RM2 XBOOM 80W Party Speaker worth ZAR 3,700. The Vodacom contracts from Technomobi will be available across different smartphone brands, including Apple, Samsung, CAT, Huawei, Hisense, Nokia, Oppo, Vivo, and Xiaomi. Deals will change on the seventh of every month.

Under the promotions, the Xiaomi Redmi Note 10 Pro 128GB + Mi Smartband 5 will be available for ZAR 609 per month for 24 months.

Document TELAFR0020211202ehc2000b5

Tecno Mobile opens booth at Vodacom World

140 words

2 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Tecno Mobile has launched its own sales booth at Vodacom World in South Africa's Midrand. The new Tecno booth is designed to provide shoppers in Gauteng and surrounding areas direct access to Tecno brand ambassadors who are trained and specialised. This facility will provide a premium consumer experience as visitors to the booth will be able to find out more about the Tecno range of products, their functionalities and the benefits thereof as well as the latest purchase deals, Tecno said.

This move by the Transsion Holdings-owned brand marks a major milestone in its evolving distribution and sales **partnership** Vodacom. In the past year, Tecno has placed great emphasis on growth in South Africa, launching two new smartphone models, the Spark 7 series in September and the Camon 17P in October.

Document TELAFR0020211202ehc20008f

Vodacom Business expands **Cloud** Connect offering in Africa

269 words

1 December 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Business has expanded its **Cloud** Connect offering to support businesses across Africa. **Cloud** Connect provides businesses with a secure, private, high performance, high availability connection to leading public **cloud** service providers, including Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services.

To help with business agility, **Cloud** Connect clients are able to experience the same fast switch-on flexibility of public **cloud** with their own WAN/network. Bandwidth choice ranges from 50Mbps to 1Gbps depending on the **cloud** service provider, so clients can scale network capacity to maintain performance as business needs change.

The high-performance connectivity of Cloud Connect enables periodic data migration and replication for continuity, disaster recovery and retention. The low latency connectivity is also able to support key business applications, including storage, big data, development and interactive applications, fast and in a scalable manner. High availability with dual diverse connections to cloud data centres ensures redundancy and protection in the event of a network failure.

Cloud Connect is a managed service. Vodacom Business Africa's Cloud Connect offers a secure, private connection without the need to redesign existing large corporate networks or experience the traditional delay of dedicated connections to cloud provider data centres. Cloud Connect works seamlessly alongside the IP-VPN and other fixed connectivity products; the service directly integrates into the branch sites of a business and is not reliant on the internet. The cloud locations are integrated into the private WAN, effectively seen as another site on the IP-VPN. Different locations in the IP-VPN then share the connectivity to access resources in the cloud.

Document TELAFR0020211201ehc100006

Safaricom plans to add advertising to M-Pesa app

140 words

26 November 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Businesses will soon be able to advertise on the M-Pesa app, as Safaricom upgrades the mobile money **platform** to offer capabilities beyond **payments** and cash transfers, Business Daily reported. This will open a new revenue line for Safaricom, following other technology firms such as Amazon, which offers advertising as part of its online retail business. The idea comes after parent company Vodacom Group signed an agreement with China's Ant Group, which runs the payment **platform** Alipay.

Vodacom is implementing the Alipay app in South Africa and some features, such as advertising, will be built into the M-Pesa **platform** for roll-out in Kenya and Tanzania. With the new M-Pesa Super App, Safaricom added front-end insights on customer spending and direct access to statements, into one single app.

Document TELAFR0020211126ehbq0002u

Twenty years of the Vodacom Journalist of the Year Awards

Special Reports

861 words

26 November 2021

Mail & Guardian Online

AIWMAG

English

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In 2021, we mark 20 years of the Vodacom Journalist of the Year Awards, a befitting moment to reaffirm what the awards mean to us — a representation of Vodacom's commitment to freedom of expression and media independence.

Vodacom does not exist in a vacuum but as part of a society rooted in a constitutional democracy. We recognise that we operate in a country with high levels of inequality, poverty, and unemployment. This triple scourge gives rise to many other societal ills such as crimes of greed and crimes of need. The most recent reminder of our societal challenges was the destruction of property in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal which cost more than 300 lives, billions of rands in damaged **infrastructure** and food shortages in addition to the various psychological impacts. Yet, despite these challenges, as South Africans we continue to celebrate life and the beauty of this country.

Amid these expressions of anger, joy and pride, there are selfless people in the journalism profession who are always ready to capture these moments through live reporting, newsroom broadcasts, photography, analysis and publications, in order to ensure that not only is the nation informed of what's happening around us, but for the world at large to see our moments of pain, anger, rampage and celebration. These professionals speak truth to power, and in some instances risk their lives to keep us informed. They remind us of who we are and what we stand for as a nation and nudge us to reflect when we stray from the values of human rights and human dignity that are encapsulated in the constitution.

The VJOY Awards were introduced in 2001 with the objective to honour and celebrate the journalism profession and to demonstrate Vodacom's commitment to the Bill of Rights. The awards event has evolved over the years. Honouring selfless individuals from this prestigious profession requires an independent panel of judges that receives nominations and assesses them objectively and through robust processes.

The panel of judges is currently presided over by stalwart journalist Ryland Fisher, who has in turn identified other seasoned members of the media to serve on the panel. The panel continues to be governed by the code of ethics applicable to the journalism profession and they serve with integrity and highest standards of ethics, independent of Vodacom management.

Twenty years ago, print media and broadcasting were the most notable forms of reporting. Fast forward to today, and the award categories have been aligned to reflect our digital world and converging technologies. The awards recognise that most South Africans have access to digital tools and platforms and that news breaks every minute of the day, blurring the line between ethical, unethical, informal and formal reporting. At the centre of the proliferation of these digital tools and platforms is the potential for fake news, making the need for committed professionals to produce accurate and timely reporting more important than ever before.

There are 13 categories for adjudication: investigative, opinion, feature, politics, lifestyle, financial economics, sport, sustainability, live reporting/breaking news, young journalist, photography and innovation in journalism.

Each category has clear guidelines on what's expected from entrants and what the panel of judges should focus on to decide on the winner for each category. Stories captured include uncovered corruption, horrific acts of violence, analysed opinions on developing national trends and emotive sport reports among others, and we are now seeing fascinating reports on environmental issues aligned with climate change trends.

The award ceremony is an opportunity to reflect on the news headlines of the past year and applaud the stellar work produced by the country's media.

This event celebrates the profession and its integral part in our daily lives. The judges remarked that the quality of entries continue to improve year-on-year. It's inspiring how the profession continues to thrive despite difficult circumstances — we read and see stories of our journalists not just caught in dangerous reporting situations or being threatened, but there's also a worrying trend of camera crews being robbed on duty.

However, in 20 years, the journalism profession and the awards have not been without controversy — there have been cases of inept media reporting that threatened the reputation of the profession. In 2019 an extract

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from a presentation during the awards went viral on social media, leading to vandalism of Vodacom stores. The viral nature of the post demonstrated the ubiquity of the digital space, and the response moved us to reflect more on media freedom and freedom of expression. Looking back, one can say, it was an eventful 20 years, with lessons learnt and shared, and stars honoured for excellent achievements.

Vodacom remains committed to the awards and the independence of the journalism profession. We look forward to the next 20 years, and we thank the journalists who enter the competition annually and the judges for their time and professionalism. Being nominated is a great achievement — winning the VJOY Award is the cherry on top!

— Takalani Netshitenzhe is Vodacom's South Africa Chief Officer for External Affairs

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Document AIWMAG0020211126ehbq00002

Ethiopian regulator urges Safaricom to expedite roll-out despite conflict

151 words

24 November 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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The Ethiopian Communications Authority (ECA) has called on Kenyan operator Safaricom to step up plans to launch commercial operations in the country in June 2022 despite unrest there. ECA director-general Balcha Reba said that he had held "fruitful discussions" with managing director of Safaricom Ethiopia Anwar Soussa and his staff about the status of the company's preparations for commercial launch. During the talks, Balcha underlined that the company is expediting the project roll-outs "and pays no attention to false information".

Safaricom Telecommunications Ethiopia was set up in early July after the consortium led by Safaricom was awarded the licence to operate telecommunication services in Ethiopia. The Global **Partnership** for Ethiopia consortium brings together Vodacom Group, Vodafone Group, Sumitomo Corporation and CDC Group. Safaricom said it is closely following developments in Ethiopia as it gears up to begin its operations.

Document TELAFR0020211124ehbo0002w

BUSINESS DAILY

Companies

Businesses set to advertise on M-Pesa in new upgrade

VICTOR JUMA

479 words

24 November 2021

Business Daily

BUSIDA

English

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Businesses will soon be able to advertise on the M-Pesa app as Safaricom upgrades the mobile money **platform** to offer more capabilities beyond **payments** and cash transfers.

The move will open a new revenue line for the telco besides enhancing the attractiveness of the financial service. It will be following other technology firms like Amazon which offers advertising as part of its online retail business.

The planned advertising feature comes after the telco's parent company Vodacom Group signed an agreement with China's Ant Group which runs the popular mobile and online payment platform Alipay that has more than one billion users.

Vodacom is implementing the Alipay app in South Africa and some of its features such as advertising will be built into the M-Pesa platform for rollout in Kenya and Tanzania.

"In the case of Kenya and Tanzania in time we will start to get merchants to expose their products into the M-Pesa app through the mini app capability," Vodacom's chief executive Shameel Joosub said at a conference call last week.

"The concept is that of course the more learnings and the more stuff we can develop in South Africa we will then look to agree with Alipay to expand some of those services into the international markets on a case-by-case basis."

The full Alipay app has a wide range of capabilities ranging from financial services, entertainment, shopping, merchant services and direct marketing.

Most of these features are best suited for smartphones, with Vodacom saying it will use the learning experience in South Africa that has greater uptake of the high-end phones.

For Safaricom, advertising will be the latest expansion of the M-Pesa service which has grown to become its single biggest revenue earner.

Started as a person-to-person cash transfer service, the platform has now grown to offer payments, credit, international remittances and business analysis and support.

The telco recorded a 12.1 percent net profit jump in the half year ended September, helped by revenue growth as the company reinstated charges on M-Pesa transactions of less than Sh1,000.

Safaricom's net profit in the period stood at Sh37 billion, up from Sh33 billion a year earlier.

Sales increased 17.5 percent to Sh146.3 billion, with the mobile money platform M-Pesa leading the revenue growth.

M-Pesa, which overtook voice last year to become the single largest business line, posted the highest revenue growth of 45.8 percent to Sh52.3 billion.

Charges on the mobile money platform for transactions of less than Sh1,000 were suspended to offer financial relief to customers and reduce handling of cash in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Zero-rating of the transactions lasted from March 16, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Document BUSIDA0020211124ehbo0000i

Vodacom South Africa to invest ZAR 500 mln on batteries because of power cuts

196 words

24 November 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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The Vodacom Group is set to spend another ZAR 500 million on batteries because of continuous power cuts, ITWeb reported. CEO Shameel Joosub has decried the frequency of load-shedding by power utility Eskom, saying the power cuts have become a "big issue" for the telecoms industry, as it affects the quality of service. Joosub's concern follows Eskom's implementation of an unprecedented frequent load-shedding programme in recent months.

Eskom has been struggling to maintain a steady power supply because of issues including aging **infrastructure** and other legacy problems. Mobile operators have been significantly hit by increasing operational costs associated with keeping base stations alive and protected. Joosub said the network is supposed to run on power, with batteries to back up the site. If there are increased levels of load-shedding, then the batteries do not have enough time to recharge, he added.

The operator has recently deployed solar-powered sites and there are now 1,088 solar sites in all of Vodacom's markets.

Joosub also raised concerns about the slow pace of allocating spectrum and digital migration.

Document TELAFR0020211124ehbo00001

News

CIVH Vodacom deal pegged as start of ambitious plans to bring fibre to the poor

Narissa Subramoney; Copy rewriter

678 words

21 November 2021

The Citizen

CZEN

English

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Vodacom's recent R13.2 billion deal with telecommunications service provider Vumatel, Dark Fibre Africa and Community **Investment** Ventures Holdings (CIVH) marks the beginning of an ambitious plan to bridge the great digital divide.

On 10 November, Vodacom announced it would acquire a co-controlling interest, along with Remgro and New GX Capital, in a new entity consisting of assets including Vumatel and Dark Fibre Africa (DFA).

Upon completion, Vodacom will hold a 30% equity interest in a newly formed entity, provisionally called InfraCo.

Community Investment Ventures (CIVH) is the parent company of DFA and Vumatel and holds the remaining 70% of InfraCo.

CIVH CEO Raymond Ndlovu shared with The Citizen his vision of rolling out fibre to South Africa's most vulnerable groups and areas, free of charge, creating affordable internet access for everyone.

Ndlovu said the Covid-19 pandemic had hastened the country's digital transition and highlighted the need for increased broadband access during the lockdown.

"The entire world is undergoing a digital revolution, and at the core of that revolution is connectivity or broadband activity," he added.

Globally, online education institutions opened access to their material during the lockdown, paving the way for democratised access to information.

But, only the connected can access this new portal of information and associated opportunities.

"We will pay for it, and we will build it."

"The plan is for all people, regardless of their background, locations, education and financial status, to be online and have access to a whole new world of information," said Ndlovu.

CIVH's vision is to move away from core/traditional households towards lower LSM areas like Soweto, Vosloorus and Mitchells Plain, where the groundwork for fibre connections are at an advanced stage.

"We are intent on getting into the townships and smaller, secondary cities and towns."

CIVH operates an open-access network, which means the company takes the capital, technological, and environmental risk of laying cables.

"We pay for it, and we build it," said Ndlovu.

"We enable anyone with the means and capability to connect at a fixed transparent charge. Everybody pays the same price," he explained.

In traditional areas, end users take out contracts with service providers, which is payable every month. But Ndlovu says they will use a prepaid model in the lower LSM areas.

Fibre access in the lower LSM areas will also signal a shift from spectrum/wireless radio band, which uses a specific and more costly radiofrequency.

"This is the reason you hear people complaining about their data getting finished quickly - it's because the radio wave frequency is much more expensive," he explained.

Lower criminal risk with fibre technology

While cable theft is debilitating operations at the country's railways and Eskom, Ndlovu says fibre technology is almost crime proof because it doesn't use copper, which is highly attractive to criminals.

"Fibre is very difficult to extract; it is laid in thick cables which are well secured and in itself, fibre optic is just glass," explain Ndlovu.

"It's worth nothing in the hands of any would-be thieves."

From Mitchells Plain to Vosloorus

CIVH is one of the first companies to take technology infrastructure to Mitchells Plain, Vosloorus and Soweto. Ndlovu says there's more interest from competing cable infrastructure companies to get into the rural areas.

"There is what we call overbuild in some places, where another company will come to the same place we are digging trenches. It's like building two railway lines in one area," he said.

Ndlovu said CIVH is expanding on the type of infrastructure technology being used for the project. "Let's just say it's not only digging trenches," he hinted.

Ndlovu was tight-lipped about revealing too much about the newer technologies but promised more details in the future.

Construction site for installing fiber optic cables under the ground beside a street to bring fast internet to all residents, selected focus, narrow depth of field

Document CZEN000020211122ehbl00007

Leader

Vodacom move into townships is late but welcome

668 words

18 November 2021

Business Day

MEWBUD

Business Day

8

English

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Aside from what looks like a commercially logical tie-up between Remgro-controlled telecoms-focused private equity outfit Community **Investment** Ventures Holdings (CIVH) and Vodacom, the R13bn deal has given a ray of hope to millions of people who live in broadband black holes across SA.

Vodacom, a R250bn telecom juggernaut, will pump more than R9bn in cash plus its own fibre-to-the-home assets worth R4bn into a newly created entity made up of the open-access fibre businesses of CIVH, which runs Data Fibre Africa and Vumatel.

In exchange, Vodacom will get at least a 30% stake in the entity called InfraCo, which would instantly be propelled to the upper echelon of the SA internet fibre industry that has been dominated by Telkom.

The deal, which values CIVH at more than R44bn, and is largely welcomed by investors, judging by Vodacom's positive share price reaction, should be good news for millions of South Africans who have had to rack up hefty bills to stay connected.

"We expect that Vodacom's investment will accelerate SA's fibre reach, network quality and resilience, fostering economic development and help bridge SA's digital divide in some of the most vulnerable parts of our society," said CIVH in a statement outlining the reasoning behind the transaction.

"Through Vodacom's investment, InfraCo would accelerate and expand its lower and middle-income product offering to deliver affordable high-speed broadband access to a broader population segment, including small and medium-sized enterprises."

You'd be forgiven for being sceptical that the statement is merely a canny public relations tactic that InfraCo will devote its attention to taking market share away from players in the already connected upper-class suburbs, and that it would fail to convince shareholders of decent returns in sinking billions of rand into digging up the streets of Soweto or Gugulethu to lay fibreoptic cables.

Yet these townships, ignored by big businesses for a long time as squalid slums created by the racist apartheid government as labour camps, and as places to be feared, have emerged as the next bright growth area for retailers and property developers looking to disrupt and cash in on the vast informal economy long dominated by spaza shops and corner taverns.

It was the construction and the 2007 inauguration of the Maponya Mall that put in sharp relief the enormous and growing influence of SA's black middle class in the townships where you will find an eclectic mix of shacks, government-subsidised RDP houses and mansions.

The shopping mall, like all others in townships from Umlazi to Soshanguve, reflects this multifaceted mix with more than 200 shops selling everything from Timberland iconic yellow boots and gourmet food at Woolworths to dresses that cost as little as R69 at Ackermans and a loaf of bread that fetches R5.

The economics of laying down fibre cables in the townships are sound. So are the broader social justice considerations. The importance of access to high-speed broadband internet access became glaringly obvious during the pandemic when millions of people were ordered to stay at home, forcing them to interact with their employers, government and families remotely.

Sure, the latest Stats SA general survey report shows that the proportion of households that have access to the internet is at just over 60%. But almost all of these households have access to the internet via their mobile phones, a very expensive method of getting connected.

Interacting with employers using mobile broadband would undermine the idea behind keeping businesses going when the alternative is to cut jobs or send employees without cheap, reliable high-speed internet on unpaid leave.

Vodacom and Remgro have enough commercial reasons to sink billions of rand into the roads of SA's townships. Shareholders can see that. For consumers in this long overlooked segment of the population, it means more of them would not be on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Document MEWBUD0020211118ehbi0000u



Vodacom Lesotho starts STEM bursary programme

163 words

18 November 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Lesotho launched a bursary programme, aimed at empowering a new generation of Basotho with digital skills and capabilities. Through its corporate social **investment**, the company has committed to providing ten students with bursaries worth a total of LSL 2 million per year to study at accredited universities in Lesotho and South Africa.

The Vodacom bursary is an academic merit bursary open to talented but economically disadvantaged and marginalised students intending to study or studying in the STEM (Science, Engineering and Technology) field. The award covers all study-related expenses, including tuition, prescribed textbooks, lodging, and food allowance. Additional benefits include a laptop, Vodacom Lesotho orientation workshop for all new students who have been awarded the bursary, workplace exposure through a structured vacation work programme, work readiness skills training to prepare the final year bursary students into the world of work, and full access to Vodacom's Wellness Programme (ICAS) services. Applications will close on 10 December.

Document TELAFR0020211118ehbi000dy

BottomLine

Painting the continent red, mobile giant Vodacom bets big on fintech

Kate Thompson Davy

838 words

17 November 2021

Business Day

MEWBUD

Business Day

13

English

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Having acquired Vodafone Egypt, the group is targeting 73-million customers by 2024. Within the past week Vodacom Group has issued a series of announcements about results, deals and acquisitions that, viewed collectively, allow us insight into the mobile giant's thinking about its own future, and that of the continent.

The biggest story from last week was arguably the deal with Remgro-backed CIVH to join forces in a new fibre **infrastructure** company pieced together from various assets. This somewhat but not entirely overshadowed the mobile firm's other big announcement (made on the same day) about taking up a majority stake (55%) in Vodafone Egypt, pending regulatory and shareholder approval.

Vodafone Egypt is the largest mobile network operator in the Mediterranean country with 43-million consumer and enterprise customers. It also has another attractive claim to fame: it is the country's largest mobile wallet provider. This m-wallet service, called Vodafone Cash, was the site of almost 90% of all Egyptian mobile wallet transactions in August 2021.

That's quite a foothold in a nation that is hungry for fintech services, with 80% of the population unbanked. It's clear, then, why it would be attractive to the big red telco lining up a bunch of moves in the fintech sphere.

On Monday, Vodacom released its half-year results for the period to end-September, which included a highlight on the M-Pesa platform (operated by Vodacom and Kenya's Safaricom), where transaction value increased 31.2% in the second quarter. In the preceding 12 months, M-Pesa processed transactions to the value of \$301.9bn.

All told, financial services now make up the largest portion of "new services revenue" for Vodacom, and it wants more. Group CEO Shameel Joosub said it would be targeting 73-million financial services customers by 2024. Egypt and Ethiopia (where the group recently confirmed its licence to operate M-Pesa) both have populations of more than 100-million people, making them "transformational opportunities", Joosub said.

Vodacom's big rival, MTN, is also betting big on fintech, and earlier in November it reported receiving a provisional licence from the Central Bank of Nigeria to operate its Mobile Money ("MoMo") platform there.

Operating MoMo in Nigeria is expected to be a game-changer for MTN, which is targeting a 20% share of company revenue for fintech in the next five years.

The quarterly update included specifics on the performance of MoMo, hitting 51.1-million customers by end-September, with transaction values up 67.2% year on year. However, South Africans make up just 7% of registered users (3.9-million).

SA has a booming fintech industry, with some global leaders counting the country as their birthplace or headquarters; such as Jumo, which just landed \$120m (R1.8bn) in new funding for its consumer- and enterprise-facing financial products. They are valued at about \$400m. MTN's mobile money unit has an estimated worth of \$5bn, and M-Pesa is worth about \$7.5bn.

Despite this, it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that mobile money is an exciting and fast-moving part of fintech because we have not had the huge consumer uptake of mobile money that other African countries have enjoyed. Half of the world's mobile money users are African, but still SA bucks the trend.

Ours is a challenge of being underbanked, rather than unbanked — with about 80% of the population having at least a bank account. By comparison, something like one in 10 Tanzanians had a bank account when M-Pesa launched there.

M-Pesa, rather than banks or governments, is credited with the huge growth in access to financial services in countries such as Kenya and Tanzania in the past decade.

Comparatively, most of the telcos and mobile money operators have tried their hands at a launch locally only to shuffle out quietly within a handful of years. Finding the right mix of services to get a sufficient user base seems to be the problem. The latest attempt to crack that nut is the so-called super app, such as Nedbank's Avo and Vodacom's VodaPay, which bring together shopping, entertainment and financial services into a single shiny and ambitious app.

With voice revenue declining and data becoming slowly but surely cheaper around the world, telcos are looking elsewhere for cash and growth.

Naturally, there is still money in data volume, but I imagine the downward pressure on data prices means they are looking at data as a means now, rather than an end in itself — asking how they can make money on what is enabled by that increased connectivity. And this will include all the lovely services and platforms, and chiefly everything fintech.

Thompson Davy, a freelance journalist, is an impactAFRICA fellow and WanaData member.

Red wave: Financial services now make up the largest portion of Vodacom's 'new services revenue' — and it wants more. File

Document MEWBUD002021117ehbh0002t

Companies

Vodacom adds 6.2-million customers

Mudiwa Gavazaand Andries Mahlangu

755 words

16 November 2021

Business Day

MEWBUD

Business Day

9

English

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CEO Shameel Joosub says the company has set itself the big goal of growing its fintech base to 73-million accounts by the 2024 financial year. Mudiwa Gavazaand Andries Mahlangu: Vodacom is aiming to extend its place as Africa's largest financial technology operator by growing its customer base by about 30% in the next two years, likely looking to offset a slowdown in traditional lines of business as people move towards pre-lockdown modes of living and working.

SA's telecoms giants have been eyeing mobile **payments** and digital financial services, collectively known as fintech, in Africa as an immense untapped market.

Vodacom said in September that M-Pesa, which it runs with Kenya's Safaricom, has reached 50-million monthly active customers for the first time. That number has since grown to about 57-million.

Shameel Joosub, Vodacom's CEO, told Business Day the company is looking to grow this base to 73-million customers by the 2024 financial year.

Fintech now accounts for 13% of Vodacom's revenue.

Without giving too much away on its fintech revenue projections, Joosub said: "We want 25% to 30% of revenues to come from new services by financial year 2026."

New services refers to areas like fintech and the Internet of Things, he said.

Competitor MTN is more upfront about its fintech earnings ambition, aiming to make a fifth of its revenues from the segment in the next five years.

"We currently have 57.3-million customers. By financial year 2024, we want to make sure we've hit 73-million customers. So we're setting ourselves a big goal," said Joosub.

The group, which is looking to deepen its footprint in the potentially lucrative financial services in Africa, added 6.2-million subscribers in the six months to end-September, taking the total to 129.9-million.

With declining revenue from voice calls, and data becoming cheaper, Vodacom and MTN have been exploring alternative revenue streams on the continent to supplement traditional business lines.

In releasing its first-half results, Vodacom said on Monday that its mobile money platform M-Pesa, including Safaricom, processed \$301.9bn (R4.62-trillion) over the past 12 months, with transaction value up 31.2% in the second quarter.

"Vodacom Group's decision to diversify our geographic exposure continues to pay dividends. Our strategic investment in Kenya's Safaricom in 2017 has proven to be value accretive, generating an annual total shareholder return of 26%," Joosub said.

Over the past week, Vodacom agreed to buy a controlling stake in the Egyptian unit of parent Vodafone for \$2.73bn (about R41bn). SA's largest mobile operator will leverage its financial services platform to tap into 80% of Egypt's 100-million population that are unbanked.

Headline earnings per share (Heps) dropped 5% to R5.05, affected by a one-off deferred tax rate adjustment in the prior period. Stripping out the deferred tax rate adjustment rate of R805m, Heps grew 3%.

Group revenue was up 4.2% to R49.9bn while service revenue edged up 1% to R38.91bn. An interim dividend of R4.20 per share was declared, up 1.2% year on year.

Vodacom was up in early trade on the JSE, but closed 1.28% lower at R138.32, giving it a market valuation of about R253.9bn.

Peter Takaendesa, head of equities at Mergence Investment Managers, said the reception to Vodacom's numbers were a bit below market expectations.

"Overall, it looks like the market's reaction is negative, which is reasonable. Had it not been for Vodacom coming out and announcing those new potential projects, I think the shares might have been down even more today."

Mobile operators were one of the obvious winners of the lockdown period as people demanded more voice and data services, when working and learning shifted to homes and remote locations. But as the economy opens up, some of this traffic is going back to offices and enterprise service providers. Though revenues are still growing, this is at a slower rate than seen last year.

Like MTN and Telkom, Vodacom has not escaped this fate.

Even then, Kayaletu Nodada, an analyst at Old Mutual Investment Group, said the stock is still a good pick for those looking for steady returns.

"The acquisitions announced last week enhance the growth profile of Vodacom going forward. The company remains a high return business and a strong dividend payer with geographically diverse income streams," he said.

Document MEWBUD002021116ehbg0000b

S. Africa: Vodacom Group eyes 30% stake in CIVH

Ecofin Agency

324 words

16 November 2021

18:56

Ecofin Agency

ECOFI

English

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The African arm of British Vodafone -Vodacom- unveiled plans to acquire 30% stake in Community **Investment** Ventures Holdings (CIVH). The latter is an **investment** company and subsidiary of Remgro Limited which manages Dark Fiber Africa (DFA) and Vumatel, both specialized in the construction and operation of optical fiber networks in South Africa.

According to available information, once the investor obtained all regulatory approvals, the deal will result in the creation of a new telecom **infrastructure** operator (InfraCo) that will then own the fiber assets of Dark Fibre Africa and Vumatel in addition to some of Vodacom Group's current assets

Vodacom says it will pay R6 billion (\$390.9 million) in cash and R4.2 billion worth of its fiber-to-the-home, and fiber-to-the-company infrastructure. The company also has the option to buy an additional 10% stake in the new InfraCo. Shameel Joosub, president and CEO of Vodacom Group, explained that the agreement with CIVH "aligns with Vodacom Group's strategy to build high quality and resilient fixed and mobile networks with and through selected strategic partnerships across the African continent. It also supports Vodacom's purpose-driven plan to assist the government in rebuilding the economy post-Covid".

Earlier this year, Vodacom Group launched the Africa.connected campaign across the eight markets it operates on the continent. The goal is to capitalize on the company's existing investments in bridging the digital divide and ensuring that more people in Africa have the opportunity to enjoy a digital society. The new telecom infrastructure operator will boost the two partners' nationwide optical fiber deployment program and help narrow "the digital divide by enabling affordable access to connectivity in some of the most vulnerable parts of our society," according to Raymond Ndlovu, CIVH's CEO. Ultimately, this will translate into much-needed inclusive economic growth, he believes.

Muriel Edjo

[Click to view image](#)

Document ECOFI00020211117ehbg00001

Business

Vodacom adds 6.2 million customers in last half-year

Dineo Faku

537 words

16 November 2021

The Star

THESTR

5

English

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VODACOM said yesterday that it had added 6.2 million customers during the half year ended September to service 129.9 million, and unveiled plans to invest more than R10.5 billion in capital expenditure into South Africa's network in the current financial year amid growing demand for **connectivity**.

Chief executive Shameel Joosub said the capex injection into South Africa's network was on top of the R47bn the company had spent over the past five years. Joosub said the capex was particularly relevant at a time when many customers continued to work, entertain and educate from home.

"A lot of the capex will be spent on towers and making sure that our network is resilient, specifically because of all the outages. Let me give you an example: last year we spent R1bn on batteries. So where we spend the money is on network capacity," said Joosub.

Earlier this month rival MTN announced R31.1bn in capex guidance for this year, saying spending was driven by accelerated rollout in MTN SA and MTN Nigeria to "capture growth opportunities from explosive data traffic that we are experiencing".

Vodacom, a Vodafone subsidiary, said in South Africa it added 1.1 million data customers during the period under review with service revenue growing by 3.6 percent to R28.6bn on the back of strong connectivity demand. "This was an impressive result given the demanding comparative associated with lockdowns in the prior period," Joosub said.

The group generated revenue of R49.9bn, up by 4.2 percent compared to a year ago. Its dividend per share was 420 cents, up 1.2 percent compared with a year earlier, while headline earnings per share declined 5.1 percent.

The group's financial services offering continued going strong with M-Pesa platform, the money transfer service, processing more than \$300bn (R4.6 trillion) of transaction valuation since last year.

"Financial services is a clear strategic differentiator for the group and is integral to our purpose-led business model. Our M-Pesa platform, including Safaricom on a 100 percent basis, processed \$26.8bn of transaction value per month in the second quarter, up 31.2 percent.

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dineo.faku@inl.co.za

Document THESTR0020211115ehbg0000h

Business

Vodacom adds 6.2 million customers in last half-year

Dineo Faku

537 words

16 November 2021

The Mercury

MERCURY

9

English

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VODACOM said yesterday that it had added 6.2 million customers during the half year ended September to service 129.9 million, and unveiled plans to invest more than R10.5 billion in capital expenditure into South Africa's network in the current financial year amid growing demand for **connectivity**.

Chief executive Shameel Joosub said the capex injection into South Africa's network was on top of the R47bn the company had spent over the past five years. Joosub said the capex was particularly relevant at a time when many customers continued to work, entertain and educate from home.

"A lot of the capex will be spent on towers and making sure that our network is resilient, specifically because of all the outages. Let me give you an example: last year we spent R1bn on batteries. So where we spend the money is on network capacity," said Joosub.

Earlier this month rival MTN announced R31.1bn in capex guidance for this year, saying spending was driven by accelerated rollout in MTN SA and MTN Nigeria to "capture growth opportunities from explosive data traffic that we are experiencing".

Vodacom, a Vodafone subsidiary, said in South Africa it added 1.1 million data customers during the period under review with service revenue growing by 3.6 percent to R28.6bn on the back of strong connectivity demand. "This was an impressive result given the demanding comparative associated with lockdowns in the prior period," Joosub said.

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Pretoria News

PRETNW

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Corporate Financing Week
Industry Trend Analysis - Quick View: Deteriorating Security Environment A Risk To Safaricom's Ethiopian Investment

845 words

15 November 2021

Corporate Financing Week

CFWK

English

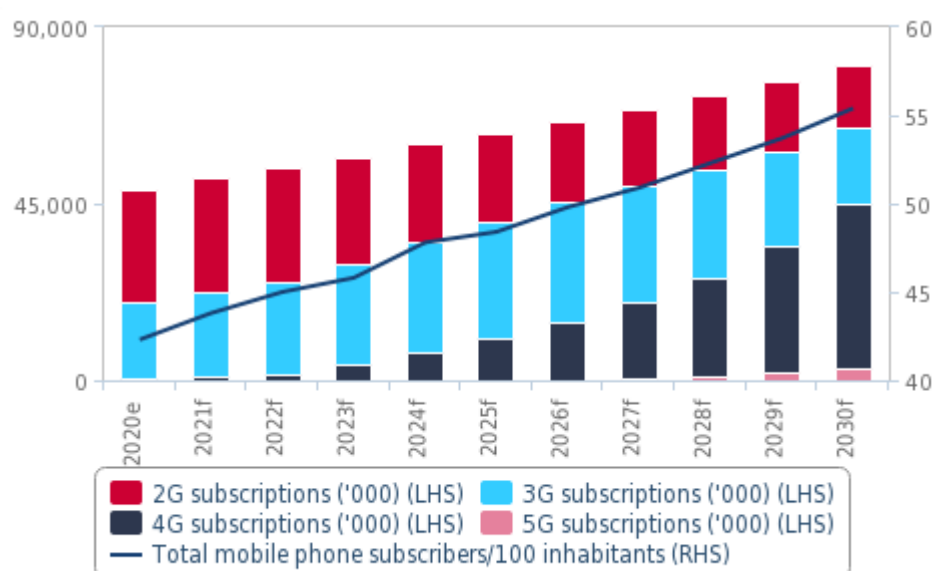
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The Latest: Kenya-based Safaricom has announced an initial USD600mn **investment** in the Ethiopian mobile market, of which the operator is a majority shareholder in the new consortium, Global **Partnership** for Ethiopia (GPE). GPE was selected by the Ethiopian government as the country's first alternative telecoms player: other shareholders include Vodafone Group, Vodacom Group, CDC Group and Sumitomo Corporation.

According to news reports, Safaricom's USD600mn **investment** is the operator's contribution to the consortium's agreement to pay USD850mn in initial start-up costs. Safaricom has stated that it expects to invest between USD1.5-2bn over the next five years, and GPE itself has pledged USD10bn in investments over the next 10 years.

Implications: Ethiopia's telecoms market presents a wealth of opportunity for new players: regulatory data at the end of June 2021 indicated a mobile penetration rate of 47.7%, with adoption of mobile services significantly hampered by a lack of competition in the market. Furthermore, Ethiopia's location on the Horn of Africa makes it a hub for international trade and investment, making ownership of communications infrastructure a lucrative opportunity for players looking beyond the traditional mass-market mobile services model.

Plenty Of Organic Growth Left In Market
 Ethiopia - Mobile Market Trends, 2020-2030



e/f = Fitch Solutions estimate/forecast. Source: Operators, Regulator, Fitch Solutions

Nevertheless, Ethiopia's mobile market is incredibly challenging and holds considerable downside risks to investment.

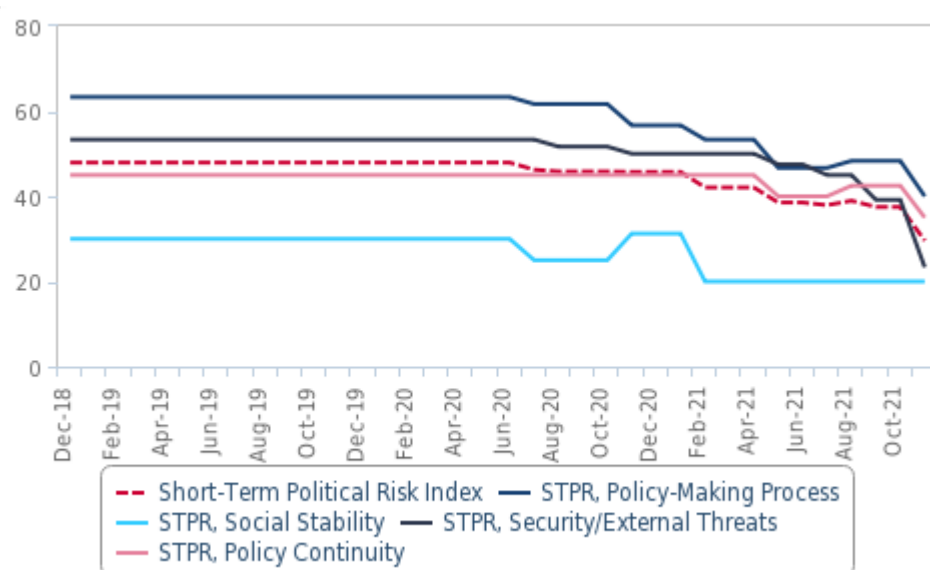
Whilst the allocation of the country's first alternative mobile operating licence to GPE and the availability of a second are positive developments, they are only the first step in the long-awaited liberalisation of the telecoms market, and a rather limited one. As of November 2021, the second mobile operating licence was still available, having received limited interest from prospective investors.

Among the bidders was pan-African giant MTN, whose offer of USD600mn was rejected by the government as it was considerably less than the GPE consortium's outlay. MTN stated its reluctance to improve its bid given that the licence does not include provision of mobile financial services (MFS), a key subscriber and revenue growth driver for the operator in other markets. We believe the lack of an MFS licence to be the primary deterrent to bids from other large regional players like Orange, whose own MFS offering forms an integral part of its overall business and yields greater returns than the traditional voice and data service. That said, local sources indicate that Ethiopia's Communications Authority (ECA) is considering adding an MFS licence within the second concession in a bid to make it more attractive, although no formal statements to this effect were forthcoming.

Moreover, Ethiopia's level of infrastructure availability is relatively minimal and as a result will involve a considerable level of greenfield investment and capital commitment. Exacerbating this is the state's ban on independent tower companies, forcing new entrants to either build out their own infrastructure networks or lease vertical space on incumbent Ethiotel's rather limited network.

Lastly, Ethiopia's current political situation will remain a primary downside risk to returns on investment, particularly in the near-term. At the time of writing, Ethiopia's Civil War has reached a key inflection point after rebel forces seized strategic towns in the southern Amhara region and threatened to march on the capital, Addis Ababa. In response, the government has declared a nationwide State of Emergency and has urged citizens to take up arms against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). As a result, our Country Risk team has revised down Ethiopia's Short-Term Political Risk Index score from 37.5 out of 100, to 29.6 (higher scores imply a lower level of risk). The increased likelihood that fighting could reach the capital and force a change of regime means that there is a very real probability that this score will depreciate further.

Uncertainty In Ethiopia Amid Deteriorating Security Situation
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Note: Scores out of 100; higher score = lower risk. Source: Fitch Solutions

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the second mobile licence. Furthermore, local reports reveal that Safaricom has evacuated its employees from the country amid the escalation in violence.

When we revise our Telecommunications Risk/Reward Index scores at the end of the quarter, we expect to make downward revisions to Ethiopia's Industry Risks score, reflecting the continued heavy state presence in the sector and lack of progress made by the regulator to liberalise the sector. At the time of writing, Ethiopia's Industry Risk score already sits at 36.4 out of a potential 100, below the regional average of 46.6.

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15 November 2021

Emerging Markets Monitor

EMDN

English

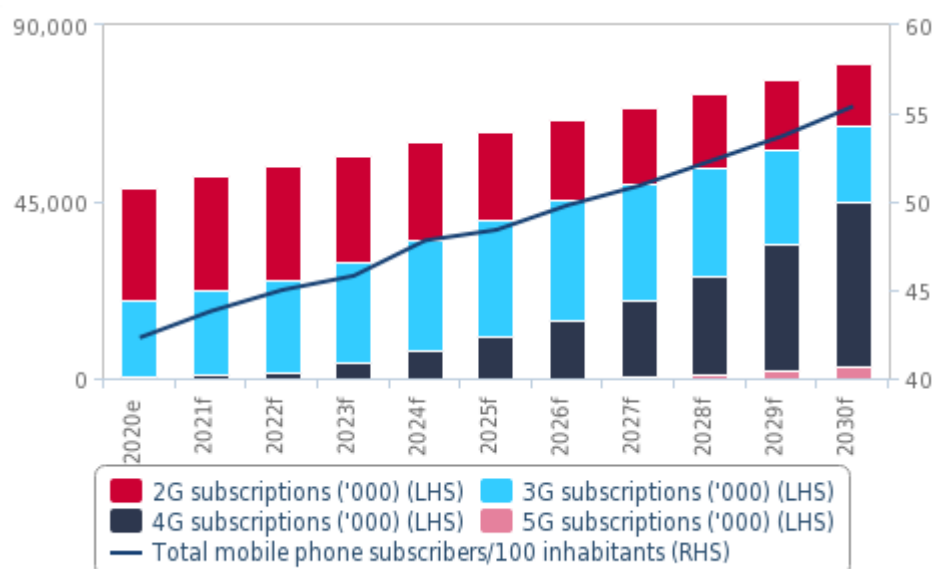
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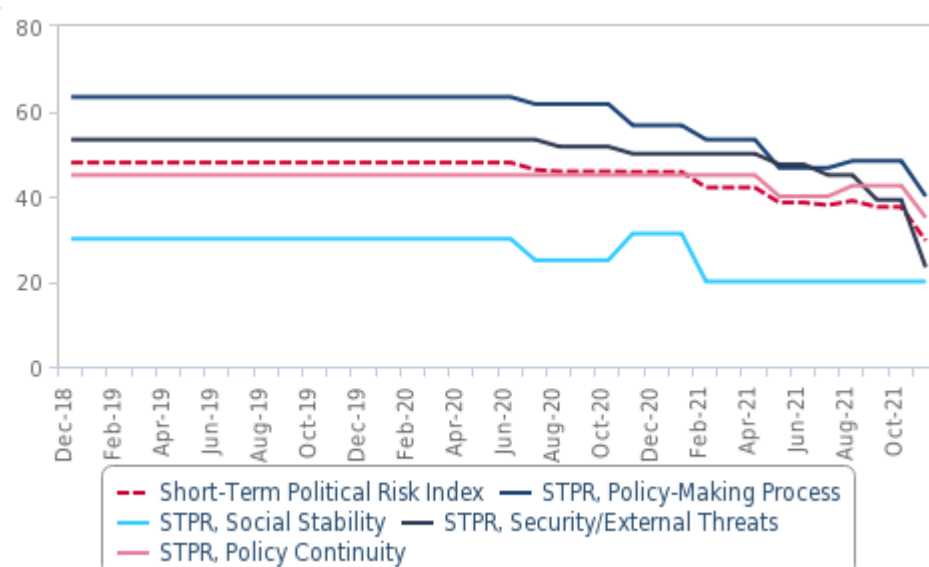
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Document EMDN000020220105ehbf001h0



Vodacom Group to Acquire Fibre Assets from Community **Investment** Ventures Holdings

219 words

15 November 2021

MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker

FDTRA

English

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Deal In Brief

Vodacom Group Ltd, a provider of communications services, has agreed to acquire fibre assets from Community **Investment** Ventures Holdings Pty Ltd, an **investment** holding company. Both the companies are based in South Africa. As part of the transaction, Vodacom Group intends to create InfraCo company and will hold a co-controlling 30% equity interest into which all of the material assets currently owned by Dark Fibre Africa and Vumatel will be transferred in addition to certain Vodacom owned fibre assets. In addition, Vodacom will pay for the transaction through a combination of ZAR6 billion cash and the contribution of its fibre-to-the-home, fibre-to-the-business and business-to-business transmission access fibre network **infrastructure** to the InfraCo, at a valuation of ZAR4.2 billion, in return for new shares in InfraCo.

Deal Type	Acquisition
Sub-Category	Asset Purchase
Deal Status	Announced: 2021-11-10

Deal Participants

Acquirer (Company)	
Vodacom Group Limited	
Vendor (Company)	Community Investment Ventures Holdings Pty Ltd.

Deal Rationale

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Document FDTRA00020211116ehbf0000m

Vodacom South Africa service revenue up 3.6% in H1

351 words

15 November 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa's service revenue grew 3.6 percent to ZAR 28.6 billion in the six months to 30 September, supported by continued demand for **connectivity**, incremental wholesale revenue and growth in new services, the operator said. The reported growth rate was negatively impacted by a ZAR 142 million non-cash contribution to service revenue in the prior period related to a loyalty programme provision.

Adjusting for this one-off, underlying service revenue growth was 4.1 percent. New services such as financial and digital services, fixed and IoT delivered strong growth in the period, contributing ZAR 4.0 billion of South Africa's service revenue, Vodacom said.

Mobile contract customer revenue also increased by 4.0 percent to ZAR 10.6 billion, led by Vodacom Business. Vodacom added 140,502 contract customers in the half year, mainly in Vodacom Business, and increased ARPU by 1.4 percent.

Prepaid revenue was up 0.8 percent on an adjusted basis in Q2, better than the 0.1 percent fall in Q1 thanks to improving ARPU trends following price adjustments. The operator added 1.2 million prepaid customers in Q2, and the total prepaid base was up 6.5 percent year-on-year.

Data traffic increased 13.1 percent in the period and accelerated to 17.9 percent growth in the second quarter. Vodacom added 1.1 million data customers in the period, reaching 22.8 million at the end of September, up 2.4 percent from a year earlier. 4G devices increased by 21.5 percent to 17.2 million.

EBITDA increased by 3.7 percent to ZAR 15.86 billion in the six months, while capital investment of ZAR 5.58 billion was up 11.1 percent year-on-year. Vodacom said it accelerated investment to take advantage of the strong rand's purchasing power. Vodacom's investment focused on network capacity and modernisation and enhancing IT platforms. The expected capital expenditure of around ZAR 10.5 billion for the financial year means lower spending in the second half.

Document TELAFR0020211115ehbf00001

Vodacom South Africa gives 70% discounts for Black Friday deals

277 words

12 November 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom South Africa is offering Black Friday deals with up to 70 percent discounts throughout November. The deals will be available every Friday during the month, on an array of Vodacom products, such as laptops, cell-phones, wearables, routers, TV sets and monthly contracts.

Customers can visit stores or online between the 12 and 15 November to get a 70 percents discount on the 600 GB SIM Only Data deal (300GB anytime+300GB Night Owl) at ZAR 299 per month over 24 months. Customers will be able to save ZAR 2,400 per month by taking up this month's offer on the Red VIP 30GB plan or RED VIP 100GB plan with a double-your-anytime-data benefit over 24 months. Customers can invest in the Samsung Galaxy Tab S7 bundled with 10GB of data (5GB anytime+5GB night owl) for ZAR 649 over 24 months. For **gaming** enthusiasts, there is the Xbox Series S from ZAR 279 per month over 24 months.

Vodacom will also have exclusive online and in-store deals available for customers who upgrade or sign up for new contracts. For instance, the Red Flexi 175 plan will now be available at ZAR 129 from 149 per month over the 24-month contract period. For customers who have already downloaded the newly launched VodaPay app, there will be limited stock deals over the Black Friday period, such as 1 GB for ZAR 1. Plus, there will also be up to 70 percent off the already discounted Just4You bundles. VodaPay is network-agnostic, meaning customers from any mobile network can use it.

Document TELAFR0020211112ehbc000b6

BDPage1

Vodacom, Remgro join forces for 5G

Mudiwa Gavaza and Karl Gernetzky

784 words

11 November 2021

Business Day

MEWBUD

Business Day

1

English

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Fibre assets will be combined to create a new entity that 'will enable wider internet access' Vodacom, Remgro to combine fibre assets to prepare for 5G future

Mudiwa Gavaza and Karl GernetzkyJohann Rupert's **investment** holding company, Remgro, and Vodacom have signed a multibillion-rand deal to combine their fibre businesses, emphasising the growing importance and strategic value of fibre assets in a future of 5G.

In recent years, fibre assets have grown in significance. At the turn of the century and in the 2010s, the arms race was about which operator had the most cellphone towers. Now the next frontier is fibre. Telecom companies continue to report growing data revenues and internet use on their networks, driving up the need for a solid fibre infrastructure base.

Vodacom CEO Shameel Joosub said the tie-up helps to prepare the company for 5G, the new generation of communications technology, which requires many more towers and base stations to be built, all connected by fibre.

"As we move into a 5G world, the rollout of DFA and Vumatel will help us to optimise our costs from sharing, especially in areas like fibre to the base station," he said during a media briefing on Wednesday.

Under the deal, Community Investment Ventures Holdings (CIVH), whose biggest shareholder is Remgro with 57%, will transfer its fibre assets Dark Fibre Africa (DFA) and Vumatel into a newly created entity, Infraco. Vodacom will inject at least R9bn into the new entity and transfer its fibre business, valued at R4.2bn, into Infraco in exchange for a 30% stake.

Vodacom also has an option, which is exercisable for 180 days after implementation of the transaction, to buy an additional 10% stake in Infraco to increase its shareholding to 40% at the same implied valuation.

The R13.2bn deal values CIVH at about R44bn, almost twice the size of Telkom, which runs SA's biggest fibre network as well as other businesses that include a fast-growing mobile phone business, IT company and mast and towers businesses.

It also propels Vodacom, SA's largest mobile operator, to the top echelon of the SA fibre network industry, which is enjoying growing demand from consumers increasingly looking for entertainment and education online, while some remote-working habits picked during the pandemic lockdowns have made a reliable internet connection a must-have.

Combining the operations of Vumatel, DFA and the Vodacom fibre assets will enable wider access to the internet and create more compelling fibre propositions, Remgro said, adding that the new capital will allow for market expansion, particularly for lower- and middle-income product offerings.

"CIVH constitutes one of Remgro's main growth assets," said Pieter Uys, chair of CIVH, which also counts private equity outfit Harith General Partners as one of its investors.

"To date, it has exceeded all expectations and we are confident that Vodacom, as a new strategic partner, will be instrumental in achieving CIVH's goal of democratising the internet, becoming SA's premier open access wholesale transmission network, serving and improving the quality of lives in SA."

DFA is an open-access fibre infrastructure and connectivity provider in SA, with more than 13,200km of fibre assets. It owns fibre networks in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Midrand, Centurion and Pretoria, as well as in 25 smaller municipalities.

Vumatel is an open-access fibre provider at the last-mile level — which refers to the final stage of delivery of a service — and has more than 27,500km of fibre assets.

David Lerche, head of equities at Sanlam Private Wealth, said "in the fibre business scale is vital, so the deal to add Vodacom's own fibre-optic assets to those of DFA and Vumatel should create some positive synergies".

EXTRA CAPACITY

Lerche continued: "As mobile data volumes grow in SA, consumers may not realise that this requires extra fibreoptic backhaul capacity from the base stations, so Vodacom is not only investing in fixed-line capability, but also in backhaul capacity for its mobile network."

Vodacom announced separately on Wednesday that it has agreed to buy a controlling stake in Vodafone Egypt for about R41bn, funded largely through new shares — about 13% of what it has in issue.

Vodacom shares jumped on all the news, sending the stock up more than 7%. However, much of that advance was trimmed back, with Vodacom's shares ending the trading session 2.87% higher at R140.86, while Remgro was down 0.052% at R134.64.

R9bn

how much Vodacom will inject into the new entity

R4.2bn

the value of Vodacom's fibre business to be transferred into Infraco

Picture: 123RF/ALPHASPIRIT

Document MEWBUD002021111ehbb0000e

News

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Business Day

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Fibre assets will be combined to create a new entity that 'will enable wider internet access' Vodacom, Remgro to combine fibre assets to prepare for 5G future

Mudiwa Gavaza and Karl GernetzkyJohann Rupert's **investment** holding company, Remgro, and Vodacom have signed a multibillion-rand deal to combine their fibre businesses, emphasising the growing importance and strategic value of fibre assets in a future of 5G.

In recent years, fibre assets have grown in significance. At the turn of the century and in the 2010s, the arms race was about which operator had the most cellphone towers. Now the next frontier is fibre. Telecom companies continue to report growing data revenues and internet use on their networks, driving up the need for a solid fibre infrastructure base.

Vodacom CEO Shameel Joosub said the tie-up helps to prepare the company for 5G, the new generation of communications technology, which requires many more towers and base stations to be built, all connected by fibre.

"As we move into a 5G world, the rollout of DFA and Vumatel will help us to optimise our costs from sharing, especially in areas like fibre to the base station," he said during a media briefing on Wednesday.

Under the deal, Community Investment Ventures Holdings (CIVH), whose biggest shareholder is Remgro with 57%, will transfer its fibre assets Dark Fibre Africa (DFA) and Vumatel into a newly created entity, Infraco. Vodacom will inject at least R9bn into the new entity and transfer its fibre business, valued at R4.2bn, into Infraco in exchange for a 30% stake.

Vodacom also has an option, which is exercisable for 180 days after implementation of the transaction, to buy an additional 10% stake in Infraco to increase its shareholding to 40% at the same implied valuation.

The R13.2bn deal values CIVH at about R44bn, almost twice the size of Telkom, which runs SA's biggest fibre network as well as other businesses that include a fast-growing mobile phone business, IT company and mast and towers businesses.

It also propels Vodacom, SA's largest mobile operator, to the top echelon of the SA fibre network industry, which is enjoying growing demand from consumers increasingly looking for entertainment and education online, while some remote-working habits picked during the pandemic lockdowns have made a reliable internet connection a must-have.

Combining the operations of Vumatel, DFA and the Vodacom fibre assets will enable wider access to the internet and create more compelling fibre propositions, Remgro said, adding that the new capital will allow for market expansion, particularly for lower- and middle-income product offerings.

"CIVH constitutes one of Remgro's main growth assets," said Pieter Uys, chair of CIVH, which also counts private equity outfit Harith General Partners as one of its investors.

"To date, it has exceeded all expectations and we are confident that Vodacom, as a new strategic partner, will be instrumental in achieving CIVH's goal of democratising the internet, becoming SA's premier open access wholesale transmission network, serving and improving the quality of lives in SA."

DFA is an open-access fibre infrastructure and connectivity provider in SA, with more than 13,200km of fibre assets. It owns fibre networks in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Midrand, Centurion and Pretoria, as well as in 25 smaller municipalities.

Vumatel is an open-access fibre provider at the last-mile level — which refers to the final stage of delivery of a service — and has more than 27,500km of fibre assets.

David Lerche, head of equities at Sanlam Private Wealth, said "in the fibre business scale is vital, so the deal to add Vodacom's own fibre-optic assets to those of DFA and Vumatel should create some positive synergies".

EXTRA CAPACITY

Lerche continued: "As mobile data volumes grow in SA, consumers may not realise that this requires extra fibreoptic backhaul capacity from the base stations, so Vodacom is not only investing in fixed-line capability, but also in backhaul capacity for its mobile network."

Vodacom announced separately on Wednesday that it has agreed to buy a controlling stake in Vodafone Egypt for about R41bn, funded largely through new shares — about 13% of what it has in issue.

Vodacom shares jumped on all the news, sending the stock up more than 7%. However, much of that advance was trimmed back, with Vodacom's shares ending the trading session 2.87% higher at R140.86, while Remgro was down 0.052% at R134.64.

R9bn

how much Vodacom will inject into the new entity

R4.2bn

the value of Vodacom's fibre business to be transferred into Infraco

Picture: 123RF/ALPHASPIRIT

Document MEWBUD0020211112ehbb00001

Vodafone oks transferring its 55% stake in Vodafone Egypt

313 words

11 November 2021

Arab Finance

ARFIN

English

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ArabFinance: Vodafone Group approved transferring its 55% shareholding in Vodafone Egypt to Vodacom Group Limited ("Vodacom"), its sub-Saharan African subsidiary, the company said in a statement.

According to the company, this transfer simplifies the management of Vodafone's African holdings and further strengthens the delivery of **connectivity** and financial services in Africa.

The EUR 2.72 billion transaction is expected to generate clear benefits for Vodafone, Vodacom and Vodafone Egypt.

The South Africa-based telecommunications company said it intends to settle 80% of the transaction by issuing new shares, with the remaining 20% settled in cash.

As a result, Vodafone's ownership in Vodacom will increase from 60.5% to 65.1%.

The remaining 20% of the Purchase Consideration EUR 473 million will be settled in cash.

Under the terms of the sale and purchase agreement, the cash element of the Purchase Consideration will be adjusted for any movement in the net debt and agreed working capital of Vodafone Egypt between signing and closing.

As such, Vodafone will be entitled to its 55% share of the cash generated by Vodafone Egypt between signing and closing.

On June 7th, 2021, Telecom Egypt and Vodafone Group signed a modified shareholders' agreement, which grants the Egyptian telecom company further rights and benefits and allows Vodafone Group to transfer its shareholding in Vodafone Egypt within the group.

Under this agreement, Telecom Egypt has the right to buy Vodafone Group's stake in Vodafone Egypt through the right of first refusal (RoFR), along with information rights to ensure visibility for the company on its investment in Vodafone Egypt.

Cairo-based Telecom Egypt is a joint-stock company, which operates in the sectors of communications, marine cables, infrastructure, internet services, and outsourcing services. It offers a range of fixed-line and retail telecommunications services, as well as wholesale telecommunications services.

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Vodacom Tanzania launches after-sales service for phones

73 words

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Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Vodacom Tanzania has announced a **partnership** with Caricare, the service arm of Tecno, Infinix and Itel branded phones, to provide after-sales service for smartphones at selected Vodashops. This year, Vodacom has recorded a 7 percent increase in smartphone users to 3.7 million. Customers will be able to drop off **devices** that need to be repaired, swapped, have their software upgraded, or have their warranty checked.

Document TELAFR0020211111ehbb0005m

Safaricom still plans to launch operations in Ethiopia in mid-2022 despite unrest

237 words

11 November 2021

Telecompaper Africa

TELAFR

English

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Kenyan operator Safaricom is confident of its plans to launch commercial operations in Ethiopia in June 2022, amid unrest there. CEO Peter Ndegwa told a virtual investor briefing that the company is forecasting capital expenditure of between USD 1.5 billion and USD 2.0 billion over the first five years in order to meet its licence coverage obligations. Ndegwa said together with partners, Safaricom has obtained **funding** to support Safaricom Telecommunications Ethiopia, which they expect to break even by year four of operation..

Safaricom Telecommunications Ethiopia was set up in early July after the consortium led by Safaricom was awarded the licence to operate telecommunication services in Ethiopia. The Global **Partnership** for Ethiopia consortium brings together Vodacom Group, Vodafone Group, Sumitomo Corporation and CDC Group. Ndegwa noted that Safaricom is closely following developments in Ethiopia as it gears up to begin its operations.

The company announced its target in its H1 FY22 results and remains upbeat about the Ethiopian market, although conflict could delay plans to begin operations by mid-2022, according to its licence. Ndegwa said they look forward to launching commercial operations as projected, while cognisant of the current evolving political conflict in Ethiopia. They will proceed with plans, adapting to and assessing the situation as it evolves. Despite the setback, Ethiopia represents a clear opportunity for Safaricom to expand, he said.

Document TELAFR0020211111ehbb00001

Features

Vodacom's Egypt deal

87 words

11 November 2021

The Times

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1; Ulster

50

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Dineo Faku dineo.faku@inl.co.za

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The Mercury

MERCURY

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CIVH operates electronic communications infrastructure through its subsidiaries Vumatel, South Africa's leading fibre network provider, and Dark Fibre Africa (DFA), which operates a national metro fibre network spanning 13 000km.

Vodacom told investors it would hold a co-controlling 30 percent equity interest in a newly formed InfraCo entity into which all of the material assets currently owned by DFA and Vumatel would be transferred in addition to certain Vodacom-owned fibre assets.

The telecommunications company said it had an option to acquire an additional 10 percent stake in InfraCo to 40 percent.

Vodacom said it would pay for the transaction through a combination of R6 billion cash and the contribution of its fibre-to-the-home, fibre-to-the-business and business-to-business transmission access fibre network infrastructure to the InfraCo, at a valuation of R4.2bn, in return for new shares in InfraCo.

The transaction would enhance and scale Vodacom's fixed offerings across both the consumer and business segments and leverage a shared cost model to accelerate the provision of open-access infrastructure in South Africa.

It said ultimately, the consumer would benefit from the fresh capital injection and shared cost approach as it will significantly scale up the fibre reach of InfraCo's various fibre brands, including smaller towns.

Vodacom chief executive Shameel Joosub said: "Our agreement with CIVH aligns with Vodacom Group's strategy to build high quality and resilient fixed and mobile networks with and through selected strategic partnerships across the African continent. It also supports Vodacom's purpose-driven plan to assist the government in rebuilding the economy post-Covid."

CIVH Group chief executive Raymond Ndlovu said: "This milestone investment will boost our ambitious fibre roll-out programme across the country and assist in narrowing the digital divide by enabling affordable access to connectivity in some of the most vulnerable parts of our society. Ultimately, it will result in much-needed inclusive economic growth."

Commenting on the transaction, Ofentse Dazela, director for pricing research at Africa Analysis, said CIVH shot to prominence in the ICT space a few years when they acquired controlling stake in Vumatel, which is currently the largest fibre network operator (FNO) in the local market in terms of the number of houses it has covered with its fibre network. The company also owns DFA, the largest dark fibre (unlit fibre) provider in SA.

"The combined fibre assets of DFA, Vodacom and Vumatel will see the newly envisaged entity (InfraCo) emerging as one of the formidable FNOs in the country, especially when considering that Vumatel is already a leader in the FTTH infrastructure market.

Openserve, which was previously a leader in terms of fibre deployments, will remain in a distance second position," said Dazela.

Dazela said the move would effectively consolidate CIVH's dominance in the fibre infrastructure market. "Thus, it remains to be seen whether this deal will be approved by regulatory authorities considering all the heavyweights at play here," he said.

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Dineo Faku

660 words

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The transaction is expected to close before March 31, 2022, and is subject to a number of conditions, including Financial Surveillance Department of the South African Reserve Bank and approval from the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt.

Vodafone said Vodacom had received an in-principle letter of support to vote in favour of the proposed transaction from Public Investment Corporation (PIC), which owns 14.3 percent of the Vodacom shares in issue and 36.1 percent of the Vodacom shares in issue outside those held by Vodafone as at the date of their letter.

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Business

Vodacom and Remgro in multibillion-rand fibre deal

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9

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SOUTH Africa's biggest mobile operator Vodacom and **investment** holding company Remgro are combining their fibre businesses in a boost for the local network.

Vodacom said yesterday that it would acquire a strategic stake in Community **Investment** Ventures Holdings' (CIVH) fibre assets, which is 57 percent owned by Remgro.

CIVH operates electronic communications infrastructure through its subsidiaries Vumatel, South Africa's leading fibre network provider, and Dark Fibre Africa (DFA), which operates a national metro fibre network spanning 13 000km.

Vodacom told investors it would hold a co-controlling 30 percent equity interest in a newly formed InfraCo entity into which all of the material assets currently owned by DFA and Vumatel would be transferred in addition to certain Vodacom-owned fibre assets.

The telecommunications company said it had an option to acquire an additional 10 percent stake in InfraCo to 40 percent.

Vodacom said it would pay for the transaction through a combination of R6 billion cash and the contribution of its fibre-to-the-home, fibre-to-the-business and business-to-business transmission access fibre network infrastructure to the InfraCo, at a valuation of R4.2bn, in return for new shares in InfraCo.

The transaction would enhance and scale Vodacom's fixed offerings across both the consumer and business segments and leverage a shared cost model to accelerate the provision of open-access infrastructure in South Africa.

It said ultimately, the consumer would benefit from the fresh capital injection and shared cost approach as it will significantly scale up the fibre reach of InfraCo's various fibre brands, including smaller towns.

Vodacom chief executive Shameel Joosub said: "Our agreement with CIVH aligns with Vodacom Group's strategy to build high quality and resilient fixed and mobile networks with and through selected strategic partnerships across the African continent. It also supports Vodacom's purpose-driven plan to assist the government in rebuilding the economy post-Covid."

CIVH Group chief executive Raymond Ndlovu said: "This milestone investment will boost our ambitious fibre roll-out programme across the country and assist in narrowing the digital divide by enabling affordable access to connectivity in some of the most vulnerable parts of our society. Ultimately, it will result in much-needed inclusive economic growth."

Commenting on the transaction, Ofentse Dazela, director for pricing research at Africa Analysis, said CIVH shot to prominence in the ICT space a few years when they acquired controlling stake in Vumatel, which is currently the largest fibre network operator (FNO) in the local market in terms of the number of houses it has covered with its fibre network. The company also owns DFA, the largest dark fibre (unlit fibre) provider in SA.

"The combined fibre assets of DFA, Vodacom and Vumatel will see the newly envisaged entity (InfraCo) emerging as one of the formidable FNOs in the country, especially when considering that Vumatel is already a leader in the FTTH infrastructure market.

Openserve, which was previously a leader in terms of fibre deployments, will remain in a distance second position," said Dazela.

Dazela said the move would effectively consolidate CIVH's dominance in the fibre infrastructure market. "Thus, it remains to be seen whether this deal will be approved by regulatory authorities considering all the heavyweights at play here," he said.

Yesterday Vodacom's shares closed 2.87 percent higher at R140.86 on the JSE.

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Business

Vodacom's R41bn Egyptian bet as it seeks to simplify footprint But the group has plans to be trimming its dividend policy in the future

Dineo Faku

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VODACOM yesterday unveiled a proposed R41 billion acquisition of a majority stake in Vodafone Egypt from parent company Vodafone Group, which is seeking to simplify the management of its African footprint. Once completed the transaction will see Vodacom trimming its dividend policy.

Vodafone said yesterday it had agreed to transfer its 55 percent shareholding in Vodafone Egypt to its sub-Saharan subsidiary Vodacom to simplify the management of its African business and further strengthen the delivery of **connectivity** and financial services on the continent.

Vodafone has been focused on placing its African assets under the control of Vodacom and in 2017 completed the transfer of its 35 percent in Kenyan mobile network Safaricom to Vodacom.

Vodacom told investors the acquisition would be funded by issuing 242 million new ordinary shares at R135.75 per share and R8.2 billion in cash, valuing the proposed transaction at R41bn or \$2.738bn. Vodacom is set to cut its dividend policy by 15 percent as a result of the deal.

"On completion of the acquisition, Vodacom Group will simplify its dividend policy to at least 75 percent of headline earnings. The current policy is to pay at least 90 percent of adjusted headline earnings, excluding the contribution of Safaricom, and additionally pass-through Safaricom dividends received.

"Notwithstanding the change in dividend policy, Vodacom Group will still have one of the highest dividend pay-out policies on the JSE," said the group.

Commenting on the transaction, Vodacom chief executive Shameel Joosub said that given the margin, growth potential and the financial services penetration, Vodafone Egypt was an attractive asset.

"Acquiring a majority stake in Vodafone Egypt would cement Vodacom Group's position as Africa's leading telco by advancing our strategic connectivity and financial services ambitions while increasing our total population coverage on the continent to more than half a billion people and more than 40 percent of Africa's gross domestic product," said Joosub.

Vodafone Egypt is the largest mobile network operator in Egypt with 43 percent revenue market share, offering a range of integrated telecommunications services including voice, data and mobile money services to 43 million consumer and enterprise customers.

"Vodafone Egypt is ideally positioned to capture growth in a burgeoning ICT market, which means the proposed acquisition provides our shareholders with an exciting revenue and profitability diversification opportunity and the potential to accelerate the group's medium-term operating profit growth potential into double digits.

"We intend to provide an update on our medium-term targets at our full-year results, which will be reported in May 2022," Joosub said.

He said Vodacom would potentially introduce the VodaPay platform in Egypt.

"We think that is extremely exciting growth potential on the financial services side," Joosub said.

The transaction is expected to close before March 31, 2022, and is subject to a number of conditions, including Financial Surveillance Department of the South African Reserve Bank and approval from the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt.

Vodafone said Vodacom had received an in-principle letter of support to vote in favour of the proposed transaction from Public Investment Corporation (PIC), which owns 14.3 percent of the Vodacom shares in issue and 36.1 percent of the Vodacom shares in issue outside those held by Vodafone as at the date of their letter.

"The PIC's in-principle support is subject to it conducting an assessment and evaluation," said Vodafone

Vodacom has also received an irrevocable undertaking to vote in favour of the transaction from YeboYethu Investment Company, which owns 6.2 percent of the Vodacom shares in issue and 15.8 percent of the Vodacom shares in issue outside those held by Vodafone.

Vodacom is part of a consortium that was awarded a telecommunications licence by the Ethiopian government.

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Vodacom to acquire majority stake in Vodafone Egypt

Natalie Bannerman

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Capacity Magazine

CAPMAG

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Through this transfer of ownership, the company aims to simplify the management of Vodafone's African operations and will strengthen the delivery of **connectivity** and financial services in Africa.

Other benefits of this change in ownership include giving Vodacom added exposure to another leading business in an attractive market, diversifying its portfolio and accelerating its growth profile.

As for Vodafone Egypt, the company will benefit from closer co-operation with Vodacom, enabling it to accelerate growth in financial services and IoT.

Under the terms of the transaction, Vodafone's 55% shareholding in Vodafone Egypt is valued at €2,722 million (\$3,145 million), on a debt free, cash free basis. The net debt valuation of Vodafone's 55% share of Vodafone Egypt is €2,365 million (\$2,732 million).

Approximately 80% of the Purchase Consideration (€1,892 million) will be settled by the issue of 242 million new ordinary Vodacom shares to Vodafone at an issue price of ZAR 135.75 per share. As a result, Vodafone's ownership in Vodacom will increase from 60.5% to 65.1%. While the remaining 20% (€473 million), will be paid in cash.

The deal has been unanimously approved by a committee of Vodacom's independent non-executive directors, while Vodafone will not vote on the deal and the transaction will require approval by the minority shareholders representing 39.5% of the Vodacom shares.

The transaction is subject to closing conditions, including approval from the Financial Surveillance Department of the South African Reserve Bank and approval from the National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt.

The transaction is expected to close by 31 March 2022.

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Vodafone Sells Egypt Business to Vodacom

by Paul Whitfield

358 words

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The Deal

DEALNEW

English

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Vodafone Group plc said Wednesday, Nov. 10, it will shuffle its African assets, selling a 55% stake in Vodafone Egypt to its African subsidiary Vodacom Group Ltd. for €2.72 billion (\$3.14 billion) in cash, shares and assumed debt.

Vodafone said the deal will serve to simplify its African holdings, provide Vodacom with an entry into North Africa via the growing Egyptian market and create opportunities for Vodafone Egypt to grow revenues by adding financial and **connectivity** services that are offered by Vodacom.

The deal values Vodafone Egypt at about 7.3 times its adjusted Ebitdaal (a modified Ebitda measure that excludes certain inventory effects) and 12.2 times adjusted operating cash flow, said Vodafone, without detailing what adjustments had been made to the figures.

Johannesburg, South Africa-listed Vodacom will pay a €2.37 billion for the 55% equity stake, excluding debt. About 80% of that consideration will be settled with shares, worth about €1.89 billion, while the remaining 20%, or €473 million, will be paid in cash. Vodafone's stake in Vodacom at the end of the transaction will be about 65.1%, up from 60.5%.

"Acquiring a majority stake in Vodafone Egypt would cement Vodacom Group's position as Africa's leading techco ... while increasing our total population coverage on the continent to over half a billion people and more than 40% of Africa's GDP," said Vodacom CEO Shameel Joosub in a statement.

Vodafone Egypt is the country's largest mobile network operator with 43% revenue market share and 90% of the market share of mobile wallet transactions.

The deal is dependent on support from Vodacom's shareholders, who are expected to vote on the deal at a meeting in January. Vodafone won't be allowed to vote its shares at that meeting. Vodacom's 6.2% shareholder YeboYethu Investment Co. while 14.3% shareholder Public Investment Corp., South Africa's sovereign investment fund, has offered its in-principal support.

The transaction is scheduled to close by the end of March 2022.

Vodacom tapped PwC to provide a fairness opinion on the transaction.

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Date	In the last year
Source	All Sources
Author	All Authors
Company	Vodacom Group Limited
Subject	All Subjects
Industry	All Industries
Region	All Regions
Language	English
Results Found	299
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