

HD MTN Launches Nigeria's First Nationwide VoLTE Call Service**BY** By Our Correspondents**WC** 231 words**PD** 15 April 2022**SN** Daily Independent**SC** DALYIG**LA** English**CY** © 2022, Daily Independent, All rights Reserved - Provided by SyndiGate Media Inc.**LP**

One of the leading technology company MTN Nigeria has launched Voice over Long-Term Evolution (VoLTE) call service, in line with its commitment to providing access to the best communications technology and improving overall customer experience.

The service, also referred to as HD (high definition) calls, provides customers who own compatible **devices** with superior natural-sounding voice quality, reduced background noise and faster call **connectivity**.

TD

Adia Sowho, the Chief Marketing Officer of MTN Nigeria, excited about the new service, said: "With VoLTE, MTN Nigeria continues to enhance Nigerian lives with innovative technology. VoLTE is free to access today at your rates, from VoLTE-enabled smartphone so you can call and surf at the same time with no interruptions ever again. We move!"

The MTN VoLTE call service will be charged at regular call rates. It will be available to all customers with VoLTE-enabled devices such as Tecno Phantom X, Infinix Zero X and Infinix Zero X Pro smartphones. Other device models from Samsung, Nokia, Apple, Tecno, etc. will be supported soon.

To enjoy the service, customers only need to do three (3) things: check that they have a 4G USIM; check that they are within a 4G coverage area by texting 4G to 131, and update their VoLTE smartphone to the latest software version and restart the phone.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited**IN** i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications**NS** c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter**RE** nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa**IPD** Business**PUB** Independent Newspapers Ltd. (Nigeria)**AN** Document DALYIG0020220415ei4f000bm

HD MTN launches Nigeria's first nationwide VoLTE call service

WC 252 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN The Guardian

SC AIWGUA

LA English

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MTN Nigeria has launched a voice over long-term evolution (VoLTE) call service in line with its commitment to providing access to the best communications technology and improving the overall customer experience.

The service also referred to as high definition (HD) calls provides customers who own compatible **devices** with superior natural-sounding voice quality, reduces background noise and increases the speed of call **connectivity**.

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Speaking about the new service, the Chief Marketing Officer of MTN Nigeria, Adia Sowho, said: "With VoLTE, MTN Nigeria continues to enhance Nigerian lives with innovative technology. VoLTE is free to access today at your rates from a VoLTE-enabled smartphone so you can call and surf at the same time with no interruptions ever again."

The MTN VoLTE call service will be charged at regular call rates. It will be available to all customers with VoLTE-enabled devices such as Tecno Phantom X, Infinix Zero X and Infinix Zero X Pro smartphones. Other device models from Samsung, Nokia, Apple and Tecno will be supported soon.

To enjoy the service, customers only need to do three things – check that they have a 4G USIM; check that they are within a 4G coverage area by texting 4G to 131 and update their VoLTE smartphone to the latest software version.

Customers without a 4G USIM could schedule an appointment by visiting <https://scheduler.mtnonline.com/qwebbook>.

In this article

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RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB Guardian Newspapers Limited

AN Document AIWGUA0020220415ei4e0000s

HD MTN Nigeria launches VoLTE call service

WC 98 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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MTN Nigeria has launched Voice over Long-Term Evolution (VoLTE) call services in the country. The service, also referred to as HD calls, provides customers with compatible **devices** superior natural-sounding voice quality, reduced background noise and faster call **connectivity**.

The MTN VoLTE call service will be charged at regular call rates. It will be available to all customers with VoLTE-enabled **devices** such as Tecno Phantom X, Infinix Zero X and Infinix Zero X Pro smartphones. Other device models from Samsung, Nokia, Apple and Tecno, among others, will be supported soon.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN icellph : Cell/Mobile/Smart Phones | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i3454 : Personal Electronics | ielec : Consumer Electronics | ihandaps : Handheld Electronic Devices | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

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PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220414ei4e0005l

HD MTN launches Nigeria's first nationwide VoLTE call service

BY Rapheal

WC 221 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN The Sun

SC TSUNE

LA English

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IPD Business

PUB The Sun Publishing Ltd.

AN Document TSUNE00020220414ei4e000bc

HD MTN Finally Gets CBN Approval for Mobile Money Banking

BY Nume Ekeghe

CR This Day

WC 264 words

PD 13 April 2022

ET 05:52

SN AllAfrica

SC AFNWS

LA English

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Following the approval in principle granted its mobile money arm last year November; MTN Nigeria has gotten a final approval for the commencement of operation of Momo **Payment** Service Bank, signifying the telecommunications company's stride into the banking industry.

In a notice to the investing public through the Nigeria Exchange Group, dated April 11, 2022, MTN said it would be announcing the commencement date for its PSB in accordance with regulatory guidelines.

TD

The notice to investors read: "We refer to our notification issued on 5 November 2021 in which we communicated receipt of the approval in principle from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for Momo Payment Service Bank Limited (Momo PSB).

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc (MTN Nigeria) announces the receipt of a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations. The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements.

"MTN Nigeria affirms its commitment towards the financial inclusion agenda of the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria and we are excited at this opportunity to support its fulfillment."

In November 2021, both MTN and Airtel were granted approval in principle and with this the number of PSBs in the country will rise to five from the current number of three.

PSB was introduced by the CBN in 2019 as a measure to increase financial inclusion in the country particularly in rural areas. It had granted licenses to Hope PSB, 9PSB and Moneymaster PSB.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | mnigcl : MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd

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IPD news

PUB AllAfrica, Inc.

AN Document AFNWS00020220413ei4d0009d

HD MTN Finally Gets CBN Approval for Momo PSB

WC 266 words

PD 13 April 2022

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IPD News

PUB Leaders & Company Limited

AN Document AIWTHD0020220413ei4d0000c

SE Companies
HD **MTN gets final green light for mobile money bank in Nigeria**
BY Karl Gernetzky and Katharine Child
WC 866 words
PD 12 April 2022
SN Business Day
SC MEWBUD
ED Business Day
PG 10
LA English
CY © Copyright 2022 Arena Holdings (Pty) Ltd
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Country is Africa's biggest market, and MTN's most profitable, generating more than a third of core profit in 2021. Africa's largest mobile operator, MTN, has received final approval from Nigerian regulators for its mobile money **platform**, which will allow it to scale up its fintech services in the continent's biggest market.

This entry into mobile payments in Nigeria pits MTN against the third-largest mobile operator in the world, Airtel. The Indian telecommunications firm operates in 14 African countries.

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MTN already makes 25% of its revenue in Uganda from its mobile money offering MoMo, and 23% in Ghana.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had given approval in principle for MoMo Payment Service Bank in November, with MTN saying on Monday it received a letter approving the start of operations on April 8. The date has to be communicated to the authorities.

Nigeria is the continent's biggest market, and MTN's most profitable, generating more than a third of its core profit in 2021.

The final licence will enable it to offer payment services and receive deposits — an opportunity it has been awaiting years for — as it looks to provide services for many Africans who lack traditional bank accounts.

SA's two leading telecoms operators, Vodacom and MTN, continue to diversify into digital payments, insurance and shopping apps in a bid to tap the unbanked potential on the continent. The diversification comes as the popularity of voice calls declines and as data prices — and therefore profits — drop.

"We are grateful to the CBN for granting the final approval to commence the operations of MoMo Payment Service Bank, which is an important milestone for our Ambition 2025 strategy," MTN president and CEO Ralph Mupita said in a statement.

"We are excited about the opportunity for MTN Nigeria to support the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in fulfilling the agenda of driving financial inclusion in Nigeria," he said.

MTN has reported that its active MoMo users rose more than a fifth to 56.8-million in its year to end-December, while the value of transactions rose more than half to \$239.4bn (R3.5-trillion).

Mobile money was popularised by M-Pesa, a payment system launched in Kenya in 2002 by Safari.com, allowing people to make payments, send cash and receive it through a text message. It was developed after Kenyans were buying and selling airtime to store cash, as banks were far away from where they live.

Mobile money revolutionised payments in Kenya and more than 96% of that country's households now use M-Pesa, in part owned by Vodacom — while 51-million users in seven other countries use it. Mobile money has been an effective way to bring millions of people who do not have bank accounts into formal financial services markets.

The GSMA state of mobile money 2021 report says in sub-Saharan Africa there are 590-million mobile money accounts with transactions in the region in 2020 amounting to \$490bn.

It is in this context that MTN has tried for years to gain a licence to enter the Nigerian mobile money market. Bloomberg has reported that a third of MTN Group's income could come from mobile money.

In afternoon trade on Monday, MTN's shares were up 1.75% to R181.79 but have fallen about 10% over the past month, coming under some pressure from new SIM card registration rules in Nigeria.

Nigerian authorities have required operators to restrict outgoing calls for those whose SIMs are not linked to their national identity numbers, with MTN saying last week a third of its subscribers had not yet submitted their details.

Senior market analyst from IG Shaun Murison said MTN has been downplaying the negative effect that suspending 19-million mobile numbers in Nigeria would have on group revenue.

"The company's share price has since recovered a good portion of the losses attributed to the Nigerian regulatory announcement, suggesting that the market does in part believe the MTN group's guidance on the matter."

Murison said the mobile money licence in its largest jurisdiction as measured by revenue "will help boost some short-term sentiment and boost the share price. MTN's digital and fintech initiatives are certainly fast growing and future areas for diversification and growth for the group."

Murison added that "data and voice do however still make up by far the largest proportion of revenue for MTN as it does for its competitors."

SA's third-largest cellphone operator, Telkom is not diversifying into fintech, leaving it reliant on data and voice revenue, even as call volumes, data prices and profits drop. As MTN and Vodacom have success in mobile payment and loan systems, some investors worry Telkom is being left behind.

However, tech analyst Arthur Goldstuck said Telkom could not be behind if it chose not to enter the market. Telkom has other advantages such as its internet fibre business and its TelkomCloud storage division.

56.8-million

the number of active users of MTN's MoMo mobile money payment service

Picture: DOROTHY KGOSI

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IPD	Banking
PUB	Arena Holdings (Pty) Ltd
AN	Document MEWBUD0020220412ei4c00031

HD MTN gets final licence to operate payment service bank

WC 535 words

PD 12 April 2022

SN The Guardian

SC AIWGUA

LA English

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Telecommunications giant, MTN Nigeria has been granted final approval to operate mobile money (MoMo) payment service bank (PSB) licence in Nigeria.

MTN announced, yesterday, that it has been given permission to operate the bank by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and that it would soon offer financial services under the licence requirements.

TD

MTN Group had first announced in November 2021 its move towards getting final approval of the licence, saying it was subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions as stipulated by the CBN.

As it is, with the PSB licence, MTN Nigeria will offer a wider range of mobile financial services beyond the traditional person-to-person (P2P) MoMo mobile money transfers such as lending and bill payments.

A document sighted and signed by the Company Secretary, Uto Ukpanah, titled 'the Central Bank of Nigeria Grants Final Approval for MoMo Payment Service Bank Limited (Momo PSB)', reads: "We refer to our notification issued on November 5, 2001, in which we communicated receipt of the approval in principle from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for MoMo Payment Service Bank Limited (MoMo PSB).

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc (MTN Nigeria) announces the receipt of a letter dated April 8, 2022, from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations. The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements.

"MTN Nigeria affirms its commitment towards the financial inclusion agenda of the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria and we are excited about this opportunity to support its fulfillment."

The move, according to the report, is part of MTN's strategy outlined in June, by the Chief Executive Officer, Ralph Mupita, saying the structural separation of the fintech and fibre units was key to the group's Ambition 2025 Plan.

"We are grateful to the CBN for granting the final approval to commence the operations of MoMo PSB, which is an important milestone for our Ambition 2025 strategy," said Mupita.

The granting of a banking licence in MTN's most lucrative market is set to bolster the group's operations in Nigeria. The country remains MTN's biggest market and contributor of the lion's share to the group's revenue.

In the financial year ended December 2021, MTN Nigeria reported strong operational performance, delivering growth across all revenue lines.

MTN Nigeria's service revenue grew by 23.3 per cent, exceeding its mid-term target, driven mainly by growth in voice, data and fintech service revenue lines.

Data revenue rose by 55.3 per cent, as MTN continued to accelerate the expansion of its 4G coverage. MTN Nigeria's 4G network now covers 70.3 per cent of the population, up from 60.1 per cent in December 2020.

Similarly, fintech revenue surged by 57.3 per cent, due to sustained growth in the use of its Xtratime product and broader fintech services.

In the period, MoMo transaction volume rose by 167 per cent to 137.5 million from an active user base of 9.4 million, up 102 per cent.

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IPD news

PUB Guardian Newspapers Limited

AN Document AIWGUA0020220413ei4c0000w



HD Nigerian central bank grants approval to MTN to operate **payment** service bank

WC 210 words

PD 12 April 2022

SN APANEWS

SC APASENE

LA English

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APA – Lagos (Nigeria) The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has granted final approval to telecommunication giant, MTN, to operate as Momo **Payment** Service Bank Limited (Momo PSB).

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc (MN Nigeria) announces the receipt of a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations," the statement by MTN Secretary, Uro Ukpanah, said on Monday.

TD

"The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements.

"MTN Nigeria affirms its commitment towards the financial inclusion agenda of the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and we are excited at this opportunity to support its fulfilment," it added.

According to the statement, PSB operators provide financial services through digital means to low-income earners and people that do not use banks or banking institutions for transactions.

It added the operation will be mostly in rural regions and areas where Nigerians do not have bank accounts and should have at least 50 percent physical access points in rural areas.

With this approval, MTN Nigeria will join the likes of Moneymaster PSB, a subsidiary of Glo, and 9PSB, a subsidiary of 9mobile, to operate in the fintech space.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD Nigeria

PUB Agence de Presse Africaine

AN Document APASENE020220412ei4c0008d

HD Central Bank of Nigeria grants approval for MTN MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Ltd to commence operations

BY Athenkosi Baliso

WC 126 words

PD 12 April 2022

ET 16:12

SN bne IntelliNews

SC BNEINT

LA English

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MTN Nigeria, a subsidiary of the MTN Group Ltd, has received a final approval from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to start operating Momo **Payment** Service Bank Ltd, reports Business Insider Africa.

MTN Group Limited, headquartered in South Africa, earns one-third of its revenue in Nigeria, where it holds about a 35% market share.

TD

According to a Johannesburg Stock Exchange SENS statement, MTN received a letter dated April 8 from the CBN addressed to MoMo PSB conveying approval for it to commence the operations, following the approval in principle for MoMo PSB dated November 4, 2021.

The commencement date will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN ibnk : Banking/Credit | i81402 : Commercial Banking | i814 : Banking | ifinal : Financial Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

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PUB EMERGING MARKETS DIRECT OU

AN Document BNEINT0020220412ei4c002ut

HD MTN Receives Final Banking Approval To Operate MoMo PSB

BY By Bamidele Ogunwusi

WC 541 words

PD 12 April 2022

SN Daily Independent

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LA English

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Lagos – Nigeria's leading telecom firm, MTN, has received final approval from regulators to run a **payment** service bank, the company said in a regulatory filing on the floor of the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) on Monday.

The telecom firm said the **payment** service bank will be known as MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Limited. According to a note to the NGX, date of commencement of service will be communicated to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in accordance with its requirements.

TD

The telco, according to investigation, has been working on the approval for about two years. Last year, CBN granted approval in principle for Payment Service Bank (PSB) licenses to MTN Nigeria and another listed telco on the floor of the Nigerian Exchange.

The decision to grant PSB approvals to the telecommunications firm is in line with the apex bank's objective of enhancing financial inclusion and the development of the payment system through a secured technology-driven environment.

The approval gives MTN the leave to operate virtually all the services offered by conventional commercial banks with the exception of granting credit and processing foreign exchange transactions. Karl Toriola, CEO MTN Nigeria said, "We want to leverage the financial inclusion drive.

We plan to give people who don't have bank accounts or even ATM cards the opportunity to be able to do banking services. "And we are leveraging on our size.

When we have subscribers of over 70 million spread across Nigeria with our infrastructural spread, we are well positioned to cover everywhere.

That's exactly what we want to achieve." The CBN had in the last quarter of 2018 unveiled the operational guidelines for PSBs.

The move was in furtherance of the bank's mandate of promoting a sound financial system and enhancing access to financial services for low income earners and unbanked segments of the society.

The PSBs are to operate mostly in the rural areas and unbanked locations, targeting financially excluded persons, with not less than 25 percent financial service touch points in such rural areas as defined by the CBN from time to time, the guidelines said.

According to the CBN, the key objective of setting up PSBs was to enhance financial inclusion by increasing access to deposit products and payment/remittance services to small businesses, low-income households and other financially excluded entities through high-volume low-value transactions in a secured technology-driven environment.

They are to also enter into direct partnership with card scheme operators but such cards shall not be eligible for foreign currency transactions.

In addition, they are to deploy ATMs in some of these areas, deploy Point of Sale devices and be at liberty to operate through banking agents which is in line with the CBN's guidelines for the regulation of agent banking and agent banking relationships in Nigeria.

MTN Nigeria and Airtel Africa got preliminary approvals last November to operate in the same space and they will be looking to tap Nigeria's unbanked adult population of 38 million people, who, according to

analysts, held N26.2 trillion last year alone, a move that will pit both telcos against traditional banks in getting a slice of the market.

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IPD news

PUB Independent Newspapers Ltd. (Nigeria)

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HD MTN gets final approval to operate **payment** service bank

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[Temitayo Jaiyeola](#) Published 11 April 2022

The Central Bank of Nigeria has granted Momo **Payment Service Bank** Limited final approval to commence operations.

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This was revealed in a statement signed by the company's secretary, Uto Ukpanah, on Monday.

This is coming after the CBN granted the firm approval in principle to operate in November 2021.

The statement read, "We refer to our notification issued on 5 November 2021 in which we communicated receipt of the approval in principle from the CBN for Momo PSB.

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc announces the receipt of a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations.

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IPD news

PUB Punch Nigeria Limited

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HD CBN grants final PSB approval to MTN

WC 373 words

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[Temitayo Jaiyeola](#) Published 12 April 2022

The Central Bank of Nigeria has granted MTN Nigeria Communications Plc final approval to operate its **Payment** Service Bank.

TD

This is coming six months after the apex bank granted approval in principle to Airtel Africa Plc and MTN to operate PSBs. The CBN had, at the time, disclosed that the approval was subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions within six months.

Based on this new approval, MTN's Momo Payment Service Bank Limited can commence operations.

This was revealed in a statement signed by the company's secretary, Uto Ukpanah. The statement said, "We refer to our notification issued on 5 November 2021 in which we communicated receipt of the approval in principle from the CBN for Momo PSB.

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc announces the receipt of a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations. The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements.

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MTN's approval is coming after the CBN granted Globacom and 9Mobile PSB licences through their subsidiaries, Money Master PSB and 9 PSB, in 2019.

According to the apex bank, PSBs are to leverage mobile and digital channels to enhance financial inclusion and stimulate economic activities in rural areas through the provision of financial services.

In its 'State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money: 2022,' GSMA, the global body representing mobile operators, said mobile money would grow in Nigeria as a result of leading MNOs playing in the space.

It said, "In the coming years, the GSMA expects account growth to come from both long-established mobile money markets and markets where mobile money services are still nascent, especially South Asia and African countries such as Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Angola.

"For example, in 2021, Ethiopia saw the launch of a mobile network operator-led mobile money service, and the Central Bank of Nigeria granted Approvals in Principle to leading MNOs to run mobile money services in the country."

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | eabjvg : Airtel Africa PLC | mnigcl : MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB Punch Nigeria Limited

AN Document TPUNC00020220412ei4c000hh

HD MTN Gets Nigeria Approval for Mobile Money Bank

CR CAJ News Agency

WC 197 words

PD 12 April 2022

ET 05:54

SN AllAfrica

SC AFNWS

LA English

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LP

Nigerian authorities have approved the MTN Group's application to operate MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Limited (MoMo PSB).

MoMO is the acronym for mobile money.

TD

MTN Nigeria, as promoter of MoMo PSB, has received a letter, dated April 8 2022, from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), addressed to MoMo PSB conveying approval for it to commence the operations.

This follows the approval in principle for MoMo PSB dated November 4, 2021.

The commencement date will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements, the mobile operator stated.

"We are grateful to the CBN for granting the final approval to commence the operations of MoMo PSB, which is an important milestone for our Ambition 2025 strategy," MTN Group President and Chief Executive Officer, Ralph Mupita said.

"We are excited about the opportunity for MTN Nigeria to support the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in fulfilling the agenda of driving financial inclusion in Nigeria."

MTN Group will provide more details regarding commencement of operations along with related matters and timelines, when it releases its first quarter 2022 trading update, on May 6.

- CAJ News

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB AllAfrica, Inc.

AN Document AFNWS00020220412ei4c00031

SE Business
HD mtn gets green light to operate **PAYMENT** SERVICE BANK momo in nigeria
WC 178 words
PD 12 April 2022
SN The Mercury
SC MERCURY
PG 9
LA English
CY © 2022 Independent Newspapers (Pty) Ltd
LP

mtn gets green light to operate **PAYMENT** SERVICE BANK momo in nigeria

TELECOMS operator MTN said yesterday that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had given it the green light for MoMo **Payment** Service Bank to start operations. MTN MoMo, a mobile money service, had roughly 56.8 million users for its mobile money service across Africa in 2021.

TD Speaking on the final approval, MTN group president and chief executive Ralph Mupita said: "We are grateful to the CBN for granting the final approval to commence the operations of MoMo PSB, which is an important milestone for our Ambition 2025 strategy. We are excited about the opportunity for MTN Nigeria to support the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in fulfilling the agenda of driving financial inclusion in Nigeria." MTN said on the release of its quarter one 2022 trading update, on or about May 6, it would provide more details regarding the commencement of operations along with related matters and timelines. | Philippa Larkin

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa
PUB Independent Online
AN Document MERCURY0020220411ei4c0000g

SE Business
HD mtn gets green light to operate **PAYMENT** SERVICE BANK momo in nigeria
WC 178 words
PD 12 April 2022
SN Cape Times
SC CAPTIM
PG 9
LA English
CY © 2022 Independent Newspapers (Pty) Ltd

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CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa
PUB Independent Online
AN Document CAPTIM0020220411ei4c00008

SE Business
HD mtn gets green light to operate **PAYMENT** SERVICE BANK momo in nigeria
WC 178 words
PD 12 April 2022
SN The Star
SC THESTR
PG SW
LA English
CY © 2022 Independent Newspapers (Pty) Ltd

LP

mtn gets green light to operate **PAYMENT** SERVICE BANK momo in nigeria

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IN ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa
PUB Independent Online
AN Document THESTR0020220411ei4c00005

HD MTN Nigeria Diversifies Into Banking, Gets Final Approval for Momo Bank

BY Ronald Adamolekun

CR Premium Times

WC 523 words

PD 11 April 2022

ET 11:47

SN AllAfrica

SC AFNWS

LA English

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LP

The approval gives the firm the leave to operate virtually all the services offered by conventional commercial banks except granting credit and processing foreign exchange transactions.

Telecom firm, MTN, has received final approval from Nigerian regulators to run a **payment** service bank, the wireless carrier said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

TD

"The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria) in accordance with its requirements," the telco heavyweight said of the bank to be known as MoMo Payment Service Bank Limited in a note to the Nigerian Exchange.

The approval, the fruit of well over two years of waiting for the permit, gives the local unit of Johannesburg-headquartered [MTN Group Limited](#) the leave to operate virtually all the services offered by conventional commercial banks with the exception of granting credit and processing foreign exchange transactions.

"We want to leverage the financial inclusion drive. We plan to give people who don't have bank accounts or even ATM cards the opportunity to be able to do banking services," a senior official of the telco told PREMIUM time on condition that its identity will not be divulged because of the sensitivity of the matter," [Nigeria's biggest company](#) by revenue said.

"And we are leveraging on our size. When we have subscribers of over 70 million spread across Nigeria with our infrastructural spread, we are well positioned to cover everywhere. That's exactly what we want to achieve."

MTN Nigeria and Airtel Africa, which [got preliminary approvals](#) last November to operate in the same space, will be looking to tap Nigeria's unbanked adult population of 38 million people, who [according to Abuja-based media research house](#) and data analytics firm, held N26.2 trillion last year alone, a move that will pit both telcos against traditional banks in getting a slice of the market.

Shares in the telco were up by 0.34 per cent at 12.19 WAT on Lagos Customs Street on Monday, trading at N206 per unit.

The broad scale of MTN's broadband penetration gives the two an open reach to rural Nigerians and urban places without access to banking services by way of connectivity, a luxury conventional banks cannot afford.

The ubiquity of coverage of the telcos mean banking will no longer be the preserve of commercial lenders, a development that could position the latter to take a big bite at the e-business earnings of conventional lenders at a time most banks are struggling to sustain profit growth.

For 2021, GTCO, Nigeria's second biggest lender by market value, saw its profit [hit a four-year low](#), while rival UBA managed to scrape a [4.3 per cent growth](#) and Zenith 6.1 per cent.

In December, MTN and Mafab won the bid for 5G spectrum licence auctioned by the Nigerian Communications Commission.

MTN Nigeria, which provides one-third of the MTN Group's sales, saw revenue climb to record N1.7 trillion last year, with profit leaping 45.5 per cent to N298.9 billion.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i81402 : Commercial Banking | iwrissl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | ibnk : Banking/Credit | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i814 : Banking | ifinal : Financial Services | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS cappro : New Product Approvals | c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | cinfpo : Information Technology Policy | c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | wafrz : West Africa | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies

IPD news

PUB AllAfrica, Inc.

AN Document AFNWS00020220412ei4b0008o

HD Breaking: MTN gets CBN approval to operate Momo **Payment** Bank

WC 148 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN PM News

SC PMNNIG

LA English

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LP

MTN Nigeria informed the Nigeria Exchange Group today that it has received a final approval from the Central Bank of Nigeria to operate Momo **Payment** Service Bank Ltd.

In a corporate disclosure, filed by company secretary Uto Ukpanah, MTN explained that the final approval was given by the CBN in a letter dated 8 April 2022.

TD

'MTN Nigeria Communications Plc (MTN) announces the receipt of a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations.

'The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements,' said Ukpanah.

The CBN in November 2021, gave MTN an approval in principle to operate the payment service.

MTN Momo Pay already operates in some African countries.

Ukpanah's letter to NNigerian Exchange Group:MTN letter to Nigerian Exchange Group

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | mnigcl : MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd | ykznjr : Nigerian Exchange Group PLC

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i831 : Financial Investment Services | i83106 : Securities/Commodity Exchange Activities | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Independent Communications Network Limited

AN Document PMNNIG0020220412ei4b0000q

SE Industry economics
HD MTN gets approval to operate **payment** service bank in Nigeria
WC 263 words
PD 11 April 2022
ET 17:37
SN Xinhua News Agency
SC XNEWS
LA English
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LP

LAGOS, April 11 (Xinhua) -- South African telecommunications giant MTN has received final approval to operate a mobile **payment** service, called MoMo **Payment** Service Bank (MoMo PSB) in Nigeria, a company official said Monday.

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc (MTN Nigeria) announces the receipt of a letter dated April 8, 2022, from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations," said Uro Ukpanah, the company's secretary, in a statement.

TD

"MTN Nigeria affirms its commitment towards the financial inclusion agenda of the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and we are excited about this opportunity to support its fulfillment," Ukpanah added.

Mobile payment service operators provide financial services through digital means to low-income earners and people who do not use banks or banking institutions for transactions. They are expected to operate in rural regions and areas where people do not have bank accounts, according to market observers quoted by local media.

Digital payments in Nigeria have witnessed fast growth in recent years, with mobile pay platforms popping up to serve the large unbanked population in the most populous African country.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari in October 2021 launched the eNaira, the country's central bank digital currency (CBDC), becoming the first African nation to introduce an official digital currency. Buhari said at the launch that the adoption of the CBDC and its underlying technology can increase Nigeria's gross domestic product by 29 billion U.S. dollars over the next 10 years.

Enditem

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN ibnk : Banking/Credit | ivicu : Virtual Currencies/Cryptocurrencies | impay : Mobile Payment Systems | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | iplastic : Electronic Payment Systems | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS cappro : New Product Approvals | c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter
RE nigea : Nigeria | lagos : Lagos | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa
IPD payment service
PUB News and Information Center Xinhua News Agency
AN Document XNEWS00020220411ei4b00f4h

HD MTN gets final approval to operate **payment** service bank

WC 166 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN The Punch

SC TPUNC

LA English

CY Copyright 2015 - Punch Newspapers

LP

[Temitayo Jaiyeola](#) Published 11 April 2022

The Central Bank of Nigeria has granted Momo **Payment Service Bank** Limited final approval to commence operations.

TD

This was revealed in a statement signed by the company's secretary, Uto Ukpanah, on Monday.

This is coming after the CBN granted the firm approval in principle to operate in November 2021.

The statement read, "We refer to our notification issued on 5 November 2021 in which we communicated receipt of the approval in principle from the CBN for Momo PSB.

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc announces the receipt of a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations.

"The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements.

"MTN Nigeria affirms its commitment towards the financial inclusion agenda of the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria and we are excited at this opportunity to support its fulfilment."

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | mnigcl : MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS capro : New Product Approvals | c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB Punch Nigeria Limited

AN Document TPUNC00020220411ei4b00105

HD MTN Nigeria gets final approval to start mobile bank

WC 123 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has granted MTN the final approval to operate a mobile money **payment** service bank. It had received approval in principle on 04 November 2021. The commencement date will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements, MTN said in a statement.

MTN Group president and CEO Ralph Mupita expressed gratitude to the CBN for granting the final approval to commence the operations, which is an important milestone for the mobile operator's Ambition 2025 strategy. Mupita said this will foster financial inclusion in Nigeria. The group will provide more details on or about 06 May regarding the commencement of operations, along with related matters and timelines.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | ibnk : Banking/Credit | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | ifinal : Financial Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220411ei4b000b7

HD MTN gets Nigeria approval for mobile money bank

WC 205 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN CAJ News

SC CAJNEW

LA English

CY Copyright 2022 Centre for African Journalists.

LP

from EMEKA OKONKWO in Abuja, Nigeriab Nigeria Bureau ABUJA, (CAJ News) NIGERIAN authorities have approved the MTN Group's application to operate MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Limited (MoMo PSB). MoMo is the acronym for mobile money.

MTN Nigeria, as promoter of MoMo PSB, has received a letter, dated April 8 2022, from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), addressed to MoMo PSB conveying approval for it to commence the operations. This follows the approval in principle for MoMo PSB dated November 4, 2021. The commencement date will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements, the mobile operator stated.

TD

"We are grateful to the CBN for granting the final approval to commence the operations of MoMo PSB, which is an important milestone for our Ambition 2025 strategy," MTN Group President and Chief Executive Officer, Ralph Mupita said. "We are excited about the opportunity for MTN Nigeria to support the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in fulfilling the agenda of driving financial inclusion in Nigeria.

"MTN Group will provide more details regarding commencement of operations along with related matters and timelines, when it releases its first quarter 2022 trading update, on May 6. CAJ News

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

RE nigea : Nigeria | abuja : Abuja | africaz : Africa | dypcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Centre for African Journalists

AN Document CAJNEW0020220411ei4b0008d

HD **UPDATED: MTN Nigeria diversifies into banking, gets final approval for MoMo Bank**

BY Ronald Adamolekun

WC 531 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN The Premium Times

SC HPREMT

LA English

CY © 2022 The Premium Times

LP

Nigeria, April 11 -- Telecom firm, MTN, has received final approval from Nigerian regulators to run a **payment** service bank, the wireless carrier said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

"The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria) in accordance with its requirements," the telco heavyweight said of the bank to be known as MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Limited in a note to the Nigerian Exchange.

TD

The approval, the fruit of well over two years of waiting for the permit, gives the local unit of Johannesburg-headquartered MTN Group Limited the leave to operate virtually all the services offered by conventional commercial banks with the exception of granting credit and processing foreign exchange transactions.

"We want to leverage the financial inclusion drive. We plan to give people who don't have bank accounts or even ATM cards the opportunity to be able to do banking services," a senior official of the telco told PREMIUM time on condition that its identity will not be divulged because of the sensitivity of the matter," Nigeria's biggest company by revenue said.

"And we are leveraging on our size. When we have subscribers of over 70 million spread across Nigeria with our infrastructural spread, we are well positioned to cover everywhere. That's exactly what we want to achieve."

MTN Nigeria and Airtel Africa, which got preliminary approvals last November to operate in the same space, will be looking to tap Nigeria's unbanked adult population of 38 million people, who according to Abuja-based media research house and data analytics firm, held N26.2 trillion last year alone, a move that will pit both telcos against traditional banks in getting a slice of the market.

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The broad scale of MTN's broadband penetration gives the two an open reach to rural Nigerians and urban places without access to banking services by way of connectivity, a luxury conventional banks cannot afford.

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In December, MTN and Mafab won the bid for 5G spectrum licence auctioned by the Nigerian Communications Commission.

MTN Nigeria, which provides one-third of the MTN Group's sales, saw revenue climb to record N1.7 trillion last year, with profit leaping 45.5 per cent to N298.9 billion.

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CT For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at contentservices@htlive.com

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i81402 : Commercial Banking | iwrissl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i814 : Banking | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | cinfpo : Information Technology Policy | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | wafrz : West Africa | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies

PUB Premium Times Services Limited

AN Document HPREMT0020220411ei4b000m9

HD MTN Nigeria Diversifies Into Banking, Gets Final Approval for Momo Bank

BY Ronald Adamolekun

CR Premium Times

WC 328 words

PD 11 April 2022

ET 11:47

SN AllAfrica

SC AFNWS

LA English

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LP

The approval gives the firm the leave to operate virtually all the services offered by conventional commercial banks except granting credit and processing foreign exchange transactions.

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TD

"The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria) in accordance with its requirements," the telco heavyweight said of the bank to be known as MoMo Payment Service Bank Limited in a note to the Nigerian Exchange.

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MTN Nigeria and Airtel Africa, who [got an approval-in-principle](#) last November to operate in the same space, will to tap Nigeria's unbanked adult population of 38 million people, who according to Abuja-based media research house and data analytics firm, had N26.2 trillion last year alone, a move that will pit both telcos against traditional banks in getting a slice of the market.

More details later.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i81402 : Commercial Banking | ibnk : Banking/Credit | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i814 : Banking | ifinal : Financial Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS capro : New Product Approvals | c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | cinfo : Information Technology Policy | c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB AllAfrica, Inc.



HD CBN Grants Final Approval For MTN To Commence Mobile Money Bank

WC 270 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN The Will

SC ASTHWL

LA English

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LP

April 11, (THEWILL) The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has granted MTN the final approval to operate as Momo **Payment** Service Bank Limited (Momo PSB). This was disclosed in a press release titled "THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA GRANTS FINAL APPROVAL FOR MOMO **PAYMENT** SERVICE BANK LIMITED TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS", signed by Uro Ukpanah, the Company Secretary.

"MTN Nigeria Communications Plc (MN Nigeria), announces the receipt of a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to Momo PSB conveying final approval to commence operations", MTN said in a communication to the Nigerian Exchange Group on Monday. The company did not specify when operations would start, but stated that, "The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements." "MTN Nigeria affirms its commitment towards the financial inclusion agenda of the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria and we are excited at this opportunity to support its fulfilment", it added.

TD

Telcos in Nigeria last year began an intense scramble for PSB licences with MTN and Airtel leading in the race. PSBs are licenced to registered agents to perform financial transactions for customers.

The PSB allows telcos to have fintech capabilities, which permits them to do cash transfers for people who do not have bank accounts and ATM cards. In November 2021, MTN said it had received Approval in Principle from the CBN for a licence application for the MOMO Payment Bank Limited.

Airtel also announced on November 5, similar approval from the apex bank to operate PSB it called 'SMARTCASH Payment Service Bank Limited'.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | mnigcl : MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd | ykznjr : Nigerian Exchange Group PLC

IN ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i831 : Financial Investment Services | i83106 : Securities/Commodity Exchange Activities | iinv : Investing/Securities

NS cappro : New Product Approvals | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | c22 : New Products/Services | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

PUB The Will News Media

AN Document ASTHWL0020220411ei4b0005p

HD Nigeria grants MTN licence for mobile money banking service

BY Sibongile Khumalo

WC 304 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN News24 online

SC NWSFT

LA English

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LP

Nigerian authorities extend banking service licence to MTN's mobile money service bank. Supplied *
Mobile money is a growing contributor to MTN Nigeria's income

The Central Bank of Nigeria has approved the licence for MTN's Mobile Money (MoMo) **Payment** Service Bank in the country, extending its services to wider banking operations, it was announced on Monday.

TD

Mobile money is a growing contributor to MTN Nigeria's income, and the new banking licence would allow the company to explore growth opportunities presented by the country's unbanked population.

MTN Group CEO Ralph Mupita said granting the final approval to commence the operations of MoMo bank was an "important milestone" for the company's Ambition 2025 strategy unveiled a year ago. Nigeria, the continent's populous nation, is MTN's largest market.

Mobile money is an electronic service that enables users to send and receive money, make payments and perform other transactions using their mobile phones. The system is used across a number of MTN's African markets, including Zambia, Ghana, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In January MTN revealed that MTN Nigeria's mobile money service had attracted 9.4 million active users since launching in August 2019, a growth the company said provided a "solid foundation" for the upcoming establishment of the bank.

The company says the bank will "provide a powerful platform to drive digital and financial inclusion in Nigeria". The volume of transactions performed through the service rose by 167% to 137.5 million in the 2021 full financial year.

Mobile communication companies are venturing into various fintech-based services to diversify their income, and banking services have been a key area of growth.

More details on the commencement of operations are expected to be announced next month.

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN impay : Mobile Payment Systems | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | iplastic : Electronic Payment Systems | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

RE nigea : Nigeria | wafrz : West Africa | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies

IPD Fin24

PUB Media24 News

AN Document NWSFT00020220411ei4b0012x

HD **BREAKING: MTN Nigeria diversifies into banking, gets final approval for MoMo Bank**

BY Ronald Adamolekun

WC 336 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN The Premium Times

SC HPREMT

LA English

CY © 2022 The Premium Times

LP

Nigeria, April 11 -- Telecom firm, MTN, has received final approval from Nigerian regulators to run a **payment** service bank, the wireless carrier said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

"The date of commencement will be communicated to the CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria) in accordance with its requirements," the telco heavyweight said of the bank to be known as MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Limited in a note to the Nigerian Exchange.

TD

The approval, the fruit of well over two years of waiting for the permit, gives the local unit of Johannesburg-headquartered MTN Group Limited the leave to operate virtually all the services offered by conventional commercial banks with the exception of granting credit and processing foreign exchange transactions.

"We want to leverage the financial inclusion drive. We plan to give people who don't have bank accounts or even ATM cards the opportunity to be able to do banking services," a senior official of the telco told PREMIUM time on condition that its identity will not be divulged because of the sensitivity of the matter," Nigeria's biggest company by revenue said.

"And we are leveraging on our size. When we have subscribers of over 70 million spread across Nigeria with our infrastructural spread, we are well-positioned to cover everywhere. That's exactly what we want to achieve."

MTN Nigeria and Airtel Africa, who got an approval-in-principle last November to operate in the same space, will to tap Nigeria's unbanked adult population of 38 million people, who according to Abuja-based media research house and data analytics firm, had N26.2 trillion last year alone, a move that will pit both telcos against traditional banks in getting a slice of the market.

More details later.

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CT For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at contentservices@htlive.com

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i81402 : Commercial Banking | i814 : Banking | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

PUB Premium Times Services Limited

AN Document HPREMT0020220411ei4b000gp



HD MTN Group Limited - Central Bank of Nigeria grants final approval for MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Limited to commence operations

WC 350 words

PD 11 April 2022

ET 09:20

SN Johannesburg Stock Exchange

SC JSEXCH

LA English

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LP

Central Bank of Nigeria grants final approval for MoMo **Payment** Service Bank Limited to commence operations

MTN Group Limited

TD

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

(Registration number 1994/009584/06)

(Share code MTN)

(MTN Group)

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) grants final approval for MoMo Payment Service Bank Limited (MoMo PSB) to commence operations

MTN Group is pleased to announce that MTN Nigeria, as promoter of MoMo PSB, has received a letter dated 8 April 2022 from the CBN addressed to MoMo PSB conveying approval for it to commence the operations. This follows the approval in principle for MoMo PSB dated 4 November 2021. The commencement date will be communicated to the CBN in accordance with its requirements.

Speaking on the final approval, MTN Group President and CEO, Ralph Mupita said “we are grateful to the CBN for granting the final approval to commence the operations of MoMo PSB, which is an important milestone for our Ambition 2025 strategy. We are excited about the opportunity for MTN Nigeria to support the CBN and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in fulfilling the agenda of driving financial inclusion in Nigeria”.

On release of Q1 2022 trading update, on or about 6 May 2022, MTN Group will provide more details regarding commencement of operations along with related matters and timelines.

Fairland

11 April 2022

Lead sponsor

Tamela Holdings Proprietary Limited

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Date: 11-04-2022 08:20:00

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CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | safr : South Africa | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafz : Southern Africa | wafrz : West Africa

PUB McGregor BFA

AN Document JSEXCH0020220411ei4b0005p

HD **BRIEF-MTN Nigeria Says Central Bank Of Nigeria Grants Final Approval For Momo Payment Service Bank**
WC 54 words
PD 11 April 2022
ET 07:22
SN Reuters News
SC LBA
LA English
CY Copyright 2022 Thomson Reuters. All Rights Reserved.
LP
 April 11 (Reuters) - MTN Group Ltd:
 * MTN NIGERIA - CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA GRANTS FINAL APPROVAL FOR MOMO **PAYMENT** SERVICE BANK LIMITED TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS Source text for Eikon: Further company coverage:
RF Released: 2022-4-11T07:22:47.000Z
CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN ibnk : Banking/Credit | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | ifinal : Financial Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News
RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa
IPD Business
IPC SERVICE:RNP
PUB Reuters News & Media Inc.
AN Document LBA0000020220411ei4b00qjl

HD Mtn Group Limited Central Bank Of Nigeria Grants Final Approval For Momo Payment Service Bank Limited To Commence Operations

WC 424 words

PD 11 April 2022

ET 07:20

SN Dow Jones Institutional News

SC DJDN

LA English

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TIDM10CM

Mtn Group Limited Central Bank Of Nigeria Grants Final Approval For Momo Payment Service Bank Limited To Commence OperationsCentral Bank of Nigeria grants final approval for MoMo Payment Service Bank Limited to commence operations

MTN Group Limited
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration number 1994/009584/06)
(Share code MTN)
(ISIN: ZAE000042164)
(MTN Group)

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11 April 2022

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Date: 11-04-2022 08:20:00

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11 Apr 2022 02:20 ET *Mtn Group Gets Approval for Momo Payment Service Bank to Start Operations

11 Apr 2022 02:21 ET *MTN Group Gets Approval From Central Bank of Nigeria

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

April 11, 2022 02:21 ET (06:21 GMT)

CO cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS neqac : Equities Asset Class News | c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | safr : South Africa | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Dow Jones & Company, Inc.

AN Document DJDN000020220411ei4b000go

HD	MTN Nigeria Communications Limited - MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC-THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA GRANTS FINAL APPROVAL FOR MOMO PAYMENT SERVICE BANK LIMITED TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS
CR	MTN Nigeria Communications Limited published this content on 11 Apr 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained herein. Distributed by PUBT, unedited and unaltered, on 11 Apr 2022 06:10:08 UTC.
WC	131 words
PD	11 April 2022
SN	Nigerian Exchange (NGX) Filings
SC	NGXF
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022. As included in the Information
LP	<p>* Click here to view this document in its original format</p> <p>MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC-THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA GRANTS FINAL APPROVAL FOR MOMO PAYMENT SERVICE BANK LIMITED TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS</p>
TD	<p>The text version of this document is not available. You can access the original document here.</p> <p>* Original Link</p> <p>Disclaimer</p> <p>MTN Nigeria Communications Limited published this content on 11 April 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained therein. Distributed by Public, unedited and unaltered, on 11 April 2022 06:10:30 UTC.</p>
CO	cbknig : Central Bank of Nigeria mnigcl : MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN	ibnk : Banking/Credit ifinal : Financial Services i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS	c22 : New Products/Services ccat : Corporate/Industrial News cexpro : Products/Services ncat : Content Types nfact : Factiva Filters nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter
RE	nigea : Nigeria africaz : Africa dvpcos : Developing Economies wafz : West Africa
PUB	PUBT Inc
AN	Document NGXF000020220411ei4b00001



HD **EMERGE GAMING LIMITED; MTN Arena surpasses 1 million subscribers in South Africa**
WC 310 words
PD 11 April 2022
SN ASX ComNews (Text version of ASX Company Announcements) (Australia)
SC ASXTEX
LA English
CY 2022 Copyright The Australian Securities Exchange Limited
TD

ASX: EML | ABN 31 004 766 376

ASX RELEASE

11 April 2022

MTN Arena surpasses 1 million subscribers in South Africa

Highlights:

- MTN Arena surpasses 1 million new subscribers since launch in July 2020
- New platform subscribers increased by average of ~96,000 per month for the past 3 months
- Emerge has acquired ~3% of MTN South Africa's 33 million mobile subscribers
- Emerge and MTN continue marketing activities in South Africa driving user acquisition
- Emerge continues engagement with other countries in the MTN Group to expand MTN Arena

Emerge Gaming Limited (ASX: EML) ("Emerge" or the "Company"), is pleased to advise that it has surpassed 1 million new subscribers on its MTN Arena platform operated in South Africa.

MTN Arena Performance

Since launch, MTN Arena has acquired more than 1 million new subscribers that represents ~3% of MTN South Africa's ~33 million mobile subscribers. Currently more than 360,000 subscriptions are active (i.e. are billable).

New subscribers on the platform over the past 3 month increased at an average of ~96,000 per month.

This performance demonstrates that there is strong user demand for the MTN Arena offering.

Marketing Campaigns

MTN continues to invest into marketing the MTN Arena platform in South Africa beyond its contractual obligations.

In Emerge's 2022 financial year to date, MTN has committed to accelerate marketing of the MTN Arena platform with a further ±A\$500,000 in marketing spend over the 3-month period of Feb to April 2022 including sponsored prize pools, automated voice message re-engagement campaigns, short message service re-engagement campaigns, themed engagement campaigns, branded engagement campaigns, social marketing campaigns, MTN channel marketing, outdoor advertising and MTN in store marketing.

The objective of the MTN funded marketing campaigns is to accelerate growth in new ...

[Original Document](#)

[Text Document](#)

CO gipps : Emerge Gaming Ltd | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | icnp : Consumer Goods | icomp : Computing | igamsof : Games Software | ilgood : Leisure/Travel Goods | itech : Technology

NS c32 : Advertising | gcat : Political/General News | c31 : Marketing | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE austr : Australia | africaz : Africa | safr : South Africa | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa

IPC 11001

PUB The Australian Securities Exchange Limited

AN Document ASXTEX0020220411ei4b002p9

HD	Showmax runs payment and data deal with MTN Nigeria as it launches 'Real Housewives of Lagos'
WC	138 words
PD	8 April 2022
SN	Telecompaper Africa
SC	TELAFR
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022 Telecompaper. All Rights Reserved.
LP	<p>Showmax has partnered with MTN Nigeria to enable viewers to pay for their Showmax subscription, receive data and watch on the streaming platform, as it prepared to start airing "The Real Housewives of Lagos" (RHOLagos). From 08 April, MTN customers can use the MTN app to pay for a 30-day Showmax Mobile or Showmax Pro Mobile subscription using their airtime, and receive data at a discount.</p> <p>According to Aisha Umar Mumuni, the acting Chief Digital Officer of MTN Nigeria, the purpose is provide the "best entertainment at a reasonable price". RHOLagos will feature Carolyna Hutchings, Laura Ikeji-Kanu, Chioma Ikwu, Toyin Lawani-Adebayo, Iyabo Ojo and Mariam Timmer, and is the first Nigerian adaptation of the international franchise by NBCUniversal Formats.</p>
CO	mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN	i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS	ccat : Corporate/Industrial News c22 : New Products/Services cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations cexpro : Products/Services ncat : Content Types nfact : Factiva Filters nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter
RE	nigea : Nigeria lagos : Lagos africaz : Africa dvpcoz : Developing Economies wafrz : West Africa
PUB	Telecompaper BV
AN	Document TELAFR0020220408ei4800004

HD MTN Group gets credit rating outlook upgrade at Moody's

WC 168 words

PD 7 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

MTN Group welcomed an upgrade to its credit rating outlook at Moody's, to 'stable' from 'negative', in line with the rerating of the South African sovereign and to reflect MTN's strong financial performance and reduced leverage. MTN Group CEO Ralph Mupita said as a company domiciled in and with strong credit linkages to South Africa, MTN credit rating has benefited from Moody's decision to upgrade the sovereign's outlook to stable from negative. In addition, the company said it was particularly encouraged that work to deleverage the business faster and strong financial performance have also been recognised by Moody's.

In March, MTN Group's 2021 results showed an improvement in the holding company leverage to 1.0x from 2.2x in 2020 as net debt reduced to ZAR 30.1 billion from ZAR 43.3 billion. In October 2021, S&P upgraded the group's standalone credit rating to **investment** grade for the first time in five years.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c174 : Corporate Credit Ratings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c17 : Corporate Funding | c172 : Corporate Debt Instruments | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE africaz : Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220407ei4700001

HD 5G Deployment Will Create Opportunities for Economic Growth, Says Minister

WC 673 words

PD 7 April 2022

SN This Day

SC AIWTHD

LA English

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LP

Emma Okonji

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ibrahim Pantami has said the planned deployment of **5G network** by MTN Nigeria and Mafab Communications Limited, will create new opportunities for robust economic growth in Nigeria.

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He therefore urged Nigerians to embrace the 5G technology when rolled out, in order to benefit from the many benefits associated with 5G rollout.

Pantami stated this during a Policy Forum on 5G Deployment in Nigeria, organised by Policy Implementation Assisted Forum (PIAFo) in Lagos.

Pantami who was represented at the forum by the Head of Spectrum Administration Department, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Abraham Oshadami, said among other benefits, 5G rollout would create new opportunities for growth in the Nigerian economy, and it would be achieved by enabling dynamic business models and opening new opportunities and markets. He said it would also open up tremendous improvements in interpersonal communications with several innovations and services, as well as initiate several new changes in mobile connectivity with an enormous capacity to boost productivity and grow the economy.

According to Pantami, "5G policy is designed to ensure effective deployment of 5G to cover major urban areas by 2025, to ensure security of 5G ecosystem and the protection of data. It is also designed to ensure that international best practices and globally accepted standards and specifications, are entrenched in Nigeria's 5G ecosystem."

While delivering the keynote paper on the importance of 5G rollout in Nigeria, the Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, said the theme of the forum, 'Ascertaining Full Readiness to Make 5G Work in Nigeria,' was apt because it came at a time when Nigeria has concluded all arrangements for a successful 5G rollout in the country.

Danbatta who was represented by the Principal Manager, Spectrum Administration Department at NCC, Mr. Joseph Emeshili, said: "To ascertain readiness in the telecommunications industry, especially as it relates to the uptake of anything new such as emerging IMT technologies like 5G, there are three critical stakeholders that must synergize to guarantee success. These include: Government (Policymakers); National Regulatory Authorities (Regulators); and The Network Operators. These stakeholders must ensure the provision of robust government policies, excellent regulatory and operational efficiency as well as optimum network performance.

"To achieve success in the uptake of any technology within any administration, governments are required to put in place excellent policies that will foster development and provide adequate room for innovation. As policymakers, the government should foster a pro-investment and pro-innovation environment, it should also consider to undertake its own independent economic assessment of the commercial viability of deploying new technologies such as 5G networks, with a view to providing a clear regulatory path and to enable all relevant stakeholders including the network operators to make informed decisions."

The Director, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, in his presentation on 5G Technology and the Digital Economy, said: "The global 5G services market is expected to become a \$664.75 billion market, according to a recent 5G market report from Grand View Research. That means a compound annual growth rate of 46.2 per cent from 2021 to 2028."

He said 5G would enhance further growth of the Nigerian economy in the areas of healthcare, education, retail, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, among others.

The Director of IHS Holding Limited, Segun Akintemi, said for 5G to succeed in Nigeria, the necessary infrastructure needed to be in place, adding that infrastructure deployment usually precedes new technology deployment and is highly CAPEX intensive, as 5G comes with its own unique infrastructure requirements.

In his opening remarks, the Lead Executive for PIAFo, Mr. Omobayo Azeez, said: "PIAFo relies on three pillars to define its essence. These pillars are Policy Advocacy, Policy Implementation and Policy Evaluation. The wisdom behind the PIAFo initiative is to create a platform for active dialogue among stakeholders to ensure that when policies are formulated, we do not just add them to our archive and then go to sleep."

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | ngcmu : Nigerian Communications Commission

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrissl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | c23 : Research/Development | gpol : Domestic Politics | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD News

PUB Leaders & Company Limited

AN Document AIWTHD0020220407ei4700005

HD 370 under graduates bags scholarship from MTN foundation

BY Cyril

WC 451 words

PD 6 April 2022

SN The Sun

SC TSUNE

LA English

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LP

From George Onyejiuwa, OwerriThe Mobile Telecommunications giant , MTN in continuation of its financial support to indigent under graduates studying in the Nigeria public tertiary institutions has awarded scholarships worth two hundred thousand a year to 370 students through its foundation.The foundation also inducted 348 graduates who had completed their education through the financial support as MTN foundation Alumni.Speaking at the award ceremony held in Owerri , the Imo state capital on Wednesday, Director of the Foundation, **Mr.**

TD

Denis Okoro disclosed that beneficiaries of the MTN foundation scholarship for 2021/ 2022 is strictly based on merit as the awardees have fulfilled the the minimum requirements for the scholarship award.He disclosed that the MTN foundation has spent N3 Billion in the past eleven years to see through 4,212 under graduates through the tertiary institutions .” In the past eleven year the Foundation has provided financial support for brilliant but indigent students in Nigeria public tertiary institutions to enable them finish tops in their studies . Our scholarship is different from a bursary . MTN is a company that strives for excellence and the beneficiaries are also chosen because they are striving for excellence. So, the Foundation is there to assist them reach their goals.”Continuing , today awardees knows that for them to continue to enjoy this 200,000 yearly scholarship they must maintain a certain CGPA of at least 3.5 in their course of study and this is to motivate them to aspire to the best. Besides, financial support MTN scholars are also trained in other skills to equip them for the future. “Okoro further revealed that 4,571 youths have so far benefited from the Foundation’s scholarship with 605 visually impaired youths amongst the beneficiaries.He therefore tasked this year’s beneficiaries not to relent or rest on their oars but to seize this golden opportunity .Also, South East Regional Manager of MTN , Mr. Innocent Entonu congratulated the beneficiaries as they made it out of the 50,000 applicants and reminded them that the company is noted for excellence and that they must always bear that in mind.” I must congratulate the 370 of you as beneficiaries of MTN foundation scholarship it is not easy to emerge out of 50,000 applicants and we expect you to continue aspire for best. Once you graduate you will be inducted in the MTN foundation as an Alumni member like we have just done today.”Present at the award ceremony are Prof Peter Akah , Vice Chancellor of the Imo state University, Prof Charles Esimone, Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Hon.Eric Uwakwe, Special Assistant (Youths Affairs) to Imo state governor amongst others .

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gedu : Education | gcha : Charities/Philanthropy | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD National

PUB The Sun Publishing Ltd.

AN Document TSUNE00020220406ei46000s0

HD South Africa: MTN investing ZAR820mn into network, infrastructure, Limpopo & Mpumalanga to benefit

BY Athenkosi Baliso

WC 341 words

PD 6 April 2022

ET 18:13

SN bne IntelliNews

SC BNEINT

LA English

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Telecommunications giant MTN South Africa is ramping up **investment** to modernise existing and deploy new network infrastructure across Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces, [IT News Africa reports](#). Ultra-rural villages such as Mtiti and Ga Marishane are to benefit from the **investment**.

The ZAR820mn (\$56.4mn) **investment** will go towards MTN's "Modernisation of Network South Africa project" (MONZA) as well as expanded rural reach, **5G expansion** and restoration of vandalised network infrastructure.

TD

"Our aim is to significantly enhance access and open the door to new digital opportunities for many more people across the province. Our investment is specifically targeted at increasing network coverage, improving throughputs, and connecting the previously unconnected," said Kagiso Moncho, General Manager: Northern Region from MTN South Africa.

The MONZA rollout in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga two provinces is to include the improvement and modernisation of 230 sites, 76 new site builds to add to the existing 1,850 plus the extension of MTN's 5G connectivity which includes rolling out 58 new sites in 2022 to add to the existing 53.

Another major highlight of the expansion drive will be rural connectivity to help close the digital access gaps in South Africa, according to IT News Africa.

A report by [GSM Associations 2021 Mobile Economy](#) suggests that in Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 700mn people remain offline and at risk of exclusion from the emerging digital economy.

"We have extensive plans to drive growth and connectivity solutions into under-served areas, including Mtiti and Ga Marishane village in Jan Furse. With unemployment in South Africa reaching new peaks, it is critical to focus on harnessing digital solutions to drive the recovery, especially in those areas that were hardest hit," Moncho adds.

According to MTN, big targets are on the cards for Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

The telecommunications giant says that every completed project, success achieved against battery theft, ensures their clients can take one step forward and benefit from the modern and connected world.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE safr : South Africa | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa

PUB EMERGING MARKETS DIRECT OU

AN Document BNEINT0020220406ei460038p

HD Rwandan mobile money transactions reach RWF 10 trln in 2021

WC 241 words

PD 5 April 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

Rwanda recorded RWF 10 trillion in mobile money transactions in 2021, according to the central bank, New Times reported. More than 5 million mobile **payment** customers did over 900 million transactions in 2021, worth slightly more than RWF 10 trillion. There was a minor increase in the number of subscribers from 4.7 million to 5.1 million between 2020 and 2021, but the number and monetary value of transactions rose exponentially.

John Rwangombwa, the governor of the central bank, said that the trend is due to awareness of the benefits of using digital channels, and the higher number of products attracting use of those channels. Before the pandemic, transactions were below 400 million and their value under RWF 3 trillion in 2019. Rwangombwa said that when it comes to internet banking, subscribers and transactions are negligible, but the monetary value is significant, meaning that more corporate entities are using internet banking.

TD

When MTN Rwanda re-introduced the 0.5 percent commission on payments received by merchants and businesses through Mobile Money in September 2021, there was a sharp drop in the monetary value of transactions made. The drop was mainly characterised by person-to-business transactions. However, when the central bank scrapped the push and pull charges between mobile wallets and banks in August last year, there was a notable increase in volumes of transactions from wallets to bank accounts.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN impay : Mobile Payment Systems | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | iplastic : Electronic Payment Systems | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE rwanda : Rwanda | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | eafz : East Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220405ei450002v

HD Tektedia Institute Unveils Mini-MBA Programme for Professionals

BY By Kayode Ajiboye

WC 338 words

PD 3 April 2022

SN Daily Independent

SC DALYIG

LA English

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LP

LAGOS – Boston-based business school, Tektedia Institute, has announced the launch of its virtual professional Mini-MBA programme for young professionals and business leaders. This is in a bid to better equip participants with an in-depth knowledge of core business principles, problem-solving capabilities, analytical competencies, and contemporary business models that are needed to thrive within the 21st-century business **ecosystem**.

The Tektedia Mini-MBA Programme is a virtual 12-weeks innovative management programme that is designed to provide practical training on business growth, optimization, and execution. It is on this backdrop that faculty members have been selected from global organisations like Microsoft, Shell, Flutterwave, Nigerian Breweries, Jobberman, Coca Cola, Deloitte, Schlumberger, Mastercard, Access Bank, AXA Mansard, KPMG, MTN Nigeria, amongst others to provide contemporary insights into global best business practices.

TD

Commenting on the importance of the Mini-MBA programme, Prof. Ndubuisi Ekekwe, the Lead Faculty of Tektedia Institute, noted that the programme is poised to equip professionals, including business owners, with the contemporary skills that will guarantee both professional and business growth.

"The Tektedia Mini-MBA is an innovative programme that is designed to strategically position young professionals, as future leaders within their respective areas of expertise while also equipping business owners with the contemporary skills needed to upscale both their business operations and execution strategies.

"The programme is structured in flexible ways to enable professionals to deliver transformational impacts for both the organisations they work for and the society they live in. We are confident that Tektedia Mini MBA will produce a new crop of business-driven individuals that will become respected thought leaders in no distant time," he said.

Tektedia Institute is a US-based academic establishment that offers advanced academic programmes on business and leadership to various parts of the world through its e-learning system with live components. The academic courses are structured in a self-paced manner which affords participants to learn at their convenience regardless of their physical location.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | ngrbrw : Nigerian Breweries PLC | gtruap : AXA Mansard Insurance PLC | hhhold : Heineken Holding NV | midi : AXA SA

IN i41 : Food/Beverages | i427 : Brewing | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i82 : Insurance | i82001 : Full-line Insurance | ialco : Alcoholic Beverages/Drinks | ibevrge : Beverages/Drinks | icnp : Consumer Goods | ifinal : Financial Services

NS c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | lagos : Lagos | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB Independent Newspapers Ltd. (Nigeria)

AN Document DALYIG0020220403ei43000p1

HD Reps Panel Queries N2.6 Trillion Tax Rebate to MTN**BY** Bakare Majeed**CR** Premium Times**WC** 545 words**PD** 31 March 2022**ET** 09:52**SN** AllAfrica**SC** AFNWS**LA** English**CY** © 2022 AllAfrica, All Rights Reserved**LP**

The panel asked the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and **Investment** to produce all the needed documents to back up the rebate.

The [House of Representatives](#) Public Account Committee has queried the N2.6 trillion tax rebate approved for telecoms giant, MTN.

TD

The committee raised the query during the investigative hearing into the audit report of the Auditor-General for the Federation on Wednesday.

Capital allowance rebate refers to tax relief a company gets for buying assets that are used for production.

Oluwole Oke (PDP, Osun), the chairman of the committee, directed the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to produce all the needed documents to back up the rebate.

Mr Oke explained that to approve capital allowance, the ministry must have inspected the assets of the company to determine the rebate.

"So the question we are asking [Federal Ministry of Industry](#) is to produce records, evidence that they inspected their assets based on which they issued the certificates, which MTN has taken to FIRS to secure a tax rebate.

"It is expected of the Industry (Federal Ministry of Industry) to have inspected the assets before they issue the certificates. If the Ministry is in default, then we might be thinking of collusion between the beneficiary of the certificate and the Federal Ministry of Industry which will amount to undermining Nigeria; which will amount to loss of revenue.

"And like I've said earlier, when you first appeared, we are not witch-hunting any person. We speak to law, we speak to facts, we speak to issues. And that's why I'm making this clarification. So the angle that concerns MTN is that we are trying to extract evidence from you to justify the certificates that you have been issued because you are the beneficiary and we asked if the assets were indeed inspected?

"We also asked for proof, the dates because you can't enter MTN premises without records. The assets claimed by MTN can be categorised into two: you have local content and you have the foreign content. We have written Nigeria Customs to give us records of the imports, the assets imported by MTN and proof of duty payment. Because if they (MTN) don't pay the duty as expected, it also amounts to loss of revenue to the federation."

Earlier, Anas Galadima, the head of public affairs of MTN, presented a letter from MTN requesting an extension of time.

"We are currently reviewing the content of the letter and require more time. In this regard, we, therefore, request for your kind consideration to revert to the committee on April 21st, with our position," the letter read in part.

Reacting to the request by MTN, Mr Oke said the committee will grant the request of MTN because fair hearing is a "Constitutional gift".

"So that is the stage we are and MTN has now written a letter that they should be given more time to compile their record. Fair hearing is a constitutional gift, right. So even though the date you are asking for, April 21st is far in our opinion, honestly for justice, for equity, for fairness, we will accede to your request," Mr Oke said.

CO nigmci : Nigeria Ministry of Trade and Investment | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gybod : Government Bodies | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations | gpol : Domestic Politics

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB AllAfrica, Inc.

AN Document AFNWS00020220331ei3v000md

HD Nigeria 5G rollout faces challenges

WC 351 words

PD 28 March 2022

SN CAJ News

SC CAJNEW

LA English

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LP

from OKORO CHINEDU in Lagos, Nigeria Nigeria Bureau LAGOS, (CAJ News) THE rollout of fifth-generation (5G) is anticipated to boost Nigeria's economic growth but a number of factors could hinder its deployment. This is the observation of a leading economic think-tank, a month after the National Communications Commission (NCC) announced that it had received full payment for the two 3.

5GHz 5G spectrum licences it auctioned in December 2021. FBN Quest Capital, the market watcher, lamented that the implementation of 5G might prove difficult for bid winners MTN Nigeria (MTNN) and Mafab Communications due to varying right-of-way permit costs across states, security challenges, 5G device compatibility and high cost of compatible devices. FBN also noted the foreign currency scarcity for importation of network equipment and the high cost of sustaining power supply at network base stations.

TD

"Nonetheless, 5G implementation will offer more benefits than current challenges," FBN stated. The think-tank believes with emerging technologies like virtual reality (VR), the metaverse, artificial intelligence (AI), driverless cars and smart cities, the Nigerian information and communications technology sector has the potential to provide new ways for people to interact and further boost Nigeria's economic growth.

Nigeria's economy is the largest in Africa but it is overly reliant on oil. Total internet subscribers totaled 143.6 million users as at January 22, according to data provided by the NCC.

FBN projects the number is expected to continually grow as demand for faster internet access, wider access to broadband, and investments into interconnectivity solutions expand. At the moment, 2G and 3G networks are the most popular for access to internet in the West African country.

In terms of national coverage, 2G has a network coverage of over 70 percent, 3G at 50 percent while 4G coverage is at 37 percent. The allocation of the 5G network spectrum to MTNN is hailed as positive for the company's shares given that it is strongly positioned to leverage its existing telecommunications technology to achieve faster access and network delivery to subscribers in Nigeria.

CAJ News

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | twncmo : Taiwan National Communications Commission

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

PUB Centre for African Journalists

AN Document CAJNEW0020220328ei3s00002



HD Rakuten Symphony and South African MTN Group to test Open RAN

WC 165 words

PD 25 March 2022

SN Nikkei Business Trends

SC NIKBST

LA English

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LP

Rakuten Symphony (Setagaya-ku, Tokyo) and South African telecommunications company MTN Group will conduct a 4G/5G Open RAN test using "Rakuten Communications **Platform**" (announced on March 4, 2022). A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on 3rd. It will be launched in South Africa, Nigeria and Liberia by the end of 2022. RCP's Open RAN technology will be demonstrated in MTN's existing communication network system. The test will be conducted in collaboration with Accenture and Tech Mahindra.

TD

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CO mahbt : Tech Mahindra Limited | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | mahmah : Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | iacc : Accounting/Consulting | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | icnsl : Business Consultancy | iitcns : IT Consulting

NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE safr : South Africa | nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Nikkei Inc.

AN Document NIKBST0020220328ei3p0005q

HD MTN Announces New MTN Nigeria COO, Others For Ambition 2025 Strategy

BY By Justus Adejumoh

WC 393 words

PD 25 March 2022

SN Daily Independent

SC DALYIG

LA English

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LAGOS – MTN Group has announced senior leadership appointments to operating companies in Nigeria, Iran and Sudan, all of them internal candidates, as we focus on executing on our strategy to drive growth, de-leverage faster and reveal value in our fintech and **fibre** businesses. The appointments are effective 1 April 2022.

“A vital enabler of our strategy is having the best talent, culture and future-fit skills,” says MTN Group President and CEO Ralph Mupita.

TD

“Today’s announcement demonstrates the depth of talent within the Group, as well as the strength of our succession planning.”

Following the recent appointment of MTN Nigeria Chief Operating Officer Mazen Mroue as MTN Group Chief Information and Technology Officer, Hassan Jaber assumes the COO role at MTN Nigeria. He moves from MTN Irancell, where he serves as COO, bringing with him some 25 years of telecoms and digital experience within the MTN Group.

Jaber’s track record of building and scaling-up telecom operations and developing digital businesses through the power of mobile technology will be instrumental to MTN Nigeria as it plays its part in delivering on the Group’s strategic intent of leading digital solutions for Africa’s progress. He has served MTN in numerous markets, including Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen.

Malik Melamu, with over 28 years of managerial and executive experience, will assume the position of MTN Irancell COO, joining from MTN Sudan where he has been CEO over the last five years. Among other roles at MTN, he previously served as MTN Benin CEO and as Executive for Sales and Distribution and Customer Experience at MTN Group.

Stepping into the CEO role at MTN Sudan is Ziad Sabah, whose career within MTN spans more than a decade, most recently as MTN Syria CEO and before that as the Chief Marketing Officer of MTN Syria. Ziad is a seasoned business leader and will play a pivotal role in strengthening MTN Sudan’s market position through initiatives to advance digital and financial inclusion.

“These appointments demonstrate the depth of leadership bench-strength within the MTN Group, and we remain focused on delivering sustainable growth to our stakeholders. Nigeria, Iran and Sudan are markets with attractive demographics and tremendous potential growth opportunities for digital and financial inclusion,” concludes Mupita.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c411 : Management Moves | cslmc : Senior Level Management | c41 : Management | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | wafrz : West Africa | lagos : Lagos | africaz : Africa | dvpcz : Developing Economies

IPD Business

PUB Independent Newspapers Ltd. (Nigeria)

AN Document DALYIG0020220325ei3p000gp

HD MTN Group Repositions, Appoints New COO to Drive 2025 Strategy

WC 323 words

PD 24 March 2022

SN This Day

SC AIWTHD

LA English

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LP

Emma Okonji

MTN Group has announced senior leadership appointments to operating companies in Nigeria, Iran and Sudan, all of them being internal candidates, saddled with the responsibilities to drive growth, de-leverage faster and reveal value in MTN's Fintech and **fibre** businesses.

TD

The appointments are effective 1 April 2022.

Announcing the development, MTN Group President and CEO Ralph Mupita, said: "A vital enabler of our strategy is having the best talent, culture and future-fit skills. The announcement demonstrates the depth of talent within the Group, as well as the strength of our succession planning."

Following the recent appointment of MTN Nigeria Chief Operating Officer, Mazen Mroue as MTN Group Chief Information and Technology Officer, Hassan Jaber assumes the COO role at MTN Nigeria. He moves from MTN Irancell, where he serves as COO, bringing with him some 25 years of telecoms and digital experience within the MTN Group.

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[Click to view image](#)

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c411 : Management Moves | csImc : Senior Level Management | c41 : Management | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpxin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africa : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD News

PUB Leaders & Company Limited

AN Document AIWTHD0020220324ei3o0003m

HD MTN wins 4G, 5G spectrum in history South African auction**BY** Techgh24**WC** 812 words**PD** 19 March 2022**SN** News Ghana**SC** NWGHA**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2022 News Ghana - All rights reserved - Provided by SyndiGate Media Inc.**LP**

News Ghana, Latest Updates and Breaking News of Ghana, Techgh24,
<https://newsghana.com.gh/mtn-wins-4g-5g-spectrum-in-history-south-african-auction/>

MTN Group has announced the winning of a high-demand spectrum by MTN South Africa (MTN SA) to support its 4G and **5G expansion** drive, following the successful conclusion of a landmark Simultaneous Multi Round Ascending Auction (SMRA) by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA).

TD

According to a statement issued on the official website of MTN Group, during the main phase of the auction, that started on 10 March 2022 and finished after 58 rounds of bidding, MTN SA acquired a total of 100MHz across the 800MHz, 2 600MHz and 3 500MHz frequency bands and will pay a total of R5.2 billion for the spectrum.

"This compares favourably with global benchmark averages of approximately \$0.083MHz-POP – according to Coleago Consulting – for spectrum in similar auctions," it said.

MTN SA secured the following spectrum bands in the SMRA: 1. 2 x 10MHz of 800MHz at a price of R2.9 billion (\$195.5 million), 2. 4 x 10MHz of 2 600MHz at a price of R1.1 billion (\$72.8 million) and 3. 4 x 10MHz of 3 500 MHz at a price of R1.1 billion (\$75.1 million)

The company believes this is the first time in approximately 17 years that spectrum has been released on a permanent basis in South Africa and increases MTN SA's total permanent spectrum holdings from 76MHz to 176MHz. The spectrum has been allotted for a 20-year period and on a technology-neutral basis. The Group President and CEO, Ralph Mupita in his remark after the announcement disclosed that the release of high-demand spectrum is a significant step forward for South Africa in the implementation of the key structural reforms needed to drive economic growth.

He then commended the ICASA and the government of South Africa for the bold and transformational decision to proceed with this auction.

"Securing this high-demand spectrum is critical in positioning MTN SA, the second-largest operation in the MTN Group, for sustained and profitable growth into the future. We have secured an optimal mix of low-band and mid-band frequencies for MTN SA that will support the data traffic we will carry for 4G and 5G services," he said.

"In line with our disciplined capital allocation framework, which prioritizes investment in growth, we have built up the financial flexibility to be able to fund MTN SA's spectrum acquisition through cash and liquidity resources at MTN Group. We expect our holding company leverage to remain within our guidance targets, following the acquisition of this spectrum. We have

secured this spectrum at a cost that is value accretive for our providers of capital, when you compare against global benchmarks," he added.

Speaking on the auction, MTN SA CEO, Charles Molapisi said "this is a significant milestone and achievement, not only for MTN SA and the telecommunication industry at large but also for South Africa's digital future. Spectrum is the lifeblood of our industry and is key to reliable and extensive connectivity for our customers across the country"

“Our multibillion-rand investment into this much-needed spectrum is also an important injection of cash into the national fiscus. In anticipation of the spectrum allocation, we had undertaken a modernisation of our network to ensure that we would be ready to leverage this spectrum to the connectivity benefit of South Africans as quickly as possible,” he adds.

Molapisi further said MTN SA will use the spectrum to expand 4G and 5G connectivity, as well as the capacity, on South Africa’s best network while also further enhancing rural, peri-urban, and urban network coverage. The spectrum allocation will also allow for greater value for customers, supporting MTN’s consistent push in recent years to lower the cost to communicate.

He also pointed to the use of temporary spectrum as a case study of how MTN SA would use its allocated spectrum and acknowledged how ICASA’s allocation of temporary spectrum during the national state of disaster gave MTN SA extra network capacity to provide more than four million people access to free health and education websites each month.

“MTN SA will continue to make this provision with the permanent award of spectrum and will expand access to include additional public service websites, as per the conditions set out for this auction,” he stressed.

‘We congratulate the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, and our regulator, ICASA, on this momentous achievement in the history of our country’, commented Molapisi.

News Ghana, Latest Updates and Breaking News of Ghana, Techgh24,
<https://newsghana.com.gh/mtn-wins-4g-5g-spectrum-in-history-south-african-auction/>

CO icaosa : Independent Communications Authority of South Africa | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE safr : South Africa | ghana : Ghana | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa | wafrz : West Africa

IPD Technology, 4G, 5G spectrum, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, MTN Group, MTN South Africa, South African auction

PUB News Ghana

AN Document NWGHA00020220320ei3j00009

HD MTN celebrates sales associates, partners, assure stakeholders of equal opportunities

BY Seyi John Salau

WC 472 words

PD 19 March 2022

SN Business Day

SC BUSMEDI

LA English

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LP

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MTN Nigeria has assured its stakeholders of willingness to create equal business opportunities to help grow their **investment** portfolio, as the telecommunications-turned technology company celebrated its sales associates and partners.

TD

MTN recently concluded a three-day event to celebrate its sales associates and partners across the country. The activities started with the annual sales conference tagged, "Excellerate – the Future of Sales and Distribution" to equip the team for the challenges of the New Year.

An award ceremony to recognize staff and trade partners with exceptional performance in the past year was equally held in Lagos with customer acquisition partners and sales associates from across the country in attendance.

"The remarkable results we saw in 2021 is testament to the devotion of all our partners and employees, equally evident in the number of people gathered here today from all over the country. Your commitment to ensure that we not only meet but surpass expectations is inspiring and we will continue to support you even as we commence a new phase in our journey as an organisation," said Adekunle Adebisi, the chief sales and distribution officer, MTN Nigeria.

According to Adebisi, the 2021 financial year was one of many firsts for the company which ended with an amazing performance.

According to him, twenty three awardees were recognised across various categories including customer acquisition partner of the year, data trade partner of the year, best sales and trade delivery manager of the year among others.

The Fortune 100 category recognises teams who exceed sales targets in their territories. Five winners in silver and gold categories received a brand new seven-seater and fifteen-seater bus respectively.

Read also: [How MTN's MoMo overtook Safaricom's M-Pesa in five numbers](#)

Golad Telecoms Limited emerged the national winner in Fortune 100 category with special recognition from Tobe Chukwu Okigbo, the chief corporate services officer, MTN Nigeria, who represented Olutokun Toriola, the chief executive officer.

Congratulating the recipients, Okigbo thanked the ecosystem of MTN's sales and distribution partners, noting that the company's tremendous results can be attributed to their dedication and commitment while assuring them of a stronger relationship in the year 2022.

"It was exciting to observe that all the Fortune 100 winners were led by women. As an organisation passionate about creating equal opportunities, it's my pleasure to recognise these women and look forward to greater rewards as we continue to surpass targets," Okigbo said.

Speaking on behalf of the Managing Director, Olalekan Idowu, General Manager, Golad Telecoms said, "Our partnership with MTN has been instrumental to the growth of our organisation and we remain committed to achieving the collective goals we have mapped out for the year. Golad Telecoms and MTN are good together".

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c151 : Earnings | c1513 : Sales Figures | c15 : Financial Performance | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD Technology

PUB Business Day Media Ltd.

AN Document BUSMEDI020220319ei3j00031

HD MTN wants to retire its 3G network from 2025

BY Sibongile Khumalo

WC 460 words

PD 19 March 2022

SN News24 online

SC NWSFT

LA English

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MTN Group CEO Ralph Mupita. Photo supplied

MTN - which was one of the successful bidders in the broadband spectrum - plans to have **5G network** coverage that covers 25% of the country's population by the end of the year, pushing it to 60% in five years' time.

TD

The plan is bolstered by MTN's recent acquisition of a total of 100MHz of spectrum across the 800MHz, 2 600MHz and 3 500MHz frequency bands. It paid R5.2 billion for the spectrum.

As it switches to 5G, the company wants to start decommissioning 3G in 2025/26.

Speaking to investors on Friday afternoon, the group's CEO Ralph Mupita said its South African business, which is the largest after Nigeria, had the least amount of spectrum in the group before the auction. Following the auction, MTN South Africa is now "in the middle of the pack".

According to Mupita, the company had to be innovative in its utilisation of the available spectrum.

Spectrum refers to the invisible radio frequencies that wireless signals travel over, which allows for cellphone communication – as well as for satellite TV, air traffic control, and two-way radios.

3G is the third generation of wireless communication technology, which was launched in 1998. 4G is much faster than 3G, while 5G is some 10 times faster than the 4G, allowing speeds of around 200Mbps.

MTN SA has been on a path of expanding its network capacity, including 4G and 5G rollout as part of its growth strategy. The company has established more than 1 000 5G sites so far.

"The ambition is clear, this year we will deliver 25% population coverage on 5G, and by 2025 we are going to take the coverage on the 5G layer to 60%," said chief executive Charles Molapisi.

"The (3G) decommissioning will bring with it the spectrum that we are going to use on the 5G layer or even the 4G. We see 4G technology as long term," he said, adding that fourth and fifth-generation technology could co-exist for longer periods.

MTN will use the proceeds from the sale of 5 700 cellphone towers in South Africa to IHS Towers to fund the spectrum acquisition. Late last year, the company [entered into a R6.4 billion deal](#) to sell these towers.

The broadband auction took place in the shadow of the pending review of the 2021 invitation document issued by the regulator for the process, which Telkom is challenging. The case will be heard from 11 April. Telkom, despite its legal bid, was one of the successful bidders in the auction.

The acquisition of additional spectrum by telecommunication companies is expected to lower data and call costs for South Africans.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS cacqu : Acquisitions/Mergers | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c411 : Management Moves | c18 : Ownership Changes | c41 : Management | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpxin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE safr : South Africa | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa

IPD Fin24

PUB Media24 News

AN Document NWSFT00020220319ei3j000dx

HD South Africa: MTN invests \$46.4mln in new infrastructure in KwaZulu-Natal

CR Ecofin Agency

WC 226 words

PD 17 March 2022

ET 16:57

SN Ecofin Agency

SC ECOFI

LA English

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Demand for telecom services is growing in Africa, especially in rural areas. To tap into the opportunity, operators are multiplying their investments. As part of this strategy, MTN South Africa has just announced a new **investment** of R700 million (\$46.4 million) to upgrade its existing network infrastructure and deploy new ones in KwaZulu-Natal.

The initiative includes 4G and **5G expansion** and the restoration of vandalized network infrastructure. "The KZN **investment** forms part of plans to modernize the entire MTN network, 68 percent has already been completed nationally, with an additional 1 350 sites to be finalized, and around 200 top areas covered across South Africa, by the end of 2022," explained Matthew Khuma, MTN KwaZulu-Natal Operations MD.

TD

As a reminder, MTN has already invested R270 million and R500 million in the region for similar projects in 2020 and 2021 respectively. These investments are in line with the telco's ambition to bring telecom services to people in the most remote areas of South Africa. "We currently have over 900 active 5G sites across the country. With the aim of closing the digital access gaps in South Africa, our target is to have 20% of the population covered by 2022," said Matthew Khuma.

Isaac K. Kassouwi

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CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

RE safr : South Africa | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa

PUB Agence Ecofin

AN Document ECOFI00020220317ei3h0005I

HD **BRIEF-MTN SA Secures High-Demand Spectrum To Support Its 4G And 5G Expansion Drive**

WC 116 words

PD 17 March 2022

ET 14:52

SN Reuters News

SC LBA

LA English

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LP

March 17 (Reuters) - MTN Group Ltd:

* MTN - MTN SA HAS SECURED HIGH-DEMAND SPECTRUM TO SUPPORT ITS 4G AND 5G EXPANSION DRIVE.

TD

* MTN - ACQUIRED A TOTAL OF 100MHZ ACROSS 800MHZ, 2 600MHZ AND 3 500MHZ FREQUENCY BANDS AND WILL PAY A TOTAL OF R5.2 BILLION FOR SPECTRUM

* MTN - WILL PAY A TOTAL OF R5.2 BILLION FOR SPECTRUM

* MTN - MTN SA WILL USE SPECTRUM TO EXPAND 4G AND 5G CONNECTIVITY, AS WELL AS CAPACITY

* MTN - TEMPORARY SPECTRUM ALSO ALLOWED OPERATOR TO REACH DEEPER INTO SMALL TOWNS Source text for Eikon: Further company coverage:

RF Released: 2022-3-17T15:52:03.000Z

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

IPD Business

IPC SERVICE:RNP

PUB Reuters News & Media Inc.

AN Document LBA0000020220317ei3h02wpi

SE Business
HD Koa 'disrupts transparency in cocoa' with public payments: 'This is how supply chains need to be'
BY Flora Southey
WC 693 words
PD 16 March 2022
SN WRBM Global Food
SC GFOOD
LA English
CY © WRBM Global Food. William Reed Business Media Ltd

LP

The Swiss-Ghanaian start-up, best known for its upcycling of cocoa side streams, has partnered with seedtrace and MTN Group to 'disrupt transparency standards' in cocoa.

The cocoa sector faces several **sustainability** challenges, not least that many smallholder farmers struggle to earn a living wage.

TD

According to data from Wageningen University & Research, 75% of smallholder cocoa farmers in Ghana and Ivory Coast – where 70% of the world's cocoa is produced – are earning well below the living income benchmark.

According to Swiss-Ghanaian start-up Koa, enhancing transparency in global supply chains could help turn the tide on cocoa farmer poverty.

"Over the last decades, supply chain scandals and cocoa farmer poverty have continued to rock the cocoa industry, leading to increased consumer demand and political efforts to improve transparency and accountability within the cocoa industry," noted the start-up.

"Yet, consumers struggle to put their trust in brands and in their initiatives. While products carry certification labels, the inevitable question remains: 'How can I be sure that farmers receive the money that they're entitled to?'"

In response Koa, which is best known for its work in side stream upcycling – the start-up is repurposing the pulp and juice of the cocoa fruit for food and drink manufacturers – is making its payments to farmers publicly available.

Tapping blockchain for transparency

Koa has collaborated with seedtrace in Germany and MTN Group in South Africa to implement a new 'tamper-proof' transparency system that records payments made to cocoa smallholders.

To develop the platform, Koa leaned on Berlin-based seedtrace's technology.

"Existing certification labels often validate transactions through non-transparent, error-prone control procedures, with farmers regularly only receiving a portion of the funds claimed to be earmarked for them," said Koa. "To combat this, seedtrace created a system that removes the room for error and enables customers to monitor the extra income paid to farmers."

Seedtrace verifies each transaction and stores it in an open, low emission blockchain.

"It's a newly developed system, applied for the first time with Koa to enable consumers to access transactions in real-time," seedtrace CEO Ana Selina Haberbosch told FoodNavigator

"What stands out in particular is that in addition to irreversibly storing the transactions on an open blockchain, we also verify every single one of them through the API with MTN. It is crucial to both consider where the data comes from and where is stored."

Instead of having a person enter information on the blockchain, the system links the data from mobile money transactions – provided by Africa's largest telecommunications operator MGN Group.

Traceability from 'seed to shelf'

Together with KOA, seedtrace said its goal is to 'turn supply chain transparency into the norm' and enable businesses and consumers to make more sustainable choices.

"For all partners involved, the goal is to drive change across the entire industry and hence enable any company that is interested to take major steps towards credible supply chain transparency," said seedtrace's Haberbosch.

"Our system can be applied to businesses that pay via mobile transactions, but can also be extended to other forms of payment and supply

chain processes."

Providing fair payment is one of the start-up's focus areas, the CEO stressed, but the idea is to make the final product, as a whole, traceable from 'seed to shelf'.

A 'breakthrough' in cocoa

The international team hopes its initiative will set a new standard for cocoa payments.

"We're convinced that the new system sets new transparency goals for the cocoa industry," Anian Schreiber, managing director and co-founder at Koa told this publication.

Consumers are increasingly demanded proof of their food's origin, we were told, and known certification labels are not up to scratch, the co-founder reiterated.

"With the new system, we can bring transparency to the next level and we can enable our direct customers to hop on board. For us, this is a breakthrough in the cocoa sector and how supply chains need to be in 2022 and in the future."

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | wagurh : Wageningen University & Research

IN iconf : Chocolate/Confectionery | i0100144 : Cocoa Growing | i0 : Agriculture | ifood : Food Products | i01001 : Farming | i41 : Food/Beverages | i421 : Sugar Products | icnp : Consumer Goods | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE ghana : Ghana | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD Business

PUB William Reed Business Media LTD.

AN Document GFOOD00020220316ei3g0005m

HD	MTN signs MoU with Nigerian Stock Exchange to encourage retail investment in capital market
WC	70 words
PD	15 March 2022
SN	Telecompaper Africa
SC	TELAFR
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022 Telecompaper. All Rights Reserved.
LP	<p>MTN Nigeria and the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NGX) have announced a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote financial literacy and retail participation in the Nigerian capital market (NCM). They will develop capital market services, use technology to support data dissemination and technology-as-a-service, promote capacity development and eliminate barriers to retail participation.</p>
CO	mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN	i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS	ccat : Corporate/Industrial News cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations c23 : Research/Development
RE	nigea : Nigeria africaz : Africa dvpcoz : Developing Economies wafrz : West Africa
PUB	Telecompaper BV
AN	Document TELAFR0020220315ei3f0005I

HD NGX Partners With MTNN To Further Enhance Retail Participation In Nigeria's Capital Market
WC 478 words

PD 14 March 2022

SN Exchange News Direct

SC EXNEWS

LA English

CY © 2022 Mondo Visione

LP

Nigerian Exchange Limited ("NGX" or "The Exchange") and MTN Nigeria Communications Plc (MTNN) have announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further promote financial literacy and enhance retail participation in the Nigerian capital market. The announcement was made at the signing ceremony led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NGX, **Mr.** Temi Popoola and the CEO, MTNN, **Mr.** Karl Toriola.

The MoU is a two-year partnership that will see NGX and MTNN collaborate to develop capital market solutions, leverage technology to support data dissemination and technology-as-a-service, promote capacity development, and eliminate barriers to retail participation in the capital market.

TD

Speaking about the MoU, the CEO, NGX, Mr. Popoola stated, "In building on our rich heritage as the first and foremost multi-asset securities exchange in Nigeria we are resolute in our commitment to democratize finance in Nigeria by leveraging current advancements in technology and relying on strategic partnerships. With its customer base of over 68 million customers, MTNN provides invaluable access to a large pool of potential retail investors who can play an important role in Nigeria's capital market, deepening their own financial resilience in the process. This collaboration with MTNN aligns with our aspiration to build an open, professional and vibrant exchange and we are indeed excited about this NGX era."

The CEO, MTNN, Mr. Karl Toriola added, "AT MTNN, we believe we have a responsibility to ensure that our customers not only stay connected but can access increasing value and better services through our network, deepening their participation in the digital economy. Our collaboration with NGX gives us the opportunity to empower our customer base with the tools and the knowledge to engage effectively with the capital market and meet their financial and investment objectives. There is no better way to demonstrate our commitment to this than through the just concluded public offer for sale of MTNN shares, designed to enhance retail shareholder participation in the value that we create. We continue to identify other areas of cooperation with NGX and we look forward to a mutually beneficial partnership that will contribute to the inclusive growth of the Nigerian economy."

MTNN recently completed a public offer of the sale of 575 million ordinary shares in MTNN held by the MTN Group leveraging the NGX sponsored digital platform. The offer which was the first ever end-to-end digital offer in the Nigerian capital markets was oversubscribed by 139.4%. The deployment of an electronic primary offer platform is consistent with the commitment of NGX to enhance the efficiency and reach of the Public Offer (PO) subscription process and operational work-flow to support issuers in raising capital and enhance the reach of POs while promoting financial inclusion and retail investors' participation in the market.

CO mnigcl : MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | csImc : Senior Level Management | c23 : Research/Development | c41 : Management | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcPin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

PUB Mondo Visione Limited

SE News
HD MTN steps up fibre drive in Africa
BY Thabiso Mochiko
WC 586 words
PD 13 March 2022
SN The Sunday Times
SC SUNTIM
ED Business Times
PG 4
LA English
CY © Copyright 2022 Arena Holdings (Pty) Ltd

LP

THABISO MOCHIKOMTN is ramping up its fibre business in several African countries to capture continued demand for the high-speed internet connectivity needed to accelerate the digital economy and fintech services.

This is a key area of growth for the group, and it wants 70% of its customers in some of its more mature markets to use its fintech services.

TD

MTN, which operates in 19 countries in Africa and the Middle East, will spin off its fibre businesses into MTN Global Connect (MTN GC) and its fintech business into a separate standalone company. Once the separation is completed it will seek strategic partners to accelerate growth for both entities.

MTN Group CEO Ralph Mupita said this week: "A significant number of our customers don't have access to the internet and fintech. The strong growth trajectory remains on track."

In the year to December, MTN's active data subscribers rose by 11.1-million to 122-million. It added 10.4-million monthly active users for its Mobile Money (MoMo) service, taking the total to 56.8-million. Transaction value in the MoMo platform increased 56.8% to \$239.4bn (R3.6-trillion).

MTN has 274-million subscribers.

In the year to December, MTN GNC delivered a strong commercial and financial performance, signing fixed external infrastructure deals worth \$38.4m and growth in external revenue rose 30% year-on-year to \$288.4m.

"In the year, we continued to build scale infrastructure assets to meet the explosive growth in data traffic and the accelerating digital economy in Africa," MTN said in a statement.

During 2021 it rolled out more than 15,000km of additional terrestrial fibre, including in SA, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe, bringing its total inventory to about 100,000km. MTN's target is to reach 135,000km by 2025.

Mupita said the structural separation of the fibre business will be completed in 2023, with asset separations already under way in SA, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Uganda. Fibre companies have already been established in Zambia and Kenya.

"We will bring [in] strategic partners over time," not only as financial investors but as partners that will take up minority shares and help grow those businesses, he said.

MTN's fintech revenue grew by 30.9% to R15.9bn, contributing 9.3% to total group revenue of R181bn. The target is to grow fintech's revenue contribution to 20% in the next five years.

Aslam Dalvi, portfolio manager for Camissa Asset Management, said the fintech opportunity is particularly large, with MTN well positioned to capitalise on the opportunity given its strong brand, sizeable existing market shares and well-invested asset base across its key markets.

Claude van Cuyck, director at Denker Capital, said the economics of the fintech business is "extremely positive".

"This is a high-growth segment, with high margins, low capital intensity, strong cash flow generation and high return on invested capital. As they grow this business, they will grow intrinsic value for shareholders. The separation of the segment will allow the market to better appreciate the strong underlying business economics."

Commenting on MTN's overall performance, Peter Takaendesa, head of equities at Mergence, said there was stronger operational performance mostly in the rest of Africa operations, driven by mobile data and mobile money revenue growth.

MTN resumed its dividend, declaring 300c a share for the financial year.

MTN is ramping up its fibre business in some African countries. 123RF/ Pop Nukoonrat

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN ifmsoft : Financial Technology | ifinal : Financial Services | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE africaz : Africa

IPD Telecommunications

PUB Arena Holdings (Pty) Ltd

AN Document SUNTIM0020220313ei3d0000g

SE Business
HD **MTN steps up fibre drive in Africa; Group focuses on demand for high-speed internet and accelerated growth of fintech services**

BY Thabiso Mochiko

WC 908 words

PD 13 March 2022

SN TimesLIVE

SC TLIVE

LA English

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LP

MTN is ramping up its fibre business in several African countries to capture continued demand for the highspeed internet connectivity needed to accelerate the digital economy and fintech services.

This is a key area of growth for the group, and it wants 70% of its customers in some of its more mature markets to use its fintech services.

TD

MTN has set aside R34bn in capital expenditure, with up to 3% and 15% of that going to its fintech and fibre businesses respectively.

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"We will bring [in] strategic partners over time," not only as financial investors but as partners that will take up minority shares and help grow those businesses, said Mupita.

Mupita said in the longer term the group will "consider listing those businesses, but that is years ahead".

Telkom, which has also separated its tower and mast business in subsidiary Swiftnet, this week said it had postponed its plans to list the company on the JSE by the end of March, due to the impact the Ukraine war has had on capital markets.

At MTN, fintech grew revenue by 30.9% to R15.9bn, contributing 9.3% to total group revenue of R181bn. The target is to grow fintech's revenue contribution to 20% in the next five years.

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"This is a highgrowth segment, with high margins, low capital intensity, strong cash flow generation and high return on invested capital. As they grow this business, they will grow intrinsic value for shareholders. The separation of the segment will allow the market to better appreciate the strong underlying business economics."

MTN has exited Syria and Yemen and plans to do the same in Afghanistan. Mupita said the group would ideally like to complete the exit this financial year.

Commenting on MTN's overall performance, Peter Takaendesa, head of equities at Mergence, said there was stronger operational performance mostly in the rest of Africa operations, driven by mobile data and mobile money revenue growth.

"However, the key upside surprise for 2021 was the large cash upstreaming and no major regulatory issues from Nigeria at a time other South African companies have struggled to get cash out of that country with regulators claiming large amounts of money from the likes of MultiChoice.

"The improved cash upstreaming, asset disposals and dividend suspension since 2020 have contributed to significant debt reduction on the balance sheet, though there is still some US dollardenominated debt to deal with," Takaendesa said.

MTN resumed its dividend, declaring 300c a share for the financial year.

Van Cuyck said the only weakness in the result was voice revenues in SA (down 5%), but this is expected in a more mature market. Overall service revenue growth in SA was solid at 6.5% and at the upper end of their guidance.

For Takaendesa, the key questions remain on the sustainability of the mobiledata revenue growth rates seen in 2021 given increasing pressure on consumer spending and whether that could result in voicerevenue cannibalisation over the mid term.

"Regulatory and taxation risks remain key areas to watch in a number of African markets, particularly in highgrowth mobile services. We have already started to see some new mobilemoney tax proposals in some countries as they continue to target tax revenue diversification," he said.

ART Fintech MTN is ramping up its fibre business in some African countries.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN ifmsoft : Financial Technology | ifinal : Financial Services | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE africaz : Africa

PUB Arena Holdings (Pty) Ltd.

AN Document TLIVE00020220313ei3d00009

HD How MTN's land acquisition in the **metaverse** will impact Africa

BY Adekunle Agbetiloye

WC 980 words

PD 11 March 2022

SN Ventures Africa

SC VENAF

LA English

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LP

The **metaverse** has generated quite the buzz, especially after [Facebook rebranded to Meta](#). Facebook is not the only company developing the next phase of the internet. Other tech giants such as Microsoft, Samsung, Amazon, Tencent, among others, have been developing software and **hardware** to aid in the rebirth of mobile internet. With so much awareness already, the race to the **metaverse** is becoming more competitive. We once asked if [Nigeria and Africa will be ready for the next wave of internet revolution](#)? We are beginning to get answers.

TD

Two weeks ago, Africa's largest telecom company, MTN bought 144 plots of digital land sized 12x12m in [Africarare](#), the first African metaverse, launched in South Africa last year. This purchase makes the telecommunication giant the first African company in the metaverse. This investment demonstrates "MTN's commitment to supporting African innovation as it is the first company on the continent to support an initiative of this kind. Through its presence in the metaverse, MTN intends to increase its customer attractiveness through a series of experiences merged with consumer passion points, like gaming and music," the press statement read.

The digital land acquisition reinforces the company's decision to reposition itself as a [technology company](#), rather than a telecommunications company – a declaration it made early last month. The company's [recent win](#) of the [5G deployment](#) bid and its payment of the \$273.6m license fee required by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) shows it is in a race to champion technological transformation in the country and the continent. It wants to be everywhere you go.

This purchase of virtual lands by Africa's most prominent telecom company would positively impact the continent. First, it would propel many companies to go into the metaverse. Outside of Africa, companies such as Samsung, Adidas, and PricewaterhouseCoopers have purchased digital land in the metaverse. [Decentraland](#), from which some of these companies purchased their virtual lands, has seen more than \$50 million in total sales of land, avatars, usernames, and virtual outfits. Currently, M&C Saatchi Abel, a South African advertising agency, also has a plot of land in the newly created Ubuntuland by Africarare.

Given that there is now a frontline, more African companies will begin virtual land acquisitions soon. "It is an exciting moment for us as we lead businesses on the continent to enter the metaverse marketplace. This is exactly what our Ambition 2025 strategy is premised on – leveraging trends that amplify consumers' digital experiences and engagement," Bernice Samuels, MTN's Group Executive for Marketing, said.

The African creator's economy would also benefit from this new development. [African artists are already putting Africa's story on the metaverse](#). For a long time, MTN has been an avid promoter of African entertainment. From MTN project fame to MTN YelloStar, and its collaboration with UDUX – one of their latest efforts to merge entertainment and technology to promote Afrobeats globally. The collaboration with UDUX enabled over 238,000 Nigerians to experience Wizkid's "Made in Lagos" concert in London's O2 Arena right from their bedroom. Customers can participate in such events through virtual reality, as promised by the metaverse. It will also serve as a viable source of income for the artists.

Top foreign celebrities such as Ariana Grande and Travis Scott have held concerts inside Fortnite. Nigerian music producers and artists have also come aboard the trend, though none have yet to perform in the metaverse. Nigerian music grandmaster, Don Jazzy, own lands in Decentraland. Daniel Benson, popularly known as Buju, has an NFT project called [HeadsByBuju](#) – a collection of 10,001 unique NFTs of his face. Holders of these NFTs would get perks like access to physical and virtual concerts hosted by Buju, merch items, and a part of the revenue earned by the musician from specific music projects.

Landholders in the metaverse can customize their spaces to serve the metaverse community for work, play, and wellness purposes. Meeting rooms, galleries, online therapy rooms, concert stages, and film festival spaces can be built on these lands in the metaverse. Imagine owning a Buju head, and being in a music theatre built on one of MTN's 144 plots of virtual land, enjoying a virtual reality experience of the artiste performing his hit song Italy, without leaving your room in Nigeria.

Construction of structures in the metaverse that represent our regular brick and mortar buildings, in reality, will give room for the employment of a significant number of people. These structures will be [made of polygons](#) or voxels (three-dimensional pixels), and specific skills are needed to build with these materials. So rather than have structural engineers for construction, developers and digital designers are the builders of the digital world where we will live more of our daily lives in the future.

Finally, the currency in Ubutuland will be the \$UBUNTU token – built on the Ethereum blockchain. Everything in Africarare can be bought, sold, or traded using \$UBUNTU tokens. This includes buying, developing, selling, or renting plots or villages in Ubutulands. This would likely heighten the adoption of cryptocurrency on the continent. Although cryptocurrencies are [frowned upon](#) by the governments of some of Africa's top markets, Africa has the fastest cryptocurrency adoption rate in the world, driven by peer-to-peer (P2P) transactions.

Although the metaverse is still at its nascent stage, there are a lot of speculations about its actualization. The valuations attached to the metaverse are not small. According to [Bloomberg Intelligence](#), it should be worth \$800 billion by 2024. Metaverse enthusiasts have compared the struggle to buy virtual land to the scramble for domain names in the early days of the internet. It is the same way with the metaverse today, so it makes sense that people want to be early participants.

CO mcelona : MTN Group Limited | onInfr : Meta Platforms Inc.

IN i3302021 : Applications Software | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | icomp : Computing | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | iint : Online Service Providers | imed : Media/Entertainment | isocial : Social Media Platforms/Tools

NS c182 : Physical Asset Transactions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE africaz : Africa | nigea : Nigeria | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD Business

PUB Ventures Africa

AN Document VENAF00020220312ei3b00009

HD **BRIEF-MTN Group Says For 2022 MTN Nigeria Intends To Ensure **Connectivity** Of Additional 2000 Rural Communities**
WC 75 words
PD 11 March 2022
ET 16:10
SN Reuters News
SC LBA
LA English
CY Copyright 2022 Thomson Reuters. All Rights Reserved.
LP
 March 11 (Reuters) - MTN Group Ltd:
 * MTN - MTN GROUP RE-AFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO NIGERIA
TD
 * MTN - FOR 2022 MTN NIGERIA INTENDS TO ENSURE CONNECTIVITY OF AN ADDITIONAL 2 000 RURAL COMMUNITIES
 * MTN - HAS SECURED 100 MHZ OF 3500 SPECTRUM TO ENABLE NIGERIA'S MOVE TO 5G
 Source text for Eikon: Further company coverage:
RF Released: 2022-3-11T17:10:21.000Z
CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited
IN i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News
RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa
IPD Business
IPC SERVICE:RNP
PUB Reuters News & Media Inc.
AN Document LBA0000020220311ei3b03ijn

HD MTN Group Becomes the First African Company to Enter the Metaverse - Kenyan Wallstreet

BY Leah Wamugu

WC 357 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN The Kenyan Wall Street

SC KNSTR

LA English

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LP

MTN Group, Africa's largest mobile network provider, has emerged as the first company on the continent to buy some plots of digital land on the virtual reality world — **metaverse**.

In a [press statement published](#) on its website, the leading telco announced that 144 plots of digital land were purchased in Africarare, the first virtual reality **metaverse** in Africa that launched in South Africa last year. The company did not disclose how much exactly it spent for this.

TD

According to the company' Group Chief Marketing Officer Bernice Samuels, the move aligns with the MTN Group's ambition 2025 which entails leveraging trends to augment and increase its customers' digital experiences, whilst actualising overall business growth.

[Click here](#) ADVERTISEMENT

"This is an exciting moment for us as we lead businesses on the continent to enter the metaverse marketplace. This is exactly what our Ambition 2025 strategy is premised on – leveraging trends that amplify consumer's digital experiences and engagement. We have always been at the forefront of technological and digital changes and we remain alive to the exciting opportunities the metaverse presents for us and our customers,"

Bernice Samuels MTN Group Chief Marketing Officer.

Furthermore, MTN Group said its presence on the metaverse demonstrates its commitment to supporting African innovation, and noted that it would leverage this to boost its attractiveness by availing customers access to "a series of experiences merged with consumer passion points like gaming and music."

The Africarare metaverse is the latest innovation that has taken the tech space by storm. Investopedia defines it as "a digital reality that combines aspects of social media, online gaming, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and cryptocurrencies to allow users to interact virtually."

In the metaverse, not only do users get to interact with the computer-generated environment, they also interact with other users and engage in typical daily activities such as going to school, going to work, watching concerts, shopping at stores/malls, playing games, etc.

Read also; [MTN's Group Public Offer in MTN Nigeria oversubscribed by 139.47%](#).

[Click to view image](#)

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | ivrealt : Virtual Reality Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE africaz : Africa | kenya : Kenya | dvpcos : Developing Economies | eafz : East Africa

IPD African News

PUB Kenyan Wall Street
AN Document KNSTR00020220310ei3a000b5

HD Boomplay partners with MTN Nigeria on music data bundles

WC 138 words

PD 10 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

Boomplay, a music streaming app in Africa, has partnered with MTN Nigeria to launch the Boomplay x MTN Data bundle as part of its efforts to continue making music easily available to people. The partnership will offer MTN subscribers a dedicated data bundle to stream unlimited music and access premium **content** on Boomplay at affordable rates.

Under the partnership, MTN subscribers will be offered daily, weekly and monthly subscriptions to gain access to Boomplay's music streaming service on their mobile **devices**. The plans are one day access with 250MB data, weekly access with 1,228.8MB, and monthly access with 2,560 MB. MTN users will be able to purchase any of the bundles by texting a short code or purchasing with **airtime payment** in the Boomplay app.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN imsssoft : Streaming Services | imobsoft : Mobile Applications Software | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | icomp : Computing | idistr : Media Content Distribution | iint : Online Service Providers | imed : Media/Entertainment | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

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HD 5G rollout nears, NCC confirms MTN, Mafab paid \$547.2m

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Temitayo Jaiyeola and Sami Olatunji Published 25 February 2022

The commercial rollout of fifth-generation networks in Nigeria is drawing nearer as MTN Communications Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications Limited complete the **payment** of \$547.2m for their 5G spectrum licences.

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The payment for the licences was disclosed on Thursday by the Nigerian Communications Commission in a statement titled, '3.5GHz Spectrum: MTN, Mafab Pay for Licences,' signed by the Director, Public Affairs, NCC, Dr. Ikechukwu Adinde.

MTN and Mafab paid \$273.6m each to the NCC for the 5G spectrum licence.

The Executive Vice Chairman, NCC, Prof. Umar Danbatta, said, "I wish to officially announce that the NCC has received and confirmed payments from MTN and Mafab for their acquisition of 1 slot of 100Mhz each in the 3.5Ghz spectrum auction, which was successfully conducted by the commission on December 13, 2021. They both met the deadline of February 24, 2022, as set by the commission.

"Arising from this and on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, the Board and management of the NCC, I wish to congratulate the MTN and Mafab for this feat, as we look forward to accomplishing other deployment timelines in our 5G deployment roadmap, as articulated in the National Policy on 5G Networks for Nigeria's digital economy."

According to the commission, MTN paid an additional \$15.9m, being the bidding sum, it offered at the assignment stage of the spectrum auction, to clinch its preferred Lot 1 (3500-3600 Megahertz-MHz) in the 3.5Ghz spectrum while, Mafab, which submitted a lower bid at the assignment stage, got Lot 2 (3700-3800Mhz) at no extra cost.

The National Frequency Management Council, an agency of the Federal Government, had recently handed over the 3.5GHz spectrum for 5G networks to the NCC.

With this, the commission can now hand over the spectrum to MTN and Mafab.

In its 'Draft Information Memorandum on 3.5 GHz Spectrum Auction', the NCC disclosed that it expects the launch of commercial 5G services in the country within 12 months after the effective date of the licence.

It added that the official date licence would begin counting after payment in February. According to the commission, the 5G will be rolled out in six states within its first two years of deployment.

The NCC said, "Within year one to two, starting from the effective date of the licence. Rollout service in at least one State in each geo-political zone: SW, SS, SE, NC (Including FCT), NW and NE."

In its 'National Policy on Fifth Generation Networks for Nigeria's Digital Economy,' the Federal Government hinted that Abuja, Lagos, Rivers, Kaduna, Gombe, and Anambra would be the first six states to enjoy 5G network in the nation.

The government said, "With the approval of this national policy, the implementation is to commence immediately to cover major cities across the different geopolitical zones of the country e.g., Abuja, Lagos, Rivers, Kaduna, Gombe, Anambra, and other states where the deployment is required and subsequently to other urban cities by 2025."

CO ngcmu : Nigerian Communications Commission | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | twncmo : Taiwan National Communications Commission

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RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

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Presentation

THATO MOTLANTHE, EXECUTIVE OF IR, MTN GROUP LIMITED: Good afternoon, and welcome to MTN Group's results presentation for the year ended the 31st of December 2021. I **trust** you're all safe and well as we continue to navigate life as we currently know it. My name is Thato Motlanthe, and I'm the Executive for Investor Relations for the MTN Group.

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I'm pleased to say that for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, we're hosting a hybrid presentation. So we're happy to welcome a small audience with us in the MTN Innovation Center. It includes some of our colleagues as well as some of our shareholders who took up the invitation to come and join us. A warm welcome also to the MTNers across our markets as well as everyone who's dialed in through the various channels through the webcast or watching on BDTV and the MTN YouTube channel.

Let's first get through some of the housekeeping before we get started. And on the screen, you should be seeing our standard disclaimer and safe harbor statement, and that covers the presentation for today. For those of us who are in the room, just a quick reminder of our emergency exits. There's 1 to my right and 1 towards the back of the auditorium. Hopefully, we won't be needing them.

So just turning to the period under review and just to set some context. Obviously, the past year has brought continued challenges in the context of the pandemic, and it's brought challenges for companies around the world, and of course, including MTN. Our business has, however, demonstrated true resilience as we've continued to roll up our sleeves and to swiftly respond to many of these challenges and taking the lead in evolving the landscape we find ourselves in. We're driven by the belief that everybody deserves the benefits of a modern connected life.

The presentation today will reflect on last year's operational, financial and ESG performance and provide some thoughts on our positioning for the coming year 2022. In terms of some of the agenda items, the program will run as follows. So the MTN Group President and CEO, Ralph Mupita, will come on stage, and he'll provide us with some strategic and operational overview. Following this, Tsholofelo Molefe, our Group CFO, will come and provide some financial highlights, and then Ralph will come back to provide us some of our -- to provide us thoughts on some of our key focus areas for the coming year.

We will then open the floor for questions and answers, which Ralph and Tsholofelo will respond to. And just to note at this point that those who have dialed in through our webcast can actually submit the questions through that platform. For those of us who will be treating during the presentation, the hashtag is MTNAnnals21, and the Twitter handle is @MTNGroup.

It is now my pleasure having gone through all the admin to welcome to the stage, Ralph Mupita, our Group CEO. Thank you very much.

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA, GROUP PRESIDENT, CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MTN GROUP LIMITED: Thato, thanks very much, and a very good afternoon for myself as well, extending a warm welcome to everybody who's dialing in. As Thato has mentioned, we do have a change for the first time in the last 2 years, we do -- where we actually do have guests that are at 14th Avenue. And as Thato said, we have a couple of shareholders who are here. So I want to extend our thanks for you for joining us here at 14th Avenue. And also I want to extend thanks to the MTNers around the 19 markets who are the real heroes of the strong results that we've delivered over the past year and a strong hello from Tsholo and thanks for the strong contribution that you provided in terms of the very pleasing results that we've released today. And I'm sure the shareholders have now had a chance to read the sense and taken a view on how the company is doing.

Before I start the operational review, I wanted to start off by providing a context and rationale to the enhanced guidance that we provided today as well as the changes that we've made to the dividend policy. There's a very strong interaction between the way we're thinking about the business and the growth opportunities that we see. We're very encouraged by the performance of the business, showing strong resilience in a challenging macro, but we feel confident enough to be able to enhance the guidance on the back of the structural trends that we're seeing. And that obviously has an interaction with our capital allocation framework and therefore, how we think about dividends going forward.

So let me start there and provide a context to how we, as MTN, are seeing the future and positioning ourselves for growth. As I said, we are remaining resilient and accelerating growth in actually quite challenging environments. Occasionally by COVID-19, I think we've seen that there's been a subdued economic growth across many of our markets. And that obviously is a statement that goes more broader than Africa more globally.

We have seen currencies weakening, particularly against the dollar as well as against the rand, which is our reported currency seen volatility in oil prices and beginning to see inflation coming through. But we've been encouraged by the reopening of the economies that we're seeing across our markets and just the sheer resilience of the business and how it's positioned to be able to take advantage of what we're seeing as a structural acceleration in digital services.

And as a reminder to where the company is, we have second to none networks that are well invested in. We have a leading brand and very strong market positions. Those in combination with the people that we have in our company have given us the resilience to be able to deliver the strong results that we have. So at the core is that even through this COVID pandemic and the reopening of the economies, we've actually seen the acceleration remain structural and actually accelerating even further than when we were during the COVID pandemic.

And I want to share a slide that provides some context to how we're seeing what we're calling structurally higher demand for the services that we offer. Our results have been driven predominantly by data traffic as well as by the fintech transaction volumes. So what you have on the left-hand side of the chart is an indexation of the data traffic through our network, pre-COVID into the period where COVID was relatively intense and then the easing of lockdown. Now the data point on the easing of lockdowns, we've kind of used Google trends, mobility trends, we looked at transportation across our markets. So it came out that is more around the end of quarter 4 2020. So last year was actually a year where you can consider in our markets that they were actually relatively open.

So when you look at it and you look at the indexation to quarter 1 2019 and to the start of COVID-19, on a quarterly basis, we were getting about 267 petabytes of data through our network. COVID came along. We accelerated to 556. The economy is open further. Yes, there were still some lockdowns and we moved to 781. So an acceleration in terms of the demand of our services and how the business actually has performed. There's been a lot of narrative that the growth that we've seen is because of the lockdown arrangements. What we want to say is that actually, in our markets, they're actually relatively open. South Africa may be a bit of an outlier and Uganda, which has now opened up would be kind of the outliers but the main point that you see here is that actually there's an acceleration. And you index back to quarter 1 2019, we actually have 5x the data traffic in our network.

I think what's also been pleasing in the way that we've performed is taking on the load of data traffic. We've been able to do it with a reasonable CapEx budget and you've seen our returns improving over time. So the data traffic has not resulted in poor financial performance of the company, we've been able to manage our CapEx envelopes, our investments, the expense efficiencies in the business to see accelerating growth.

If you move to the right, you now look at fintech transactions. So again, indexing to quarter 1 2019. The pattern is the same, 2.5x the volume of fintech transactions. In last year, we had 10 billion worth of transactions through our fintech ecosystem. Again, the trend is very clearly accelerating. And the trends that we've seen and the performance of the business is what has given us the confidence to within 1 year to be able to enhance the guidance that we provided last year. And the main guidance points, you'd be familiar with our medium-term financial guidance, which we released last year. And we are making some amendments to that to reflect the structural growth trends, the performance that we have and our own views of what will happen over the next 3 to 5 years within the company.

So the first change we've made is group service revenue moving from low to mid-teens to mid-teen performance. You know that in 2021, we did 18.3%. So we're already above that guidance. South Africa, we'll maintain the same, which we generally read as 4% to 6% within the current environment, we think South Africa delivering within that range would be very good performance. Nigeria, they upgraded their guidance at the end of January. So you know that number, at least 20%.

On the holdco leverage, I think what we've been pleased with is the faster deleveraging that we wanted to see on the balance sheet actually has happened over the last 12 months. Our focus is on faster deleveraging of the non-ZAR debt that we have. We paid down the dollar debt -- we paid down some of the 2022 bonds early last year. We do have both 2024 and 2026 bonds that is still part of our capital structure and probably about ZAR 20 billion equivalents. If you look at current exchange rates, we're signaling that we want to be able to have as little dollar debt as possible on the balance sheet to give us more financial flexibility to pursue the growth that we see.

Now as much as we're signaling the growth and also signaling that the CapEx envelope will move a little higher from where it was today, we're also committing to our shareholders that we are responsible allocators of capital, who ultimately will deliver returns higher than what you've seen. So in this prior year, we did 19.6% as return on equity, we are committing to our investors that within this growth trajectory that we see as structural and stronger, and we're seeing returns improving the additional capital that we'll be putting into our networks and platforms ultimately would deliver greater returns. And we think that, that framework is what we can deliver over the next 3 to 5 years, and we're committing ourselves to that.

The capital allocation framework, obviously, the underpin of how we think about growth and how we need to make decisions. At the end of the day, we have a responsibility. One of our major responsibilities is allocating capital judiciously and into areas of faster growth. So we have a very specific batting order, which is going to drive and discipline us over the next couple of years. We are going to put capital to the fast growth areas that we see in the business that will drive the return. And that's what we call the batting order #1 around our organic growth. The leverage point is certainly batting order #2. And then the return to -- of cash to shareholders through dividends is batting order #3. We believe that the first 2 provide more value and growth for investors over the medium term and hence, reemphasizing the priorities. M&A, share buybacks and special dividends followed through within that batting order.

And with that growth outlook with the capital allocation framework, we have revised the dividend policy, and I'll come back to that. But first of all, cover the dividend declared for FY 2021. We did commit to investors that we would deliver a minimum ZAR 2.60, given the suspended dividend of the prior year. I'm pleased to announce that the Board has approved and made the decision to pay an ordinary dividend per share of ZAR 3.30, higher than the minimum we guided.

We believe that this is a very balanced decision in light of our capital allocation priorities and batting orders. And this balance is also progress we've seen in our asset realization program. The cash upstreaming we've seen, particularly in Nigeria, the faster deleveraging that we've been able to deliver and leaving liquidity headroom for investments in the near to medium term. So the ZAR 3.00, we feel is appropriate and creates the right balance.

In terms of the future dividend policy, we're announcing the dividend policy, which we're calling an annual dividend declaration, where the Board guides on a minimum dividend in the year ahead, again, aligned to the capital allocation priorities. And we're saying that we anticipate paying a minimum ordinary dividend per share of ZAR 3.30 for FY 2022, and that will be paid as a final dividend, no interim dividend in the calendar year 2023. I wanted to start out with these announcements because I think they're important in positioning how we think about capital allocation and also the linkage towards the growth prospects that we have.

Just moving on to the operational review and focusing on the major selling points. I won't cover the financial highlights. I think you read them and Tsholo Solo will take us through them in much detail but just calling out faster earnings growth that we've seen, adjusted headline earnings per share up by just shy of 27%. Again, faster deleveraging that we've seen on the balance sheet, the holdco leverage now at 1x, down from 2.2x same period on the prior year. And then obviously, cash flow, operating free cash flow growing at about 35% on an organic basis, and then the returns, as I mentioned, improving to 19.6%. So all in all, strong financial delivery, which Tsholo will take us through in our section.

If I look at our major markets, starting with South Africa, I think the issue of a challenging macro is well known in South Africa. Unemployment, particularly in the second half of the year where we saw job losses in some of the industries that were affected by COVID restrictions. We, as MTN South Africa, focused on investing in our network put ZAR 9 billion of CapEx into the network for capacity coverage and resilience, and that helped us to maintain our #1 position.

I do want to make a call out here that we are very pleased by the South African performance where all core businesses contributed to growth. The service revenue growth of 6.5% is above our guidance range and to the SA team very well done in 2021. So all in all, the South African business are doing very well. Some pressure towards the end of the year around prepaid, particularly at the lower end. But our CVM initiatives, I think, should bring us into a decent position. That's a function of the pressure that you're seeing at the lower end of the market. But all in all, very strong growth coming out of South Africa.

Nigeria, again, I'll touch on the key highlights, and you've seen these results from Karl and the team. The major issue in the Nigerian context in last year was really the SIM registration issues. I'm pleased to say that at the end of quarter 4, we started seeing net additions back in the Nigerian base, 1 million net additions after the growth of the business because we couldn't register any new subscribers. The trends we saw in quarter 4 have come through in the first 2 months of this year. So we encourage that we're seeing Nigeria back in subscriber growth. So very strong 4G build-out of the network. We did allocate more CapEx to them on the back of strong growth that you've seen in the data and obviously picking up a lot of data traffic, 85% data traffic growth in the prior year.

We're also pleased to see that we had some progress on the PSB. As you all are aware, we had an approval in principle. This is what we've been looking forward to in the last 2 years to retain get our fintech business in Nigeria, also scaling over time. And we've been interacting with the Central Bank of Nigeria to get all our approvals in place, and we await the decisions of the CBN. So very, very strong results from Karl and the team in Nigeria, encouraging us as well as we have now upgraded the guidance for service revenue within that business.

The other markets are looking at SEA, WECA and MENA. I think we've seen broad-based growth across the regions. I think a couple of highlights to pick up all the regions growing obviously above the group service revenue guide, a performance of 18%, SEA very strong and WECA strong as well. And I think in WECA, we also have to remember that many markets are basically indexed to the euro, so very low inflation environment. So getting an 18.4% growth has been very strong. All the regions have been accretive from an EBITDA margin perspective, so driving profitability all the way to the bottom line and cash flow.

If I look at fintech, again, a very strong story and performance around our fintech business, just again, reemphasizing the strength of that ecosystem, 10 billion transactions \$239 billion worth of transaction value. And the main verticals within the fintech business, Wallet, Banktech, Merchant Payments and E-commerce performing very well.

We signed up a joint venture with Sanlam on the insurtech going through regulatory approvals now. So we should be able to launch that in the second half of this year and also start to see the insurtech business grow strongly. And we secured partnerships that are really helping us in particular, drive the merchant ecosystem, which I'll talk to, which is critical for the growth of this business going forward.

Still on fintech. I think, as I mentioned, a really important part is the ecosystem expansion that we've seen in the business. So we had 57 million monthly active users at the end of the year, up from 46 million. One of the key strategies has been that we want to see base penetration, and we feel that we will get the business growing very strongly when we get to about 70%. So what we saw on the base penetration as we move from 40% to 46%, so starting to see an acceleration of our own GSM customers using mobile money services. Obviously, a big progress was to get the PSB AIP in Nigeria.

The merchant and agent ecosystem is really the area that I think we should focus on as we think about the ecosystem effects. What was very pleasing for us is to see the build-out in particularly of the merchant network. And we've seen the acceleration of the informal merchant acquisition and the rollout of self onboarding with our open API framework. And if you look at the transaction value column, I think you will also see there that we had 45 million API transactions from partners in 2020 moving to 155 million API transactions from over 1,000 partners, scaling and building out the effects of our fintech ecosystem.

In the year, we also made progress with the structural separation of the business. And I was trying to pause and talk to the structural separation so that all investors understand what we mean by it and what we don't mean by it. The structural separation of the business has been about creating the accounting separation of the fintech business out of the GSM business. And with that, creating its own set of financials, its own set of commercial agreements with the GSM business because both businesses still have a lot of value that depends on each other's business. You see, for example, airtime sold through MoMo actually is increasing. So that process of accounting separation, legal structure set up.

And then the contracting has been a process that's been ongoing, and we're very well advanced with that process and we anticipate we'll complete that process end of quarter 2 this year. And ideally, we complete that with the PSB announcement having been made, and obviously, that's subject to the regulator. When we complete that process is when we go into the second part of our process of setting up the fintech businesses separately. And that is when we are going to be seeking partners who help us accelerate the business, particularly in the areas such as merchant acquiring and the acceleration of that part of our business. So that is the part that we've said that we would focus in the second half of the year and once we've created the structural separation.

So at the end of this year, we want to have completed 2 aspects of the fintech, the completion of structural separation by the first half and then bringing onboarding strategic partners to help us accelerate the business, and we'll report on the progress of that as we go through our H1 results.

If I move to the portfolio transformation, just a few callouts, good progress we've made around in terms of IHS being listed in New York. We're obviously disappointed with the current valuation of the business. And if that valuation persists, we wouldn't be selling down as per the right that we have at the next window. There's an April window for current existing shareholders to sell down. But given the state of the balance sheet, we are under no pressure to sell at values that we think materially undervalued the business. But it does, the listing has created a liquidity platform that we can tap into in future. And obviously, we have the next 3 years plus that we can think about the monetization of the asset.

We've made good progress on the SA Tower transaction, and we are awaiting competition commission approval on that. And net proceeds on a successful transaction would be about \$5.5 billion. And then the other callout I would have when the portfolio transformation has really been about the Nigeria sell down. We saw down 3% of the group holding in Nigeria and net proceeds of that is approximately about ZAR 3.6 billion and we anticipate that, that will flow in the first half of this year.

In terms of simplifying the portfolio and driving our Pan-African Focus, progress made in Yemen and Syria. Afghanistan, we continue to evaluate options. The events post August last year, complicated our ability to engage with some of the parties that we're talking to, but we are continuing discussions and we'll be able to update investors on our progress there thereof. We've said we wanted to exit in an orderly manner, and that is something that we will obviously be focused on.

Then on creating shared value. I think investors are now familiar with our framework in terms of ESG responsibilities, a few points of call out here. Firstly, we're making good progress on greenhouse emissions reductions and 16% on Scope 1 and 2. We are rebasing Scope 3. And so for last year, we are reporting on the Scope 1 and 2. But for Scope 1, 2 and 3, we're still committing to our reduction levels of 47% by 2030. And so good progress there.

Rural broadband great progress made in the year, 83% broadband coverage. That is access to at least the 3G technology, and we have a target of 95%. So good progress in the year. And then our diversity and inclusion measure is women in senior management, in the management layers, and we made a 1% improvement from 38% in prior year to 39%, still a way to go to get to the 50% but have got very clear plans at the group and in all the operations to get there.

One of the important things, and we took feedback from investors is about how do we link the ESG agenda to executive remuneration. And as of 2022, the LTI has a 25 percentage linkage to ESG, the 3-year LTI payout structure. And it has 3 components, which is net zero, diversity and inclusion and then on the rural broadband. And many thanks to our colleagues for the great progress that we had and improvements in our ratings in the year past.

Then finally, just to talk about some of the numbers before I hand over to Tsholo to take you in more detail. Again, on our old guidance structure, pretty much green on the service revenue. We outperformed on service revenue. Fintech is on track. This movement to 9.3% is actually above what our expectation was. We spoke about holdco leverage and also spoke about returns. So good progress in delivering on the guidance that we committed to investors.

So with that, let me pass on to Tsholo, and then I'll come back with a look forward view after Tsholo presents.

TSHOLOFELO B. L. MOLEFE, GROUP CFO & DIRECTOR, MTN GROUP LIMITED: Thank you very much, Ralph. A very good afternoon to everyone joining us in person virtually on various platforms today and especially hello to all our MTNers across our markets who are joining us for these results. I'm going to take you through our very pleasing results, the financial performance for 2021, and I will cover the following: Firstly, what are the material items that have impacted on our reported results; I will then take you through some of the sale and features on the income statement; and then share with you some of the performance of our 2 largest markets particularly South Africa and Nigeria; I will then move on to the key line items specifically in a bit more detail on the income statement; and lastly, share with you how we've been able to generate strong cash, manage the balance sheet as well as improved returns.

Now if we start with the material impact on our reported results, you will notice that from a currency movement perspective, the stronger rand on average exchange rate basis resulted in group service revenue being impacted negatively by 17 percentage points relative to constant currency. The rand was also stronger against the Nigeria naira by about 18.5%. The rand also closed weaker against the dollar impacting balance sheet items but also impacting on holdco leverage negatively. We also recorded a ForEx

losses of about ZAR 2.6 billion during the year, largely due to currency devaluation in various markets relative to the stronger rand.

We also had some significant one-off items. Some of these we reported during our interims. We had a gain on disposal of peaks of ZAR 1.2 billion, and we recorded a loss on recognition of MTN as Syria when we lost control at the beginning of the year, a loss of ZAR 4.7 billion. Yemen, as Ralph indicated, we have exited has been assessed at (inaudible), and we have recognized some impairments on goodwill as well as noncurrent assets totaling about ZAR 1.2 billion.

We also made some COVID donations during the year of ZAR 486 million with ZAR 383 million to the AU for COVID vaccines as well as ZAR 103 million from MTN Nigeria to a coalition against COVID. We also provided for a multiyear arbitration settlement during the year, amounting to ZAR 536 million. All these significant one-off items have had an impact on our expenses EBITDA as well as headline earnings per share. Some of the items that are key to note is also the significant appreciation in the group share price, which has impacted our staff cost significantly due to the share-based payments of roughly about ZAR 1.2 billion, resulting in a reduction in EBITDA margins of 0.6 percentage points.

We also upstreamed a total of ZAR 18.4 billion from our operations with a total of about ZAR 7.8 billion coming from Nigeria dividend upstreaming. An additional ZAR 430 million was also upstream from Nigeria post December 2021. So the progress with upstreaming has been -- has positively impacted our holdco leverage, which I will share with you later.

If we then move on to the income statement, you will notice that on your left-hand side, you have the year-on-year movement on key line items on an IFRS reported basis. And on the right, you see the movement in constant currency. As we said, we delivered a good solid service revenue growth of about 18.3%, about ZAR 171 billion, which is ahead of our medium-term target in constant currency. And this was really largely driven by double-digit growth that we saw in Nigeria and Ghana. We also saw good pleasing results from South Africa with service revenue of about 6.5%, in line with the medium-term target of between 4% to 6%, compared to a growth of 1.6% in FY 2022.

And on an IFRS basis, if we look at EBITDA, which decreased by 6.3% but in constant currency before one-off items, as we mentioned earlier, EBITDA increased by 23.7%, and this was really driven by healthy operational results across all markets. The 7.6% increase that we see in depreciation, amortization and goodwill impairment was largely driven by increased capital expenditure additions that we did in prior periods. But also, as I mentioned earlier, the goodwill impairment, which we recorded in the period for Yemen.

Net finance cost, you will realize that it decreased by 12.5% in constant currency, largely due to a reduction of ZAR 2 billion year-on-year in ForEx losses, but also due to a lower interest rate environment, and there is a significant reduction in net debt, which I will share with you later. The share of results of associates, as you can see, increased by 80% to ZAR 2 billion, and this was driven primarily by the strong underlying performance from Irancell, which is an associate. Income tax expenses grew by about 25%, largely due to withholding taxes as well as an increase in nondeductible expenses in other markets. The group effective tax rate, however, was 41%. And really, this was impacted by nondeductible losses, particularly the derecognition of MTN Syria that I mentioned earlier.

On a normalizes, we saw group effective tax rate being at 35%, which is really in line with our target of mid-to high cities. Adjusted earnings per share grew by 26.6% in the period, and this was impacted positively by some of the adjustment on nonoperational items, totaling ZAR 1.23 per share that I mentioned earlier.

So if we unpack our group service revenue in a bit more detail, you will see that we saw pleasing revenue growth across all areas with voice, data and fintech being the main drivers of the growth. You will see that voice revenue grew by 5.2%, supported by growth in voice traffic. The performance was also supported by our well-executed customer service -- customer value management initiatives as well as segmented customer propositions.

We saw stellar growth in data revenue, which grew by 36.5% underpinned by a search in data as you saw in Ralph's Slide, 53% growth about 6.4 gigabytes per user per month and active subscriber growth of 11 million to now close the year at 122 million subscribers. Digital revenue also increased by almost 23%, and this was supported by an improved uptake in our digital offerings in our markets. We saw good increase in service revenue from fintech driven by a base growth of about 10.4% in our active MoMo users to now 56.8 million. Wholesale revenue also grew by about 49.7 million on the back of a strong national roaming in MTN SA, and I'll take you through that later on.

Other revenue also included ICT and enterprise connectivity, which grew by 14.5% benefiting from increased data users on the back of strong performance in fixed access data, cloud security and hosting

services, particularly from MTN South Africa and some turnaround in some of the SME segments across our market.

Now let us look at fintech in a bit more detail. You will have seen the operational performance, and this is how it translates into the financials. As you will see, fintech now contributes 9.3% to group as service revenue rose by 30.9% in the period as we continue to scale up our mobile financial services. The bulk of the fintech revenue, as you see on the pie chart, mainly came from -- withdrawals at 57% of the total revenue. EBITDA growth was 31.5%, in line with solid revenue growth, which, on a pro forma basis, EBITDA margins at 46.7%. We do expect that the EBITDA margins will rebase over time as the growth picks up and we start allocating the full cost associated with running the business once we have structurally separated the fintech business. But a key metric here to look at is actually our free cash flow, which was strong at 29.8%, which is really important given the economics of the business, which is really capital light. And you will notice that we spent ZAR 200 million in capital expenditure towards the fintech business.

So if we move on to the financial performance then of our 2 major operations, and I will start with South Africa. The slide illustrates the trends that we saw in service revenue, expenses, EBITDA as well as capital expenditure. You will notice that MTN SA delivered solid performance overall with service revenue of 6.5% enabled through commercial and operational execution across all business units.

If you look at the various revenue bars, you will see that revenue -- voice revenue was actually down by 5.2%. This was driven mainly by consumer prepaid voice where the push to for bundle usage is diluting out-of-bundle usage. The prepaid in bundle revenue increased but was not sufficient to offset the reduction that we saw in out-of-bundle. The decline, however, was also due to the impact of a 4.6% decline in prepaid users as customers migrate to voice over IP as well as data substitution.

We saw an increase of 13% in data revenues, supported by 58% growth in data traffic and the growth in active subscribers of 12.5%, now totaling 17.7 million subscribers. Core digital grew by 19.9%, benefiting from a number of growth initiatives, including billing optimization as well as other products, new products that we implemented. Fintech revenue started to pick up, and it comprised of airtime lending fees, which grew by about 3.5% and this was also driven by an increase in extra time lending fees with MoMo as I indicated later, we start to see picking up in South Africa.

Wholesale revenue grew by 36%, and this was driven mainly by a notable improvement in Cell C. MTN SA recorded 2.7 billion brand in roaming revenue, particularly from Cell C, which was an increase of 33.9%. We continue to account for Cell C on a cash basis, and we had unrecognized revenue of about ZAR 236 million at the end of the period.

If we look at the expenses from MTS SA in a bit more detail, you will see that cost of sales only grew by 3.5%, which was way below the service revenue growth. The main increase was in handsets and device costs as well as commission expenses of a lower base due to COVID impacts in 2020. The device cost of sales was higher by about 5.6%, and this was largely due to the LTE device distribution during the period with an increase of about 24% in LTE devices sold. MTN SA has been able to improve its gross margins through the optimization of device subsidies, which contributed about 0.5 percentage points to the EBITDA margins.

Commission expenses were up about 6.4% due to increases in device distributions and activations during the year. If we look at operating expenses, it grew significantly by 13.1% year-on-year, but this was mainly impacted by staff costs that grew by 43% as a result of the increase in the share-based payments, as I indicated earlier because of our increase in our share price. If we exclude this item, staff costs in South Africa would have only grown by 1.1%.

Other drivers of the OpEx increase were due to network operating expenses, which increased by almost 5%, predominantly due to rand utilities as well as maintenance. And this was really driven by high electricity tariffs of about 15% during the period. We saw MTN therefore, achieving an EBITDA growth of 6.8% with an EBITDA margin of 38.9%. The EBITDA margin of 38.9% was actually impacted by share-based payments. If we exclude that, we would have seen a margin of 41.4% in South Africa, which is really within the guidance that we've always given of between 39% and 42%.

MTN spent a total of ZAR 10.4 billion, and this includes the -- this is on an IFRS 16 basis with continued investment in 3G as well as 4G and a rollout of 5G sites of about 843 during the year. And this resulted in CapEx intensity on an IFRS 16 basis of 21.4%. If we look at it from an IAS 17 perspective, CapEx intensity was at 18.8% this year.

If we look at all the segments then across South Africa, encouragingly, you will see that the consumer prepaid business was up to 2.1% during the year, slowing down in the fourth quarter. The business' performance, however, was supported by strong data revenue. However, this was really offset by pressure

from voice, as I indicated earlier, voice substitution, challenging macroeconomic conditions as well as an increased split of consumer wallet share that we're seeing.

The consumer postpaid business delivered service revenue growth of 4.5% in a highly competitive market. The focus on subscriber additions was driven by channel expansion, well-managed chain and a consistent drive for SIM-only as well as data rich packages, which contributed to this growth. Enterprise service revenue remained on a positive trajectory with growth of 16.8%, now recording growth for more than 9 consecutive quarters. The business continues to grow through fixed data at the strengthening the SME CVM initiatives as well as sustained recovery of the ICT business.

If we briefly touch on Nigeria, and I will only just touch briefly because you would have seen the results of Nigeria at the end of January. MTN Nigeria, as you can see, delivered double-digit service revenue growth of 23% in constant currency, and this was mainly driven by voice data as well as fintech. Voice revenue grew by 8% due to higher usage in active SIM base with a 10% growth in minutes of use. We saw a solid data revenue growth of 55% and (inaudible) by increased usage from the existing base with impressive data traffic growth of 85%, supported by the acceleration of 4G rollout and enhanced network capacity.

Fintech revenue also had commendable growth of 57% due to sustained growth in the use of extra time and broader fintech services by customers. In terms of expenses, you will see that we saw an increase of 17.5%. Cost of sales grew by higher -- grew due to higher commissions and distribution costs in line with the revenue growth, which were up 14% and regulatory fees went up by 23%, also in line with the revenue growth that we are seeing. We saw an increase of 21.7% in operational expenditure due to higher network costs from accelerated site rollout, but also due to the devaluation of the naira and CPI impacts on the current PTS rentals.

MTN Nigeria also continues to implement expense efficiencies and aimed at driving margin expansion in the near term, thus improving the EBITDA margin to 53% by 2 percentage points. Total capital expenditure in MTN Nigeria was about ZAR 14.9 billion for the period. And as I indicated, due to the accelerated rollout of 3G and 4G sites resulting in CapEx intensity 24.8%.

Now if we turn to group expenses, which were well managed during the period, you will notice that cost of sales was up 10% largely driven by an increase in commissions and distribution costs, as I indicated, mainly in Ghana, SA and Nigeria as well as an increase in handsets at costs in South Africa of a smaller base. The increase in commissions and distribution was mainly driven by the strong growth in our MoMo business and increased activations compared to 2020. Operating expenses increased by 15.9%, and this was led by higher network and as we continue to roll out size across all our markets. The IFRS charge for the share based payment also would have had an impact of -- on staff costs, as I indicated earlier. We continue to see a relentless focus on cost management across all our markets despite the growing business with our expense efficiency program continued to drive margin expansion. In the year, we realized ZAR 3.7 billion worth of efficiencies with the largest savings coming from MTN SA as well as Nigeria.

The savings in OpEx were largely realized in the network area environment. We continue to target savings in network and IT costs. Sales and distribution as well as energy efficiency going forward as we continue to -- as we anticipate that this will contribute significantly to targeted savings of a further ZAR 5 billion over the -- over the planning period of a 2020 base.

So if you look at the EBITDA, then you can see that the drivers of group EBITDA both in absolute terms as well as margins. Overall, group EBITDA on core operations was up 20.3% in constant currency, as I indicated earlier, before one-off items. The growth was really broad-based against all the performance from all the markets, in particular, Nigeria, South Africa, the SEA region as well as the WECA region. At an operational level, the EBITDA margin expanded by 2 percentage points with positive contribution from all the markets supported by solid service revenue growth as well as relentless focus on cost. So the group reported EBITDA margin declined by 4.1% on a reported basis and this was mainly impacted by the derecognition of MTN Syria and as well as the losses that are indicated on impairment of Yemen.

Moving on to the adjusted headline earnings per share analysis. This table provides a reconciliation of our attributable earnings per share through to adjusted headline earnings per share, and this gives more visibility to our strong underlying performance during the year. The difference between attributable earnings per share, which declined by 19.3% and basic headline earnings per share, which grew by 31.8% is due to the significant one-off transactions that I mentioned earlier in Syria, losses, Yemen impairments and some gains on disposal of investments and acquisition of a subsidiary. That's resulting in basic headline earnings per share of \$0.97. A further adjustment to reported headline earnings for ForEx losses, COVID donations and arbitration settlement resulted in adjusted HEPS of [1,110] per share, giving an increase of 26.6% year-on-year, which is an indication of positive operational earnings momentum.

If we look at capital expenditure, as we indicated, we remain focused on building the largest and most valuable platforms and increasing the capacity of our network. We capitalized ZAR 32.7 billion during the

year across all markets which is higher than our original guidance to the market, achieving a CapEx intensity of 18%. We accelerated the rollout of 3G and 4G sites in support of the growth that we are seeing, mainly in Nigeria, Ghana as well as Uganda. We rolled out a total of 3,566 sites, which was 90% more than we planned and about 9,158 4G sites, which is about 36% more than we planned. So if you look at -- on the pie chart, you would realize that network expansion, which is the RAN transmission, the core network and as well as site infrastructure accounted for a total of about 76% of the total capital expenditure.

Investments in IT modernization, including the development of products and tools to support our growing platform business accounted for about 24% of the CapEx. As I indicated in MTN SA, they continue to invest in the 5G network rollout with about 843 sites that were live during the period. So our group CapEx guidance for 2022 will be ZAR 34.4 billion, and we expect the intensity to reduce over the medium term as the business continues to grow, guided by our disciplined capital allocation framework with group CapEx intensity expected to be in the range of 18% to 15%.

If we look at our core cash flows, you will notice that operating free cash flow before the spectrum as well as license acquisitions grew by 35%, and this was due to strong cash generation from operations to ZAR 67.3 billion, which was an increase of 15%, really driven by solid operational performance across the markets. You will see that our license renewals and spectrum acquisitions, which was mainly from Nigeria 5G spectrum acquisition amounted to ZAR 6.2 billion in the year. We also saw an improvement in our working capital of ZAR 4 billion, and this was largely due to the timing effects relating to payment of vendors and suppliers, mainly in Nigeria.

Working capital will remain a key focus area for us as we continue our efforts to preserve cash during these challenging trading conditions. You will also see that the key cash outflows -- we paid a total of ZAR 22 billion in taxes as well as interest, net interest paid on borrowings. So as well as interest and this excluded the CapEx, excluding lease payments of about ZAR 29 billion. The movement in financing activities, as we can see, was ZAR 24 billion, and these were largely driven by net repayment of debt and settlement of lease obligations of about ZAR 6 billion.

During the year, we actually settled ZAR 44 billion in debt, which was offset by new borrowings of about 24. The ZAR 44 billion also included some refinancing. So this was also positively impacted by the proceeds from the Uganda listing of ZAR 2.3 billion. Other investments of ZAR 4.3 billion were driven mainly by proceeds from disposal of investment in BICS of about ZAR 1.8 billion, realization of fixed deposits at head office of about ZAR 1.4 billion and from Nigeria of about ZAR 3.5 billion. And these were offset by movements in restricted cash of about ZAR 1.5 billion. mainly in Nigeria relating to letters of credit.

If you look at the holdco net debt, we continue to improve the strength of our balance sheet with progress in cash upstreaming and the faster deleveraging of the holdco net debt. On the top left-hand side, you will notice that the group progressed well over the last 2 years, reducing holdco debt from ZAR 55 billion in 2019 to now ZAR 30 billion. The group leverage improved 0.4x from 0.8x in 2020. This was supported by strong cash generation from operations, while the holdco leverage also improved to 1x from 2.2x in 2020. Positively impacted by the progress that we've made on cash upstreaming as well as a settlement of borrowings.

We've also made improvement in our debt mix as we also said, we'd like to make sure that we have a mix of 60% rand debt relative to non-rand debt. And we continue to reduce our exposure to U.S. dollar debt and improve the funding mix at holdco level. If you recall, we also redeemed a 2020 Eurobond of about \$500 million, which was due to mature in February this year. During the year, we also utilized the proceeds from our ARP, which is our asset realization program and cash upstream from operations to be able to repay our debt in holdco. And this comprised about ZAR 12.6 billion in U.S. denominated debt as well as about ZAR 8 billion in rand-denominated debt. We also concluded about ZAR 5.6 billion in debt through a combination of local debt capital market issuances as well as bank facilities. This allowed us to extend and maintain a smooth maturity profile, as you can see on the right-hand side as well as enable us to improve our cost of funding and further improve the holdco debt mix going forward.

Looking at the statement of financial performance position, sorry, I just wanted to highlight some of the major movements on the balance sheet. The increase in intangible assets and goodwill was largely due to the acquisition of the 5G spectrum in Nigeria. Included in other noncurrent assets is our investment in IHS, which we fair valued at about ZAR 19 billion during the period. As Ralph indicated, the devaluation of the IHS was largely due to the negative share price movement following the IPO listing at the New York Stock Exchange. The MoMo deposits and payables amounted to ZAR 39 billion, and this was due to increased cash in deposits were in line with the growth in our MoMo business.

And you will see that the increase in our cash and cash equivalents resulted from increased cash generated from operations across the group. Noncurrent asset held for sale comprises the MTN SA tower sale and leaseback transaction. The interest-bearing liabilities, as I indicated, decreased which was a 16% decrease and mainly as a result of the settlement of debt. Other liabilities increased by 16%, and this is

where the growth is mainly attributable to accrued expenses mainly from Nigeria as a result of unsettled foreign denominated liabilities. Noncurrent liabilities held for sale is in line with the noncurrent assets held for sale that are indicated, and these are lease liabilities relating to MTN SA tower sales.

Now if I can conclude my presentation, let us look at the progress we've made on the return on equity. We see an increase from 17% in December last year to 19.6%, really driven by operational earnings growth from the consolidated subsidiaries. The notable drag on the ROE were higher group effective tax, as I indicated at 41%, and the movement in noncontrolling interest driven mainly by the Rwanda as well as Uganda reduction in shareholding and the FCTR, which are foreign currency translation reserves as a result of the weaker rand on the reported results. We are pleased with the ROE evolution, which is really just shy of our medium-term target of over 20%.

And ladies and gentlemen, I will conclude my presentation here and hand over to Ralph.

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Thanks very much, Tsholo, for taking us through a very comprehensive view of our financial performance, both at the group level and looking at our major subsidiaries. I think as investors, you all appreciate, we're a large group, but I trust that you are more familiar with the performance after Tsholo's presentation.

Just a couple of points before we close. I'm just looking ahead. Obviously, we are a couple of months into 2022, and just the context that we see in our operating environment would be as follows. I think we will continue to see a sluggish economic performance in many of our major markets in South Africa. I think South Africa did a bounce back in GDP growth last year of the low base of 2020, but constrained by the unemployment issues and issues related to structural reforms coming forward.

I think we are strongly encouraged in South Africa that as we speak right now, we are in the middle of the spectrum auction process, which the main auction proceeds tomorrow. But structural reforms overall are much needed in South Africa to get GDP growth rates.

Nigeria, I think it's anticipated that, again, we will see a sluggish growth. But the thing I would say here is that, I mean, these were a pretty similar kind of economic outlook positions as last year and thus is MTN notwithstanding the COVID effects and the sluggish economic outlook, we're able to be resilient and to be able to take advantage of the opportunity that we see with mobile and the fintech acceleration that I pointed earlier on.

So the macro context, we see as potentially challenging through the year ahead, but the business has resilient strong networks, strong brand and economies of scale that allow us to -- with stand shock if we see such as the year progresses ahead. So a similar kind of macro context as per 2021.

If we look ahead, specifically to MTN and what are our priorities, our priorities largely stays the same. We are focusing on looking to accelerate the growth that we see in both South Africa and in Nigeria. South Africa as I said, we would be very pleased that the business is growing within the 4% to 6% range and getting the EBITDA margin in the 39% to 42% range. As Tsholo said, if you took out the IFRS 2 charge, actually, South Africa was a business that was growing at 41% in terms of the EBITDA margin. We will see pressure in consumer prepaid. We do have CVM initiatives that we believe will help us stabilize the pressure that we saw in the consumer prepaid, particularly quarter 3 and 4, and that's pretty much across the SA market. But the South African business, we believe, has got -- is well invested in and will be resilient to deliver good growth in the year ahead.

Nigeria, we're seeing accelerating growth. Hence, we upgraded the guidance there. The rollout on 4G is we've been able to monetize that. And having procured the 5G spectrum, it was a plan to build out on 5G services, both for the home and business individuals and businesses and all be a story that we'll be talking to you about the progress we've made at the half year.

As I mentioned, on fintech, 2 big things: complete the structural separation, the accounting, the intercompany agreements, the full setup of group fintech and ideally, the PSB was within that construct. That's a first step. And then secure strategic partners to support the acceleration of the group fintech. We'd always position that in some of the platforms, we will seek partners to help accelerate the growth, and to better manage those businesses in the form of those platforms.

So quite a lot of focus and attention from us as a management team around that. Obviously, we've delivered ZAR 15 billion of the 25 on the ARP. We still got some way to go. We are looking forward to progressing the Nigeria, a sell-down Series 2 in the course of this year. And obviously, we would want to see the Series 1 cash come up, but focus on executing on the localizations remains a focus for us. And then the exit of Afghanistan done orderly is also a priority for us.

I mean the networks remain the bedrock and foundation of the company. So we're putting a full investment profile of ZAR 34 billion, we will be within the CapEx intensity range that Tsholo of spoke about 18% to

15% over time. So capital well invested and efficiently invested to deliver the returns. Obviously, we still have a set of complex litigations in the Middle East, in Afghanistan that we're dealing with and Turkcell. So we'll be working around those. And then finally, our ESG initiatives and priorities to bed those down and actually take on progress.

So this is the list of our priorities, which we will report back on progress at the half year. Suffice to say that these parties are pretty much similar to the ones we had in prior years. So trying to drive momentum and doing the same things that we've done not throwing our strategy around too much.

Just in conclusion, I mean, I just wanted to leave you as audience, investors and stakeholders with 6 key points. The first is that in the year under review, we've seen a very strong operational and sustained commercial momentum. That translates into the base growth that we've seen and into the financials, including return improvements, both at an equity level as well as cash flow level.

The business now has a lot of financial flexibility if you look at what the holdco leverages. But we are maintaining the liquidity headroom to be able to take advantage of opportunities to invest in growth, but also to be able to withstand shock in this current kind of geopolitical context where there's a lot of uncertainty still. But we are pleased with the shifts in the debt mix as well as the fact that we now have predominantly ZAR debt at the center. Progress in ARP and the portfolio transformation has been made in the year. We still have quite a bit to do. And as I mentioned, the focus on fintech and growing that ecosystem out is something that we're very focused on.

Creating shared value of driving further our ESG work as well as the localization. This is something that we've been focused on, and we're very happy with the progress. And the final point linked to my earlier statements about the enhanced guidances, we are seeing growth, and we think that, that growth is structural. We are going to invest into that growth and deliver improving returns for shareholders.

Hence, we are enhancing the guidance from FY 2022 as communicated at the start of my presentation. And just to remind investors, what we see ourselves as MTN, we see ourselves as a compelling Africa growth story, we see tremendous amounts of growth, both in data and fintech and more broadly across the company. So we believe that the investment case for MTN remains intact, a unique company that is able to deliver growth on the digital and financial acceleration that we've seen across our continent. So with that, I just want to thank you all for listening intently to myself and Tsholo for over an hour.

And we would just invite Thato to manage the Q&A that you may have. Thato. I'll ask Tsholo to join me on the stage.

Questions and Answers

THATO MOTLANTHE: Thanks very much, Ralph, and Tsholo for the presentation. And maybe we'll just start the questions with your final point there on your 6 points. And it's really just some clarity around the growth guidance. So you've upgraded your group revenue growth guidance. How much is that due to the Nigeria outlook versus the other markets? So maybe that's the first question.

And then the second question on Nigeria. Can you give us your assessment of the availability of USD in the Nigerian market and how it's impacting on repatriation? And maybe you can just add in the average rate that cash was upstream from Nigeria?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: The average rate, I'll leave it to Tsholo, she will remember all those numbers. But I mean, on the first question really around the outlook Nigeria is obviously material it's 1/3 of the group. So we have enhanced guidance and all things stay the same, you would enhance guidance for the group. But we did enhance guidance for Ghana as well. And as I said, we're seeing structural trends throughout our portfolio of rising demand for data and fintech services. So it's not only Nigeria. It is a material point. Ghana is another material point. But we're seeing a broad-based. The market that we think that our guidance remains largely intact, will be South Africa. And that's why we have not touched South Africa. Think of it as the 4% to 6%. I don't anticipate that we'll be above 6 this year to be clear for investors, but we will be within the corridor of the 4% to 6% in terms of South Africa.

Coming to the point of liquidity, hard currency liquidity. Nigeria, we had -- we took the dollars as and when we were able to get them under the CBN structures that we are being able to repatriate. I would argue that nothing has changed materially from the half year. Our team go to the window and they get \$10 million or \$15 million. That's how we've been able to get it. And post the year-end. So last year, we had 7.8 billion coming out and post the year to 0.5 billion. We anticipate that series 1, we should be able to clear that outside of any shops, we should be able to clear that in the first half of this year because we want to commit to series 2 in Nigeria only when we have money out from series 1, we wouldn't be committing to series 2 and having more cash trapped in Nigeria.

So yes, we're still able to get dollars. And obviously, the team are getting dollars and using LCs for the CapEx program. So on the average dollar...

TSHOLOFELO B. L. MOLEFE: Yes, we externalized at an average of about 480 and I think very important to understand that, yes, there is a premium and the size of the externalization is also a factor. If you think about the fact that we've been able to upstream ZAR 7.8 billion including about 430 post December. It is quite a large size. So we're quite happy that we've been able to clear all the outstanding dividends from 2019.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Thanks, Ralph and Tsholo. And then maybe just the next 2 questions to do with fintech. What for might fintech strategic partnerships look like? And on what criteria do you assess partners? That's the first question.

And then the second 1 point of clarity, can you elaborate on the nature of the fintech revenues and in South Africa versus your other main markets, if there is indeed such a difference?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Yes. I mean on the -- on the partnership point, as I mentioned, what we're looking for is strategic partners that can help us accelerate. Now what you've got to think about, we have 5 verticals within the group fintech and each of them potentially acquire different partners to drive the acceleration. We did show in the slide some of the partnerships that we've made to drive the acceleration. For example, we said we think we can grow faster by partnering Sanlam on insurtech. So subject to regulatory approvals, they are a strategic partner who can help accelerate. We're not saying that there will be a strategic partner necessarily in the group fintech, but you need to think of the ecosystem of the verticals and companies that are able to. Because we are very focused on strategic partners to accept.

We're not looking for financial investment, to be clear. We have the CapEx to drive our own growth. But we believe partnership is the right model to drive those. So a simple way to think about the strategic partners that we are looking for this year are the ones that are able to help us grow the verticals or a couple of the verticals faster than we would ourselves. That's the way to think about it. And any capital that comes with that process actually is a secondary consideration. The primary consideration is a partnership model to scale the verticals.

I mean, obviously, South Africa was a very different fintech market in South Africa. Obviously, we need to work with bank partners. We don't have e-license regimes or PSB type regimes. So ours is to work with bank partners to focus actually on what we call a proposition of better and safer than cash. So we're not trying to compete with the banks in South Africa. We're actually trying to deliver financial inclusion in largely in formal markets.

So the business is right now very nascent. And I think it's a business that we think over the medium term, can have monthly active users somewhere between 4 million to 5 million. So it's very nascent right now but it will add to the portfolio over time. So South Africa is -- it's a very different proposition to what we have like in Ghana and potentially what we're going to have with the PSB subject to regulatory approvals.

THATO MOTLANTHE: And then maybe 2 questions on Iran. What -- can you please comment on what drove the performance in Iran, and your expectations for the coming year or 2? First question.

And then the second 1 is, how much do you have stuck there in terms of receivables? I think we disclosed that at \$3.4 billion. But what is your strategy in terms of how you look about -- look at repatriating that money?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Yes. I mean maybe to start with the second question last. I mean, obviously, with the sanctions regime being in place for our own sanctions compliance and management of sanctions risk, we've left that money trapped in Iran and actually provided as loans to the company. So if the JCPOA deal is struck obviously changes the situation where we would be able to repatriate capital. But until such time that cash and the dividends that were declared in are remaining trapped within that environment. So any movement on the nuclear deal and incorporation of Iran into the global system will obviously be positive.

In terms of the performance of the business, I think the core connectivity business remains a market leader, particularly on data services. So we've been investing in expanding that network actually, we have more traffic growing through into that business than in Nigeria, as an example. So it's a very big and strong network supporting 50 million subscribers. So the core connectivity business is growing strongly. What is actually pleasing in Iran actually is the Snapp business, the so-called Uber of Iran. I mean they've got 3 million daily rides in Snapp. Snapp foods is delivering 250,000 meals per day, Snapp delivery, another 200,000 plus a day.

So the ecosystem effect of Snapp business, is actually very impressive. But you know Iran is trapped into this particular structure right now where because of the JCPOA, it is kind of a ring-fenced market. But very

pleasing growth in that business on the back of its own network expansion, 4G services. And the smartphone penetration in that market is probably across all our markets leading. I mean, it's well over 80% smartphone penetration within that market. So I mean, the business has been well invested and remains very strong.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Thanks, Ralph. A couple of questions for Tsholo. Is the first 1 on CapEx. Is the head office CapEx guidance increase to fund fintech growth? And if so, should we expect this to rise further in the coming years? First question.

And then the second 1 is just around U.S. dollar debt deleveraging. Do you intend to repay, I think you did touch on it, do you intend to repay bonds as they mature or possibly through tender?

TSHOLOFELO B. L. MOLEFE: So maybe starting with that one. I mean our intention is to faster deleverage the balance sheet, as we indicated. So we would like to see the 2 remaining Eurobonds 2024 and 2026. Reducing to a de minimis balance. So it will be subject to market conditions. We will obviously assess how the market reacts, depending on what we have, and we intend to start the process this year based on market conditions. So I think that's our focus in terms of the Eurobond and then on the -- the other question was on, sorry, I think I'm the first one.

THATO MOTLANTHE: So the other question was on CapEx, the increase in head office CapEx?

TSHOLOFELO B. L. MOLEFE: Yes. what it has to do with fintech. No. I mean, obviously, at this point in time, fintech has not been removed completely. But the -- as you have seen, the fintech business CapEx is currently only about ZAR 200 million. And as we structurally separated, fintech business will be a separate entity, which is the work that we're doing now. And we -- you will have seen that it's grown from \$80 million last year to \$200 million. So it's essentially within the 24% that I spoke about earlier on in terms of 24% of the total capital expenditure.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Thanks, Tsholo. Question on South Africa. Could you kindly provide some color I think this is for Europe on the strong performance in EBU and SA? Are you making any progress on gaining a greater share of the RT15 tender?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Yes. I mean to Wanda and his team, the whole team and South Africa team, I mean tremendous performance. But this performance we're seeing now as is genesis multiyears, where we did reposition the business from the ICT-centric actually to be connectivity-centric with ICT on top, and that's the work that Wanda and the team have done very well over the last couple of years.

So we have been gaining share in the market outside of the firstly, in the private sector, the SME space and in the large multinationals, we've been able to get share there. And the RT15 contract came into effect last year, and we think we're getting a reasonable share. So that is supporting the growth, but it's not only driven by the RT15, it has to do with the multiyear work that we've been seeing. I think now I even forget whether it is 12 -- 9 consecutive quarters of strong growth from that business, but it was in degrowth. So it's sustained performance, getting the proposition right and for sure, the RT15 is helping, but it's not the only driver of growth.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Thanks Ralph. I'm just going to take a moment Ralph to turn around to see if any of our in person guests they have any questions is by show of hands or let -- for too long -- just wait for a roaming mic if you will.

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: It's the first time we've had shareholders in the room for 2 years. Exciting, exciting.

UNIDENTIFIED SHAREHOLDER: I know it's good to see everyone in person again. Thanks [Steven] and congrats on a good set of results. Can you just explain the ZAR 3 dividend how -- I mean, I know the minimum guidance was ZAR 2.60, how did you get to ZAR 3 then? And then how is the ZAR 3 that you calculate? How should we think about it?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Yes. Maybe just to -- and lot top and tail, I mean, as you say, we guided ZAR 2.60 because we thought that in reasonable stress scenario, and last year remember there were 3 stressors we were concerned about. One is COVID uncertainties. We have the delta variant then, and we weren't sure how that would impact the markets. The second uncertainty that we said was cash upstreaming from Nigeria. The third is progress with ARP.

I think both -- all 3 of those uncertainties have diminished the, but are not completely disappeared within. We don't know where the next variant will come from and what impact it will have. COVID is not over yet because if you look at Africa, you only got 11% vaccination rates. So we have to assume that we can be surprised on the COVID side of markets in a potential closes. So we need to have the buffer for that.

The second point is, obviously, cash upstreaming, we made good progress. But as I mentioned, even into the beginning of this year, we're seeing a similar profile where there isn't kind of the tapes that are opened on dollar liquidity. So we need also to be circumspect around that. And then obviously, the ARP is a function of how we're able to execute, particularly around IHS share. IHS price, very depressed. We're not sellers at the next windows. And if it stays depressed for another year, we'll remain with our shareholding and not sell.

So on the basis of those uncertainties and the cash that we have with the group and having run reasonable shock scenarios, the \$0.300 made -- the \$0.300 per share made change to us, number one. And the \$0.330, again, we were able to do shocks scenarios that says, we back ourselves to be able to deliver this in reasonable shock scenarios. But I want to come back to the point that I started with is how best do we allocate capital that the shareholders have given us. As we look at capital allocation and priorities, the best investment for a dollar of capital that we believe as the MTN Group is to invest it in the growth that we're seeing that is structurally high, we're able to invest that and get a better return.

The second batting order, and we need to make sure that we have resource for that is to Tsholo's point, we want to really improve the kind of financial risk profile of the group balance sheet, the dollar debt that sits there. It is there, but Tsholo now would like to have 1 of it. So we put that as priority #2 from a capital allocation. So when we play the risk scenarios of what can and may not happen, as well as where should we be deploying capital, the \$0.300 and \$0.330 kind of made sense to us and kind of reasonable shocks stress scenarios, we will be able to deliver that.

And that's why we say it's a minimum of. And so if we ever have a super fantastic year of cash upstreaming and all of that, we've committed that the last capital allocation priority, we would invoke that, which is our willingness to pay specials. But the uncertainties are still with us and the world is not a super certain place at the moment, and we must run our business responsibly. So we think the 3 and the 330 absolutely makes sense in current kind of market conditions. Tsholo?

TSHOLOFELO B. L. MOLEFE: I think you've covered everything Ralph.

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Do you not want to pay higher?

TSHOLOFELO B. L. MOLEFE: I think I'm a lot more conservative.

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Yes. She is more conservative than I am.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Can I just jump in with 1 more. On capital structure now. So net debt at the holdco is now down to, I think, 1x. And you're looking to pay down all the dollar debt, does that mean you go to some very -- you deleverage completely? And MTN ends up in some sort of net cash or ultimate cash position. How should we think about the debt levels within the group?

TSHOLOFELO B. L. MOLEFE: Yes. I suppose, firstly, I think important that we emphasize that we will remain with the guidance at 1.5x. It is important that we keep the financial flexibility, and I think to Ralph's point around capital allocation, we still have a business that's growing. So we want to make sure that we support the business from a growth perspective. And obviously, there's a number of issues that, from a risk perspective, that Ralph mentioned around our ability to be able to upstream from markets. So those are the things that we are thinking about. I think certainly, the U.S. dollar debt, if I can put it that way, we would like to explain it as much as possible because it does have some risk from an interest rate and ForEx losses perspective. So the more we can actually reduce it so that we increase the rand-denominated debt better yes. But we do take into account that we are still in a growth phase.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Just checking if there's any more in person questions.

ROY MUTOONI, ANALYST, ABSA ASSET MANAGEMENT (PROPRIETARY) LTD.: My name is Roy Mutooni from Absa.

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: We can hear you Roy.

ROY MUTOONI: Perfect. Okay. Cool. Just on the PSB license, maybe if you could just give us a little bit of a rundown on expected milestones or the time line towards full approval. And also, is it a big leap from where your current business there is with regards to CapEx and operationalizing?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Yes. I've got Serigne in the room who can give you even better answer than I can. But suffice to say, time lines, we have the approval in principle and that requires us to interact with the CBN and meet certain conditions. We are meeting those conditions and quite far progressed but the time line of moving from AIP to a full license or nothing else that's subject to the CBN. So there's no specific time line that they work to that says, we will complete an AIP process by time. It's not like when the Competition Commission says intermediate merger, we'll do it by 60 days. Here, there isn't a specific time line towards

that, but we have engaged since November quite extensively. And from our side, there's nothing outstanding as we said..

To your point, trying to answer it in short, the PSB is very different from a super-agent license because we are effectively then become a payment services bank. So the float in the wallet economics are with us as a PSB banking structure as opposed to right now a super-agent license, we are an agent and the float would remain always with the banking partners that we have. So the economics of the 2 businesses are actually quite fundamentally different. But I'm looking at Thato, he was saying I mustn't give the thesis here. I think what you -- what we are encouraged with is that we have already leveraged always grown our distribution and got our agents and used to taking naira as part of that whole process of them taking naira and giving airtime.

So that's kind of engagement of our distribution channel is well advanced, and we saw -- you saw the acceleration, particularly in quarter 4, where we have 9 million MoMo subscribers in Nigeria, but that's under the PSB license regime sorry, under the super-agent license regime. The PSB license regime has got obviously much better economics for us. We are waiting the PSB -- sorry, the CBN to give us confirmation to the version, but there isn't a time line that they work to.

UNIDENTIFIED ANALYST: Hello, Ralph, it's here. Just a quick question because you guys are getting into -- by the way (inaudible) business the Financial Mail, because you guys are building platform businesses as part of the evolution of the business, et cetera, I wanted to check because as a mobile operator, you guys have always had the advantage of being a very sort of cash and liquid business, right? How are you guys thinking about, if at all, you not subscription simply because a lot of platform businesses are trying to move towards software as a business and type of annuity revenues, some type of subscription type of models and all of that stuff. How are you thinking, if at all? Or are you okay with remaining as a cash sort of type of operation?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: Yes, I think it's a structure of our markets. I mean, [Madiva] you can do a Netflix subscription, you are going to pay \$6 to \$8 because you have the money. Our business is largely a prepaid business. And we're dealing with customers that have largely limited amount that they can spend on communication services. As a data point, if you're in the U.S., a telecommunications customer spending \$40 to \$50 average revenue or ARPU, I mean we are dealing with 3 to 4, maybe up to 5. So our customers are more financially constrained. So we need to deliver services in much smaller than you would in developed markets.

So from a platform perspective, we see connectivity as a platform. And I think 5G evolution will turn connectivity absolutely into a platform. Fintech's a platform. The other 1 that we've spoken about and you haven't asked questions about it, which I'm surprised is really what we're doing around our FiberCo that we see as a platform that evolves over time into an open access model as you need the levels of investment to meet the data traffic demand that will come with 4G and 5G evolution and so forth. So where we are super focused right now is connectivity, fintech and InfraCo. We have a lot of digital services. But our desire is not to develop the content. It's very expensive to do that. We leave it to others. We can curate it and take a margin of that. But that's not going to be a big part of our revenue going forward. Think of the revenues being and the growth of the company being core connectivity fintech and then the InfraCo, the FiberCo business that we said has progressed very well in terms of its own expansion in the last year.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Okay. I think we're going to have the last question. Jay, do you have a question?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: I can hear you.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Maybe just on Ethiopia and any plans to re-explore the potentially the third license there?

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: No, for now. You heard us talk about capital allocation and our constraints and you saw our batting order, the last time we looked at it and walked away because we couldn't see our way in terms of the financial investments. We've got our hands for right now. And I think we might be spreading ourselves too thinly at the moment. And if the license come, we'll have a look at it, but it's not right up there in our batting order.

There's a lot that we have and we only have 24 hours in a day and only ZAR 34 billion of CapEx. And so this balance sheet has only got ZAR 20 billion of cash. So it's right now, we have had the irons in the fire.

THATO MOTLANTHE: Thank you very much. I think we've come to the end of our time. I don't know if you've got any closing remarks, Ralph.

RALPH TENDAI MUPITA: No, I just want to thank everybody and who's dialed in and let me to see shareholders actually at 14th Avenue for the first time in 2 years. And I just want to thank you for your support over what has been a challenging time, and we trust that the delivery that we have made in the last

year is satisfies you. And we continue to be very focused on taking advantage of the growth opportunities that we see in the market. Thanks very much.

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RE usa : United States | namz : North America

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AN Document FNDW000020220311ei39001gt

HD MTN Group reports strong 2021 results, launching Ambition 2025 on the back of Covid-19**BY** Techgh24**WC** 838 words**PD** 9 March 2022**SN** News Ghana**SC** NWGHA**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2022 News Ghana - All rights reserved - Provided by SyndiGate Media Inc.**LP**

News Ghana, Latest Updates and Breaking News of Ghana, Techgh24,
<https://newsghana.com.gh/mtn-group-reports-strong-2021-results-launching-ambition-2025-on-the-back-of-covid-19/>

MTN Group has reported strong financial, operational and **sustainability** results in 2021 in a tough macro environment.

TD

A statement issued by the telecom giant on Wednesday said “These were delivered through strong strategic execution and sustained commercial momentum across 19 markets, in the year in which Africa’s leading mobile operator started implementing its refreshed Ambition 2025 strategy.”

“We adapted to the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and started shaping the MTN of the future through the execution of Ambition 2025,” said MTN Group President and CEO Ralph Mupita.

In constant-currency terms, service revenue grew by 18.3% to R171.8 billion (US\$11.3 billion); earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased by 23.7% to R80.8 billion (US\$5.3 billion); and the EBITDA margin expanded by 2.2 percentage points to 44.5%.

The MTN Group Board therefore declared a final dividend of 300 cents per share.

“The performance was underpinned by pleasing growth in our larger operating companies, operating leverage and the benefits of our expense efficiency programme,” said Mupita, adding that headline earnings per share adjusted for non-operational items increased by 26.6%; return on equity expanded by 2.6 percentage points to 19.6%; and organic operating cashflow accelerated by 35.2% to R38.3 billion (US\$2.52 billion).

The results were delivered despite a slowdown in subscriber additions related to industry-wide regulations in Nigeria. At year-end, MTN Group had a total of 272.4 million subscribers, up 2.9 million from end-2020.

Greater adoption of data and fintech services resulted in the addition of 11.1 million new data users and 10.4 million new Mobile Money users to reach totals of 122.0 million and 56.8 million respectively. To cater for the 53.3% expansion in data traffic and 41.1% increase in fintech volumes, we continued to invest in the capacity and resilience of our networks and platforms, deploying total capex of R32.7 billion (US\$2.15 billion) in the year.

“We increased our financial flexibility to capture the opportunities identified by Ambition 2025. We deleveraged the balance sheet, paying US\$1.4 billion in dollar debt and improving the holding company leverage to 1.0x from 2.2x,” MTN said.

This, according to them, was boosted by cash of R18.4 billion repatriated from its operating companies and R4.1 billion in proceeds from its asset realisation programme (ARP) during the 2021 financial year, adding “We anticipate further net proceeds of R8.8 billion from the public offer of MTN Nigeria shares and the sale of passive tower infrastructure, once completed.”

Among other highlights of the ARP – which aims to reduce debt, simplify our portfolio, reduce risk and improve returns – were the New York Stock Exchange listing of IHS Towers, in which we have a 26%

stake; the localisations of a number of our operating companies; and our exit from operations in Yemen and Syria.

The company said it progressed work to build the largest and most valuable platforms, reporting strong growth in its fintech business, which now has 57 million monthly active users and generates 10 billion transactions with total transaction value of US\$239 billion within the 2021 calendar.

“With a step change in our approach to sustainability, we created more shared value. We connected 23 million more people to broadband and achieved rural broadband coverage of 83% against our target of 95% by 2025. We reduced the cost to communicate by a 15.3% average reduction in the costs of a GB of data across our markets. Our economic value added to nation states where we operate increased to R115 billion, with cash taxes paid up at R11 billion across our markets. We linked long-term incentives for executives to various ESG indicators, with a focus on reaching net zero emissions by 2040; progressing diversity and inclusion; and extending rural broadband,” it said.

With growth structurally sustaining at higher levels, we enhanced our medium-term guidance, raising our targets for Group service revenue growth and returns. The Board also adopted a revised dividend policy to provide guidance on an annual basis in March indicating the minimum ordinary dividend expected in the financial year ahead, aligned to the group capital allocation framework.

“We remain focused on providing leading digital solutions for Africa’s progress and creating shared value for our stakeholders. Our enhanced medium-term guidance reflects the growth we see across our markets, as we play our part in driving digital and financial inclusion across Africa,” concluded Mupita.

News Ghana, Latest Updates and Breaking News of Ghana, Techgh24,
<https://newsghana.com.gh/mtn-group-reports-strong-2021-results-launching-ambition-2025-on-the-back-of-covid-19/>

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS gout : Outbreaks/Epidemics | gsars : Novel Coronaviruses | c151 : Earnings | c15 : Financial Performance | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gcold : Respiratory Tract Diseases | ghea : Health | gmed : Medical Conditions | gspox : Infectious Diseases | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE ghana : Ghana | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD Emerging Markets, MTN, MTN Group, Operational, strong financial, sustainability results

PUB News Ghana

AN Document NWGHA00020220310ei390000s

HD Kenyan National Social Security Fund set to earn KES 6 mln dividend from MTN Uganda **investment**

WC 187 words

PD 9 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is set to earn a KES 5.9 million dividend from its **investment** in MTN Uganda after the mobile phone company declared a final payout equivalent to KES 0.149 per share, Business Daily reported. The state-controlled pension fund acquired 39.18 million shares in the operator in 2021 when it held its [Initial Public Offering](#). The dividend will be paid on 24 June by electronic bank transfers to shareholders of record on 26 May.

The NSSF made the MTN Uganda **investment** through asset manager Sanlam and was the highest-profile Kenyan investor to participate in the transaction, which did not meet the target of reducing the MTN Group's ownership by 20 percent. The group managed to sell a 12.96 percent stake to individuals and institutions in an offer at a significant discount for East African investors.

TD

This was the first time that MTN Uganda has published its results as a publicly traded firm with shares listed on the Uganda Securities Exchange.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c1512 : Dividends | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | c15 : Financial Performance | c151 : Earnings | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfce : C&E Exclusion Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE uganda : Uganda | africaz : Africa | kenya : Kenya | dvpcos : Developing Economies | eafz : East Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220309ei390005m



HD **EMERGE GAMING LIMITED; Emerge divests from Miggster Business for A\$5 million**

WC 311 words

PD 9 March 2022

SN ASX ComNews (Text version of ASX Company Announcements) (Australia)

SC ASXTEX

LA English

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ASX: EML | ABN 31 004 766 376

ASX RELEASE
9 March 2022

Emerge divests from Miggster Business for A\$5 million

Highlights:

- Emerge executes a binding agreement to sell the Miggster Business for A\$5 million whilst retaining its core IP and technology
- Emerge expects to receive the A\$5 million sale consideration with A\$1.75 million upfront and the remainder over 12 months
- Company is well funded with A\$16.6 million before receipt of A\$5 million sale consideration
- Emerge to terminate agreements with ICT and Crowd1
- Focus on business growth and GTM strategies by pursuing B2B2C expansion and further B2C opportunities
- MTN Arena's community of more than 800,000 subscribers continues to grow, targeting further potential with new and enhanced platform features
- Emerge to target 8 MTN Group countries with a combined subscriber base of ~175 million

Emerge Gaming Limited (ASX: EML) ("Emerge" or the "Company"), is pleased to advise that it has executed a binding agreement to sell the Miggster Business (Defined Below) for A\$5,000,000.

On 23 September 2021, the Company engaged professional advisors to undertake a strategic review of Emerge's assets and advise on realising value from the Miggster business through divestment. Pursuant to this review, Emerge actively pursued divestment opportunities for Miggster which successfully culminated in Emerge creating value for its shareholders by selling its intellectual property relating to the Miggster Business for A\$5,000,000 whilst retaining its core IP and technology.

Key commercial terms of Miggster Sale Agreement

Emerge has executed a binding agreement to sell the Miggster Business to NIBIRU e-gaming AB, ("Nibiru" or the "Purchaser"), for a sale consideration of A\$5,000,000 payable over 12 months.

The Miggster Business is defined as:

- The IP relating to the Miggster ...

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CO gipps : EmERGE Gaming Ltd | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | icnp : Consumer Goods | icomp : Computing | igamsof : Games Software | ilgood : Leisure/Travel Goods | itech : Technology

NS cdiv : Divestments | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE austr : Australia | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania

IPC 07002 11001

PUB The Australian Securities Exchange Limited

AN Document ASXTEX0020220308ei3900tbl

HD MTN Uganda posts a net profit of \$95.3mn on back of mobile subscribers

WC 195 words

PD 8 March 2022

ET 13:33

SN bne IntelliNews

SC BNEINT

LA English

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MTN Uganda, the East African country's biggest telecom company, posted a net profit of UGX 340.4bn (\$97mn) in 2021, driven by double-digit increases in the numbers of mobile, but also data and fintech subscribers (up 10.7%, 16% and 16.3%, respectively).

The unit of South African telecom giant MTN Group listed its shares on the Uganda Stock Exchange in December, offering 20% of the company's equity in an undersubscribed initial public offer (IPO) valued at \$1.25bn, with shares first offered to Ugandan citizens, and then domestic **investment** companies and finally East African investors.

TD

"The IPO reduced the ownership of MTN group from 96% to 83.05%, which aligns with MTN's group-wide objective to create shared value, partly through ensuring broad-based ownership in all its operating subsidiaries," [MTN Uganda chief executive Wim Vanhelleputte stated](#).

During 2021, MTN Uganda noted significant one-off expenses, such as the cost of transactional license fees of \$14.1mn to the national regulator and about \$3mn to Invesco Uganda Limited, stemming from the termination of contract between them.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS c1711 : Initial Public Offerings | c151 : Earnings | c15 : Financial Performance | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c02 : Corporate Changes | c14 : Stock Listings | c17 : Corporate Funding | c171 : Share Capital | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE uganda : Uganda | eafz : East Africa | africaz : Africa | dvpcz : Developing Economies

PUB EMERGING MARKETS DIRECT OU

AN Document BNEINT0020220308ei380030d

HD MTN Uganda posts a net profit of \$95.3mn on back of mobile subscribers

WC 193 words

PD 8 March 2022

ET 13:33

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PUB EMERGING MARKETS DIRECT OU

AN Document BNEINT0020220308ei38002xl

BUSINESS DAILY

SE Industry
HD **NSSF set to earn Sh5.9m dividend from MTN Uganda**
BY JOSEPH WANGUI
WC 408 words
PD 8 March 2022
SN Business Daily
SC BUSIDA
LA English
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The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is set to earn a Sh5.9 million dividend from its **investment** in MTN Uganda after the telco declared a final payout equivalent to Sh0.149 per share.

The State-controlled pension fund acquired 39.18 million shares in the telecommunications firm last year when it went public through an initial public offering (IPO).

TD

The dividend will be paid on June 24 through electronic bank transfers to shareholders who will be on the May 26 register.

NSSF, which made the investment through asset manager Sanlam, was the highest-profile Kenyan investor to participate in the transaction which did not meet the target of reducing MTN Group's ownership by 20 percent.

The South African multinational managed to sell a 12.96 percent stake to individuals and institutions in an offer that featured a significant discount for East African investors.

This is the first time MTN Uganda is publishing its results as a publicly-traded firm listed on the Uganda Securities Exchange (USE).

Net income for the year ended December increased 5.8 percent to Sh10.8 billion, helped by a 9.7 percent jump in total revenue to Sh65.3 billion.

The company says the earnings would have been higher under normal trading conditions, noting that it paid a total of \$17.1 million (Sh1.9 billion) in licence fees and costs of terminating a services agreement with Invesco Uganda Limited.

"The adjusted profit after tax of Sh12.2 billion results into a 20.4 percent year-on-year increase if the above is excluded and an increase of [net] margins by 1.7 percentage points," the telco said of the impact of the non-recurring payments.

MTN Uganda saw its customer numbers rise 10.7 percent to 15.7 million, with active data subscribers jumping 16 percent to 5.3 million.

Its financial service subsidiary MTN Mobile Money Uganda paid the parent company a dividend of Sh1.9 billion in the review period.

"We see a significant opportunity for data growth in fixed connectivity through MTN WakaNet, fibre to home and fibre to business, and will continue our investment programme in that segment," the telco said in a statement.

"We are currently progressing with the implementation of a new pricing framework for the fixed data connectivity services to widen our customer catchment area."

jwangui@ke.nationmedia.com

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AN Document BUSIDA0020220308ei3800007

HD Boomplay Partners with MTN Nigeria to Offer Affordable Subscription, Data Bundles

WC 405 words

PD 7 March 2022

SN The Punch

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LA English

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[Branded Content](#) Published 7 March 2022

Boomplay, the #1 music streaming service in Africa, has partnered with MTN Nigeria to launch the Boomplay x MTN Data bundle as part of its efforts to continue making music easily available to its users. This partnership will offer MTN subscribers tailored data to stream unlimited music and access premium **content** on Boomplay at affordable rates.

TD

Boomplay continues to drive the growth and advancement of music streaming across Africa and this partnership will further propel Boomplay's vision and expectations. The introduction of affordable bundles will spur the next wave of music-streaming growth across the continent.

Through this partnership, MTN subscribers will be offered daily, weekly and monthly subscriptions to gain premium access to Boomplay's music streaming service on their mobile devices. The available Boomplay music plans alongside their data allowance are the: One day access with data for 250MB at N99, Weekly access with data for 1.2GB at N449 and Monthly access with data for 2.5GB at N999.

MTN users will be able to purchase any of the bundles by texting the codes in the table below to 8012 via SMS, or purchasing with airtime payment in the Boomplay app.

Also speaking about the partnership, A'isha Umar Mumuni, the acting Chief Digital Officer, MTN Nigeria said "Music is an integral part of youth entertainment, and we are glad to partner with Boomplay to bring accessible and affordable music entertainment to Nigerian youth. In our pursuit to deliver superior value to our subscribers, we continue to collaborate with a mix of digital content partners and bundle services with data access, so nothing can come between our customers and the content they love. The platform allows users to create playlists, watch/download music videos, and interact with other music lovers by following their profiles. We hope this brings value to our audiences." Boomplay Nigeria's General Manager, Dele Kadir, said "This partnership is an attestation of our commitment to making music streaming as affordable as possible. High data costs are one of the barriers to the growth of music streaming and we are glad to be partnering with MTN to provide this special data bundle".

With over 65 million Monthly Active Users, Boomplay continues to demonstrate its commitment to advancing music streaming in the Nigerian market and across Africa by providing accessibility for all.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gmusic : Music | c22 : New Products/Services | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB Punch Nigeria Limited

AN Document TPUNC00020220307ei37000xf

HD MTN plans open RAN trials with Rakuten in South Africa, Nigeria and Liberia

WC 193 words

PD 7 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

MTN Group and Rakuten Symphony have agreed to run live 4G and 5G OpenRAN Proof of Concept (PoC) trials in South Africa, Nigeria and Liberia using the Rakuten Communications **Platform** (RCP). The trials will start in 2022 and combine RCP OpenRAN equipment with advanced automation and autonomous network capabilities. The products are currently deployed by Rakuten Mobile in Japan and include **cloud** orchestration, zero-touch provisioning and automation of radio site commissioning and network integration.

The MoU will enable the launch of new services more quickly, cost-effectively and seamlessly, MTN said. The mobile operator and Rakuten Symphony will be collaborating with Accenture and Tech Mahindra to conduct the trials in South Africa, Nigeria and Liberia.

TD

Rakuten Mobile made a full-scale launch of commercial services on the world's first fully virtualised cloud-native mobile network in 2020 in Japan, and launched Rakuten Symphony in 2021 to bring its innovations to other operators. Rakuten Symphony brings together Rakuten's telco products, services and systems under a single banner to offer 4G and 5G infrastructure and platforms to customers worldwide.

CO mahbt : Tech Mahindra Limited | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | rakinc : Rakuten Group, Inc. | mahmah : Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | iacc : Accounting/Consulting | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | icnsl : Business Consultancy | iecom : E-commerce | iint : Online Service Providers | iitcns : IT Consulting | itech : Technology

NS c22 : New Products/Services | gdip : International Relations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | cexpro : Products/Services | gcat : Political/General News | gpri : Politics/International Relations | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcipin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE safr : South Africa | nigea : Nigeria | liber : Liberia | africaz : Africa | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcos : Developing Economies | souafrz : Southern Africa | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220307ei370005n

HD MTN Nigeria offers free calls and SMS to Ukraine

WC 106 words

PD 7 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

MTN Nigeria announced that it will be offering free international calls and SMS to existing prepaid and postpaid customers to and from Ukraine due to the crisis. MTN said the offer is aimed at supporting customers to stay in touch with their loved ones while eliminating associated international direct dialling (IDD) costs.

It noted that concerns regarding connection issues have been addressed as the company has commenced the implementation of measures to ensure uninterrupted **connectivity**. Each active MTN subscriber will receive 30 minutes of free voice calls and 50 free SMS to Ukraine, valid until 31 March.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE ukrn : Ukraine | nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | eeurz : Central/Eastern Europe | eurz : Europe | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220307ei3700005

HD Telecom giant MTN Ghana to invest GHS1.5bn in infrastructure & network systems development by 2025

BY Michael Tawiah Bortei

WC 235 words

PD 7 March 2022

ET 05:39

SN bne IntelliNews

SC BNEINT

LA English

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LP

Telecoms giant MTN is in the process of investing a planned GHS1.5bn by 2025 in developing its network infrastructure and information systems (NIIS), [myjoyonline.com has reported](#).

According to the report, the **investment** is partly aimed at supporting the government's Digital Ghana agenda and putting the country at the forefront of Africa's digital transformation.

TD

The CEO of MTN Ghana, Selorm Adadevoh, said that "we successfully implemented our investment plans, with a total CAPEX of GHS1.5bn last year supporting infrastructure modernisation, expansion of 4G coverage and improvement to quality of service."

He added that "In 2022, MTN will continue with its capacity enhancement projects with the aim of ensuring that all cell sites are upgraded to 4G capacity."

Mr Adadevoh further added that the service provider's upgrades were ongoing alongside other commitments in support of ICT development initiatives such as the provision of an ICT Hub, as well as the establishment of West Africa's first Innovation City.

He said that the Network sees Ghana as the country most strategically placed to be a digital hub in the region, exporting skills and services to diversify and accelerate economic growth, making technology leadership in the region an imperative if Ghanaian Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are to be relevant in the AfCFTA era, the report noted.

CO mtghan : Scancom PLC | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccapex : Capital Expenditure | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning

RE ghana : Ghana | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

PUB EMERGING MARKETS DIRECT OU

AN Document BNEINT0020220307ei37000gp

HD **Despite Economic Headwinds, Dangote Cement, MTN, 6 Others' Dividend Up 29% to N827.05bn**

WC 1,116 words

PD 7 March 2022

SN This Day

SC AIWTHD

LA English

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LP

Kayode Tokede

Despite economic challenges, investors' in the Nigerian capital market has continued to enjoy mouthwatering return on **investment** as most highly capitalised declares improved dividends.

TD

For instance, Dangote Cement Plc, MTN Nigeria, Zenith Bank Plc, among five other companies listed on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) have proposed a total dividend of N827.05billion for 2021 financial year.

The proposed dividend is an increase of 29 per cent when compared to N639.25billion paid out by these companies in 2020 financial year.

The other companies are Guaranty Trust Holding Plc (GTCO), United Bank for Africa Plc, Lafarge Africa Plc, Dangote Sugar Plc and United Capital Plc.

THISDAY analysis of results released to the NGX showed that the eight companies reported a total N1.27 trillion profit in 2021 financial year from N1.08 billion reported in 2020.

Leading the pack is Dangote Cement with about N364.44 billion profit in 2021 from N276.07billion in 2020 and proposed a dividend of N340.81billion in 2021 from N272.65billion proposed in 2020.

This represents a dividend of N20 per unit of 50 kobo ordinary share from N16.00 per unit proposed in 2020. Based on its current stock price of N273.5, Dangote Cement's dividend yield is about 7.3 per cent.

With about N298.65 billion profit in 2021 from N205 billion in 2020, MTN Nigeria for 2021 financial year proposed dividend of N212.7 billion from N133 billion proposed to investors for 2020 financial year.

The telecommunication giant in 2021 proposed N4.55 interim dividend (2020: N3.50 kobo per share) and final dividend of N8.57kobo per 2 kobo ordinary share, bringing the total dividend for 2021 financial year to N13.12 kobo from N9.5kobo total dividend paid to shareholders in 2020.

Of the listed banks, Zenith Bank, the most profitable financial institution proposed N97.32 billion total dividend for the financial year 2021, translating to N3.01 per share, after getting shareholders to agree to a dividend payout of N87.91 billion for the second half of the year, which translates to N2.80 per share.

The bank had earlier paid an interim dividend of N0.30 per share totaling N9.4 billion for the first half of the year. It paid shareholders N3.0 per share, summing up to N94.19 billion in 2020.

Zenith bank reported N244.4 billion profit in 2021, from N230.6 billion reported in 2020 and it becomes the highest profit ever declared by a listed bank in Nigeria.

Last year's profit growth rate was, however, the slowest since 2016. The bank's profit grew at a mere 6.5 per cent compared to 10 per cent between 2019 and 2020.

Meanwhile, the management of GTCO recommended a final dividend per share of N2.70 per share, coupled with the earlier paid interim dividend of N0.30 kobo in May 2021, hence bringing the total dividend for the financial year to N3.00kobo, same as what was paid in 2020 but a seven per cent increase from the total dividend paid in 2019.

On their part, the management of UBA proposed a final dividend of N0.80 per share in 2021 financial year from N0.35 proposed in 2020.

The proposed final dividend and the N0.20 per share interim dividend paid in September 2021, brings the lender's total dividend for the year to N1.00, amounting to a pay-out ratio of 29 per cent from 16 per cent and a yield of 12.4 per cent.

Others with dividend payout to investors are: Lafarge Cement with a proposed N2.00 total dividend in 2021 from N1.00 proposed in 2020, representing N32.22billion dividend in 2021 from N16.11billion in 2020;

United Capital proposed N1.50 kobo ordinary share of 50kobo each in 2021 from N1.00 paid in 2020, translating into N9billion dividend payout to investors in 2021 from N4.2billion in 2020 and Dangote Sugar Refinery proposed a dividend of N12.15billion for 2021 financial year from N18.22billion reported in 2020.

Commenting, shareholders commended impressive earnings by listed companies and dividend payout amid domestic and foreign macro economic challenges.

Speaking on behalf of Nigerian shareholders, Chairman, Progressive Shareholders Association of Nigeria (PSAN), Boniface Okezie questioned Dangote Cement's N20 per ordinary share dividend to investors, maintaining that the cement manufacturing could have rewarded investors better for 2021 financial year.

He added: "These companies have shown resilient performance despite numerous challenges in the economy. Zenith bank has surpassed analysts' expectation with profit and dividend payout to investors, the same for GTCO, UBA, among others."

Market analyst and Managing Director/CEO APT Securities and Funds Limited, Mr. Garba Kurfi commended listed companies for posting impressive result and accounts for 2021, expressing concerns that the declared dividend by these companies did not reflect in the trajectory of the stock market.

According to him: "These companies have declared impressive dividend payout to investors but I do not know why the stock market did not respond to dividend payout by Dangote Cement, Zenith Bank, among others. Although the likes of GTCO and UBA released their audited accounts after the close of trading last week, I am yet to see stock price appreciation.

"Take for instance, Lafarge Africa last year was trading at N31 and declared N1.00 per ordinary but this year, the company declared N2.00 and trading at N24.00 per share. The dividend by these companies has not reflected in our domestic market."

On his part, analyst and CEO, Wyoming Capital & Partners, Mr. Tajudeen Olayinka urged investors to investigate if these companies were paying from the reserve or current earnings reported on the NGX.

"For those companies that have proposed dividend, we praise their effort. If a company is paying from current earnings, it shows effective management despite the challenges. What some of these companies are paying as dividend is substantial which is good for their stock prices."

He added that: "It is excessive if a company is paying over 10per cent yield on its dividend to shareholders and it means these companies are operating at a higher cost per capital. When you have a functional market where companies are doing well, I don't expect a company to pay more than five per cent yield on dividend to shareholders.

"That was the level our domestic market was in 2007 before the global economic meltdown. If a company is able to pay at least five per cent yield, it means they will be able to raise money at a low level per capital."

[Click to view image](#)

- CO** dngtzm : Dangote Cement PLC | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | ubafr : United Bank for Africa PLC | znibk : Zenith Bank PLC | dgoc : Dangote Group Of Companies
- IN** i242 : Cement/Ready-mix Concrete | ibuildpr : Building Materials/Products | icre : Real Estate/Construction | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i814 : Banking | i81402 : Commercial Banking | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services
- NS** c15 : Financial Performance | c151 : Earnings | c1512 : Dividends | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfce : C&E Exclusion Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter
- RE** nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa
- IPD** News

PUB Leaders & Company Limited

AN Document AIWTHD0020220307ei370008i

HD MTN Nigeria thinks its fintech and 4G expansion will woo Gen Zs

BY Alexander Onukwue

WC 581 words

PD 4 March 2022

SN Quartz

SC QUARTZ

LA English

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LP

Last year in Nigeria, African telecoms group MTN doubled its mobile money transaction volume, deployed 4G in over 9,000 new sites, and bought spectrum for its 5G rollout. On Feb. 27 while unveiling its new logo at Lagos's Eko hotel, the company sold these milestones as a bundle that will boost its appeal to Gen Z customers.

The logo change was nothing fancy, ditching a clash of four colors for a black rendering of an encircled 'MTN' – projecting the company as embracing agility. Adia Sowho, and Emamoke Ogoro, the company's chief marketing officer and brand communications general manager respectively, paid homage to the tech buzz that has made Nigerian **startups** fascinating to global investors.

TD

And so pledging to be forward-looking, MTN treated that evening's audience of employees, influencers, and journalists to a live cameo by Ayra Starr, a vivacious singer who hadn't yet been born when the company entered Nigeria in 2001.

MTN reaps its 4G investments

Since releasing its [2021 earnings](#) (pdf) in January, MTN has notched a few more milestones, including "[owning 144 plots](#) of virtual land" on Africarare, a South African virtual reality platform launched last October.

What that real estate is worth remains to be seen, but the company's "Ambition 2025" goal to primarily be a digital services provider rests on tangible communications assets.

While it lost a tenth of its mobile subscribers due to a government freeze on new SIM card sales to ensure old cards were properly registered, MTN added 5% more data subscribers for a current total of 34.3 million. On average, the megabytes used per MTN subscriber increased by over 60%. These numbers can be read as the company reaping its investments in more 4G sites which it says now covers 70% of Nigeria, while planning for a 5G future.

[MTN Nigeria's service revenue, in billions of naira](#)

Ayoba, an MTN instant messaging app, grew over 170% to now boast 3.8 million active users. It is part of the company's digital division, which produced the highest revenue growth of all service categories.

Fintech is the present and future

Using 4G to grow data subscribers is only one step. MTN's transformation is towards being a financial services provider, which is where its pitch to Gen Zs (and other users, it must be said) comes alive.

Nigeria has the highest proportion of financially excluded adults in sub-Saharan Africa at 36%, according to a [report](#) (pdf) by EFINA, a UK government-funded organization. That adult is most likely between 18 and 25 years old.

The gap is an opportunity for [MTN's mobile money business](#) that added over 370,000 agents and doubled active users to 9.4 million last year.

After much reluctance, the Central Bank of Nigeria finally [gave "approval in principle"](#) to MTN and Airtel to operate [payment service banks](#) (pdf) - companies that specifically use mobile and digital channels to give low-income Nigerians access to deposit and payments products.

For MTN, a go-ahead to begin operations would mean freedom to take advantage of two decades of telecoms investment to possibly break out as a legitimate fintech company, thereby competing with startups that had claimed Nigeria's digital natives as their exclusive constituency.

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CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN impay : Mobile Payment Systems | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | iplastic : Electronic Payment Systems | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | lagos : Lagos | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD Quartz Africa – Quartz

PUB Quartz Media Inc.

AN Document QUARTZ0020220315ei340005I

HD MTN Nigeria thinks its fintech and 4G expansion will woo Gen Zs

BY Alexander Onukwue

WC 581 words

PD 4 March 2022

SN Quartz

SC QUARTZ

LA English

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[MTN Nigeria's service revenue, in millions of naira](#)

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CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN impay : Mobile Payment Systems | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | iplastic : Electronic Payment Systems | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | lagos : Lagos | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD Quartz

PUB Quartz Media Inc.

AN Document QUARTZ0020220304ei3400006

HD Stocks to record gains amid higher debt yields – Report

WC 225 words

PD 4 March 2022

SN The Punch

SC TPUNC

LA English

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LP

[Nike Popoola](#) Published 4 March 2022

FBNQuest Research, the **investment** banking and asset management subsidiary of FBN Holdings Plc, has projected modest gains for equities amid higher debt yields in the Nigerian economy in 2022.

TD

The company said in a statement that the projections were released at a webinar held to elaborate on its 2022 outlook report published in January 2022.

It said, "With regards to asset values, FBNQuest forecasts another positive year for equities in 2022, projecting gains between five and 10 per cent.

"A number of banks, as well as non-financial stocks, are expected to outperform in 2022. These include Access Bank, Zenith Bank, GT Bank, Seplat, Presco, and MTN Nigeria."

The research also projected that Nigeria's economy will grow by 2.7 per cent this year.

According to FBNQuest, as the second term of the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), winds down, the achievements of the administration would have been mixed.

It noted the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act, the 2020 and 2021 Finance Acts, and some infrastructure development as notable achievements.

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, FBNQuest Research anticipated that the withdrawal of monetary accommodation and other tightening measures by the US Federal Reserve and other advanced economy central banks might weaken emerging and frontier market currencies.

CO fbknig : FBN Holdings PLC | mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | spltdv : SEPLAT Energy PLC

IN i831 : Financial Investment Services | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities | i1 : Energy | i13 : Crude Oil/Natural Gas Upstream Operations | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i814 : Banking | i81402 : Commercial Banking | ibnk : Banking/Credit | iextra : Natural Gas/Oil Extraction | ifosfl : Fossil Fuels

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD news

PUB Punch Nigeria Limited

AN Document TPUNC00020220304ei34000eh

HD MTN unveils new corporate identity with ambition 2025 to celebrate brand refresh

BY Seyi John Salau

WC 582 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN Business Day

SC BUSMEDI

LA English

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LP

[\[click to view image\]](#)

MTN Nigeria has unveiled a new corporate identity in its brand repositioning using a contemplative slogan; "What Are We Doing Today?" in its bid to help build a digital **platform** that enables African businesses to the global audience.

TD

The rebranding is an extension and visual representation of MTN Group's refreshed strategy, dubbed Ambition 2025 and premised on leading digital solutions for Africa's progress. Through the delivery of this strategy, MTN aims to accelerate growth by building the largest and most valuable platform businesses and driving its industry-leading connectivity operations.

"The new brand identity is modern, simple, bold and digitally dynamic. It kicks off with a provocative and simple question, "What are we doing today?" With a clear and concise brand strategy that is Opportunity + Energy = Progress, MTN understands that to truly unlock the full benefits and potential of the digital world people require a combination of drive, progressive thinking and the right tools," said Adia Sowho, the chief marketing officer, MTN Nigeria.

According to her, the new corporate identity portrays the company's preference for building digital platforms that enable Africa's progress. "This rebrand highlights MTN's commitment to continuously evolve and explore innovative initiatives that provide value to all our stakeholders. A pioneer of progress from the beginning, MTN looks to drive this progress further through action and doing. In delivering its vision, MTN aims to drive a positive shift in Africa and harness the continent's boundless opportunity," stated Sowho.

Read also: [MTN customers to get free access to Davido's O2 Concert](#)

She posits that 'Ambition 2025' is MTN's strategy to accelerate long term business growth in Nigeria while leveraging emerging opportunities. Built on four key strategic priorities, Ambition 2025 informs MTN's current and future projects as the company moves to create leading digital platforms for Africa's progress while providing the tools to ensure the connectivity to access those opportunities.

Karl Toriola, the chief executive officer, MTN Nigeria, said that the rebranding exemplifies MTN's commitment to continuously create value for all its stakeholders, with the new logo contextualising the company's identity as a digital citizen, open to change, young at heart, inviting, digitally dynamic and progressive.

"We want to play our part in harnessing the potential and supporting the progress of our people by driving digital and financial inclusion. It is a well-known fact that the youth are central to achieving this potential. Whilst we remain focused on all our customers and stakeholders, our brand evolution demonstrates an enhanced focus on the youth," said Toriola, who was represented by Adekunle Adebisi, the chief sales and distribution officer, MTN Nigeria.

This is the second brand overhaul since the MTN Group was founded in 1994. Back in 2004, the changes made to the brand resulted in MTN taking ownership of the colour yellow that is now synonymous with MTN. Importantly, it also helped to elevate the brand to where it is today, recognised as the most valuable in Africa.

The Company's new logo forgoes the italics, the red underscore and the solid coloured oval present in the previous logo for a minimalist look that retains the oval (now represented as a solid outline) with the letters

M-T-N nestled in it. These can be used against a sunshine yellow or plain white background in either black or yellow font colours.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS cbrand : Branding | c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c31 : Marketing | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD Companies

PUB Business Day Media Ltd.

AN Document BUSMEDI020220303ei330005q

SE Entertainment
HD **MTN secures live stream rights for Davido's 02 concert**

BY Sampson Unamka

WC 246 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN The Nation

SC NATNIG

LA English

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LP

MTN Nigeria has secured exclusive global rights to stream Davido's live concert at the O2 arena on Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Through a partnership with the subscription-based music store and streaming service **platform**, uduX, MTN will be giving its subscribers the opportunity to experience the show.

TD

Following a brief hiatus, Davido has been gearing up to give his UK fans the ultimate Afrobeats experience.

The concert comes as part of an elaborate prelude to the megastar's upcoming album 'We Rise By Lifting Others' – a celebration of a decade-long run in the music industry, from the early days of 'Dami Duro' in Lagos to the recent release of 'Champion Sound' globally.

READ ALSO: [Davido employs Morgan Freeman for O2 Arena commercial](#)

With MTN facilitating Davido's live-in-concert experience to his global audience through UduX, fans can look forward to a seamless and immersive event.

Commenting on the partnership, the Chief Marketing Officer, MTN Nigeria, Adia Sowho, said, "We are proud of this partnership with UduX and Davido, two stellar Nigerian brands that have become global ambassadors promoting Nigerian culture and music. In delivering this unparalleled experience to our customers across the country, we reiterate MTN Nigeria's commitment to continue to lead the delivery of a bold, new digital world."

The post [MTN secures live stream rights for Davido's 02 concert](#) appeared first on [The Nation Newspaper](#).

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gconce : Concerts | gmusic : Music | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD Entertainment

PUB Vintage Press Limited

AN Document NATNIG0020220303ei3300001

HD MTN Nigeria obtains rights to stream Davido's O2 Arena concert on 05 March with UduX

WC 151 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

MTN Nigeria has secured exclusive global rights to stream Nigerian-American singer, songwriter and record producer Davido's concert at the UK's O2 arena on 05 March to its customers, under its partnership with subscription music store and streaming **platform** UduX. Davido is about to bring out the album "We Rise By Lifting Others" to celebrate his decade-long career from the early days of 'Dami Duro' in Lagos to the recent release of "Champion Sound" globally.

MTN will broadcast Davido's concert live through UduX. MTN Nigeria customers can tune in by subscribing to their favourite streaming data bundles, and logging on to wrblo2.udux.com. MTN has previously aired a live performance in November 2021 by Nigerian artiste Ayodeji "Wizkid" Balogun at the O2 arena, featuring his popular album "Made in Lagos".

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gconce : Concerts | gmusic : Music | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220303ei330008d

HD MTN Launches Digital Multi-experience Platform with Tecnotree

WC 248 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN This Day

SC AIWTHD

LA English

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LP

Emma Okonji

Tecnotree, a finnish-based global provider of digital transformation solutions for Communication Service Providers (CSPs) and Digital Service Providers (DSPs), has announced the launch of its digital multi-experience platform, 'Tecnotree Moments', in collaboration with MTN Nigeria.

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The multi-experience partner ecosystem offering aims to create lifestyle bundles of content, applications and connectivity through a pre-integrated digital partner ecosystem for global, local and glocal high-demand and hyper growth sectors. The platform will attract leading partners across different sectors such as education, entertainment, gaming, sports, health and wellness, to enter Nigeria and using direct customer billing to convert ecosystem partners into instant revenue generators across enterprise and consumer segments.

'Tecnotree Moments' is a gateway of digital services and lifestyle bundling products, being launched with e-sports content such as PUBG Mobile Daily, FIFA Daily, Rocket League Daily, Fortnite Monthly and Fantasy Football. Its offerings also include Africa's top-played games, with fresh games being updated regularly. With dynamic brands including GamersHub Media Events (GHME), Smartlink, Hurix, MTutor and more the platform is uniquely positioned to cater for the convergence in education and gaming content around the globe that fosters social and emotional learning, imperative for personalized and adaptive experiences.

The collaboration between 'Tecnotree Moments' and MTN Nigeria is path-breaking for realising the full human potential of Nigerians across the country and creating an inclusive society that is key to promoting national development.

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CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | tcnmho : Tecnotree Oyj

IN i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | icomp : Computing | itech : Technology

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RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD News

PUB Leaders & Company Limited

AN Document AIWTHD0020220303ei330003f

HD As 5G Rollout in Nigeria Beckons

WC 2,826 words

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SC AIWTHD

LA English

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Last week's meeting of the **payment** deadline for 5G licence by MTN Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications, is a clear indication that both telecoms operators are ready to roll out **5G network** in Nigeria, anytime soon, writes Emma Okonji

Nigerians from all walks of life, including industry stakeholders, were in jubilation last week when the news of the **payment** for 5G license fees by MTN Nigeria and Mafab Communications was first reported by THISDAY Newspapers.

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Both telecoms operators met the payment deadline of February 24, 2022, when they paid the bid price of \$273.6 million each, with an additional payment of \$15.9 million by MTN Nigeria, to get the first slot in the 3.5GHz spectrum band that was auctioned last December by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), for 5G licence.

Given the additional \$15.9 million paid by MTN for the first slot, both telecoms operators paid a total sum of \$563.1 million for the 5G licence, which they won in a competitive bid process in December 2021.

Following the successful auction of the 5G licence last year, the Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, quickly announced the payment deadline of February 24, 2022 for the payment of the licence fee, as contained in the Information Memorandum (IM) for 5G licence auction.

According to the Information Memorandum, any operator who fails to meet up with the payment deadline, will not be awarded the 5G licence, and will also lose the initial bid deposit of N7.5 billion, which is the 10 per cent non-refundable deposit for the reserved bid price of \$197.4 million (N75 billion), that was paid by all bidders.

But to the joy of Nigerians, both winners of the 5G licence met the payment deadline last week. Although MTN Nigeria had paid long before the deadline, Mafab Communications only paid a day to the deadline, which was February 23, 2022.

The meeting of the payment deadline has continued to elicit joy among Nigerians and Industry stakeholders, who are of the view that the payment is a clear indication that both operators are ready to rollout 5G network across Nigeria, anytime soon.

NCC's Position

Confirming and announcing the payment from both MTN Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications, NCC in statement signed by its Director, Public Affairs, Dr. Ikechukwu Adinde, said: "Provisional winners of the 3.5 Gigahertz (GHz) spectrum licence, MTN Communications Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications Limited, have made their full payment of \$273.6 million each for the 5G Spectrum license to the Nigerian Communications Commission. The Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar Danbatta, officially confirmed the payment status on February 24, 2022, just as the deadline set for the two winners of the spectrum auction elapsed.

"As part of the auction process emplaced by the Commission in the Information Memorandum (IM), three companies, namely MTN Nigeria, Mafab Communications Ltd and Airtel Networks Ltd submitted bids with an initial bid deposit (IBD) of \$19.74 million, representing 10 per cent of the Reserve Price of the 3.5GHz Spectrum by the close of the Bid submission date of November 29, 2021."

The statement further said: "Following the successful auction on December 13, 2021 and the emergence of MTN and Mafab as winners, they were required to pay the balance of the bid amount of \$253.86 million on or before February 24, 2022. However, aside the \$273.6 million payment, MTN paid additional \$15.9

million, being the bidding sum it offered at the assignment state of the spectrum auction, making it clinch its preferred Lot 1 (3500-3600Megahertz-MHz) in the 3.5Ghz spectrum; while, Mafab Communications, which bid lower at the assignment stage, consequentially settled with Lot 2 (3700-3800Mhz) at no extra cost."

Confirming the payments by the two licensees, Danbatta said: "I wish to officially announce that NCC has received and confirmed payments from MTN and Mafab for their acquisition of 1 slot of 100Mhz each in the 3.5Ghz spectrum auction, which was successfully conducted by the Commission on December 13, 2021. They both met the deadline of February 24, 2022 as set by the Commission".

"Arising from this and on behalf of the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ibrahim Pantami, the Board and Management of the NCC, I wish to congratulate the MTN and Mafab for this feat, as we look forward to accomplishing other deployment timelines in the 5G deployment roadmap, as articulated in the National Policy on 5G Networks for Nigeria's Digital Economy," Danbatta stated.

For meeting the payment deadline, Danbatta commended the two companies for their commitment to 5G deployment drive through their private investments, which he said, was a demonstration of the licensees' belief in the sound regulatory environment in the Nigerian telecommunications sector.

Danbatta also expressed appreciation to the federal government for its support and commitment to the deployment of 5G technology in Nigeria which, he said, would bring substantial network improvements, including higher connection speed, mobility and capacity, as well as low-latency capabilities to communications services in Nigeria.

The Commission published a Public Notice on its decision to award two lots of 100MHz Time Division Duplex (TDD) available in the 3.5 GHz band through an auction process, to support the delivery of ubiquitous broadband services for the deployment of 5G technology in Nigeria.

Subsequently, an Information Memorandum (IM) was issued on November 10, 2021, in which Bid Applications for the available spectrum lots were invited. By the deadline for receipt of applications on November 29, 2021, the Commission received applications from three licensed telecommunications companies, namely: Airtel Networks Limited, Mafab Communications Limited, and MTN Communications Nigeria Plc.

The Auction held successfully on Monday, December 13, 2021 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja with the three bidders competing for the available two lots in which the Commission adopted the Ascending Clock Auction format that ended after Round 11, and proceeded to the Assignment Stage.

In the auction, MTN and Mafab emerged provisional licence winners and arising from this, the winning bid price for the auction was put at \$273.6 million for each lot of 100 MHz TDD. The Provisional licence winners were then directed to pay the winning bid price less the Intention-to-Bid Deposit, by February 24, 2022.

Industry stakeholders and observers have commended the Commission for the auction process, described as efficient, fair, well-organised and transparent; as well as designed to deliver the ideal outcome which saw the strongest bidders emerge as winners, raising a substantial amount for the federal government and setting the stage for the next phase in Nigeria's 5G roadmap.

Stakeholders' Position

Chairman of the Association of Licensed Telecoms Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), Gbenga Adebayo, said 5G licence and 5G network deployment would mean a lot of cash inflow into the Nigerian economy, which goes to show that telecoms is the major driver of the Nigerian economy. "5G will create a lot of prospects for the Nigerian economy. There was clear transparency in the auction process, which will continue to attract foreign investors to do business in Nigeria, thereby opening the Nigerian economy to foreign transactions," Adebayo said.

According to him, "With the planned rollout of 5G network across Nigeria,

e-Commerce, e-Government, and Application of IoTs, Machine to Machine Communications and Machine to Human Communications, should be the focus for 2022.

Adebayo said the 5G network rollout would open vista of opportunities for Nigerians and would also enhance digital transformation across the country in several ways. "The 3.5GHz spectrum will pave way for speedy deployment of 5G network, and once we have systems and applications running on the spectrum at high speed data, there will be faster integration of systems and there will be increased access with machine-to-machine connection that will also drive financial inclusion. What we used to download in minutes before, will now be in milliseconds and there will be improved customer experience to speed,

access and connectivity. It will enhance e-Commerce, e-Health, e-Government, among others, with great improvement on national security,” Adebayo said.

Adebayo also said those operators that would deploy 5G technology, would likely change the dynamics in the telecoms sector and the Nigerian economy at large, because they would be introducing new applications that would run faster on 5G network, and improve customer experience.

Adebayo commended NCC for a transparent auction exercise as well as the operators who bided for the auction.

President of the Association of Telecoms Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), Ikechukwu Nnamani, said the deployment of 5G services in Nigeria would enhance the Nigeria’s digital economy drive with all the attendant benefits including employment creation, which he said, would be good for the country.

According to Nnamani, “The successful auction of 3.5GHz spectrum will facilitate 5G deployment that will promote digital transformation and financial inclusion. Services will be extended to areas that are currently underserved and more efficient ways to deliver services to the subscribers will be in place. We also expect better quality of service as new infrastructure is implemented.

“There is immediate revenue from the payment for the spectrum. There is also new investment for the infrastructure that will be built. This is expected to bring foreign direct investment to the country, and all aspects of the economy will improve financially.”

How Winners Emerged

At the beginning of the main auction process, which held on Monday December 13, NCC adopted the Ascending Clock format in auctioning the 3.5GHz spectrum licence, which allows the auction manager to continuously increase the bid price within a certain per cent threshold, as the bidding progresses from one round to another.

Before the bidding commenced, the Auction Manager, who is the Director of Spectrum Administration at NCC, Mr. Oluwatoyin Asaju, assigned each of the three bidders, MTN Nigeria Plc, Airtel Networks Ltd and Mafab Communications Limited, to their bidding rooms, and accredited one representative from each of the bidding operators as monitoring agent.

MTN Nigeria Plc was assigned bidding room two and monitoring room three, Airtel Networks

Ltd was assigned bidding room three and monitoring room one, while Mafab Communications Limited was assigned to bidding room one and monitoring room two.

For transparency, the bidding process was transmitted real time to two broad screens located at a general location inside Transcorp Hotel, where observers, including journalists, were seated.

According to Asaju, the first round of bidding was mandatory for all the three bidders and each bidder was at liberty to exit bidding at any of the bidding rounds. The initial rounds were allotted 20 minutes as duration period for each round.

Although NCC had placed the reserve bidding price for the 3.5 GHz Spectrum at \$197.4 million, the Auction Manager however commenced round one bidding process at a reserve price of \$199,374,000 and all three contenders agreed with the new reserve price.

At the end of round one, the Auction Manager increased the reserve price to \$201,367,740 for the commencement of round two. At the end of round two, the Auction Manager, again, increased the bid price to \$204, 288,256.1 for the commencement of round three.

At the end of round three, the bid price for one lot of the 3.5GHz spectrum was increased to \$209,497,962.5 for the commencement of round four. Round five commenced with a bid price of \$215,782,901.38

Round six of the auction began with \$224, 414,217.43 bid price per lot, and all the three eligible bidders were still in the competition.

From round seven upwards, the bidding time was reduced from 20 minutes to 10 minutes. The round seven commenced with \$231,146,643.96 bid price per lot, while round eight commenced with \$240,392,509.71 bid price per lot, with all the three eligible bidders were still in the competition.

Round nine commenced with all three eligible bidders with a bid price of \$251,210,172.65. Round 10 commenced with all three bidders with a bid price of \$263,017,050.77, while round eleven also commenced with all three bidders with a bid price of \$275,904,886.25. The main stage auction eventually

ended at about 7.22pm with round eleven, with a final winning bid price of \$273,600,000 (\$273.6 million), after Airtel exited, leaving only two bidders in the race.

Benefits of 5G Network Rollout

Speaking about the benefits of 5G rollout, while presenting a lead paper at the official hand over of Spectrum Allocation for 5G deployment to the NCC in Abuja recently, the former Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) and CEO of Tetconsult, UK and Nigeria, Mr. Shola Taylor said: "5G is a reality and the impact on our lives is real and the benefits are endless. Nigeria is already in it. We have started well and must be prepared for the disruption that will come in spite of the challenges. We cannot go back. We cannot remain where we are so the only option is to move forward and move quickly."

He therefore tasked the federal government to ensure a hitch-free rollout of 5G technology across Nigeria, after the payment and issuance of spectrum licence must have been concluded by the NCC.

Highlighting the benefits of 5G technology, Taylor said the ability of 5G to offer lower latency, higher capacity, and increased bandwidth, had made it attractive and revolutionary for national development.

He said the 5G features would enable an endless set of possibilities and benefits for Nigeria – for the individuals, for government and businesses.

According to him, "In the health sector, data, especially real time data is key to preventive and curative health care. It is common, for example to transit magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans for specialist examination. In our environment and with the current network limitations, this may take an unusually long time. A more secure and reliable 5G network, which will take much less time will obviously improve healthcare delivery."

He said 5G would also help in the monitoring of consumer products that are transported everywhere all the time with all kinds of delivery mechanisms. "Quality assurance is key. The quality of consumer products meant for end users would be better monitored and assured through the deployment of 5G networks across delivery trucks transporting a consumer product. Some of the IoT sensors on the trucks can send data on certain features such as temperature variations that often lead to product contamination," Taylor said.

In the area of national security, Taylor added that the improved data speeds and lower latency of 5G technologies would be of immense benefit to security forces as the technology would enhance standard operational activities – Command and Control (C2), logistics, maintenance, Artificial Intelligence (AI), augmented and virtual reality.

In the transport sector, Taylor said autonomous vehicles were gradually becoming a reality. "Although for us, this may be on the horizon, we stand to benefit initially from the use of 5G to achieve better traffic control through installation of traffic lights that change their patterns based on traffic flow in such heavily congested areas like Lagos to improve what we usually call Go Slow," Taylor said.

He explained that the broadcast sector would benefit immensely from 5G, especially how events and programmes are captured, produced and transmitted to people around the world. He added that the finance sector would also benefit from 5G, as stockbrokers and other traders would have information on developments in the market much faster than achievable with 4G networks.

Initial Fears about 5G

Before now, Nigerians had raised fears about the perceived health implications of 5G rollout, alleging that electromagnetic emissions from telecoms masts and 5G cables, could cause serious health hazards to humans.

NCC and industry stakeholders have however repeatedly allayed such fears, insisting that sciences and the World Health Organisation (WHO) World Health Organisation (WHO), have not raised any concerns about health risks associated with 5G network rollout.

Chairman of the Association of Licenced Telecoms Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), Gbenga Adebayo, in one of his position papers on 5G technology, said: "The 5G technology we are talking about, and which has been explained before to all Nigerians, is a new layer of technology, built on top of fourth generation technology, known as 4G technology. So there is really nothing new in terms of the perceived fears concerning public health and safety, because it has been proven over and over again by international and local studies that there are no known health risks associated with 5G rollout."

NCC has had the test trial of 5G launch in Nigerian with one major telecoms operator, and since the trial test in 2019, there had been no reported cases of public health hazards linked to 5G rollout, Adebayo further said.

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CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | ngcmu : Nigerian Communications Commission

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

IPD News

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AN Document AIWTHD0020220303ei330002x

HD MTN To Invest US\$1.05bn Into Digital Infrastructure Development

WC 445 words

PD 2 March 2022

SN Daily Guide Network (Ghana)

SC DGUIGN

LA English

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MTN GHANA has projected an **investment** of over US\$1.05 billion in infrastructure and information systems over five years, starting from 2021, to support the vision of a digital Ghana.

The company has also said it is in advanced stages of an agreement to implement a national roaming plan in partnership with other operators and with the Ghana **Investment** Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) as part of government's rural telephony project to extend communications to most rural communities.

TD

'This initiative will enable MTN to share its infrastructure with other telecommunication operators in Ghana and vice versa, in order to increase the efficiency of infrastructure spend, expand quality telecom coverage or reach and accelerate further development and long-term viability in the telecoms industry,' the company's annual results for the year ended 31 December 2021 said.

It said over the years, MTN has won various awards as the highest taxpayer in Ghana in recognition of its contribution to the fiscal development of the country. During the year, MTN paid GHS2,767 million to government in direct and indirect taxes, representing 35.8% of our total revenue.

'In line with our commitment to create shared value, we continue to make significant contributions through the creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities impacting over 500,000 Ghanaians, as well as interventions to support our people, our cherished customers and other key stakeholders through the socioeconomic challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Noting that it will contribute GHS150 million over three years to Ghana's long-term transformation agenda, it added, 'For 2022, through the MTN Foundation, we will dedicate at least GHS20 million towards social investments to support and impact the communities within which we operate.'

MTN Ghana's mobile subscribers increased by 3.9% to 25.4 million while active data subscribers also up by 15.3% to 12.4 million. Active mobile money (MoMo) users increased by 3.8% to 11.0 million, service revenue grew by 28.5% to GHS7,701 million. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased by 33.7% to GHS4,249 million while EBITDA margin was up by 2.3 percentage points (pp) to 55.0%.

Total CAPEX for the period was GHS1,485 million with a proposed final dividend per share of GHS0.085. The company spent GHS14.3 million on socio-economic initiatives in 2021; paid GHS2,767 million in direct and indirect taxes during the period.

On its outlook, the company stated, 'We forecast service revenue growth in the high teens over the medium-term from the previous guidance of 13% to 15%.'

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations

RE ghana : Ghana | africaz : Africa | dvpcos : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Western Publication Limited



HD MTN strides into the **metaverse**

BY By Total Telecom Staff

WC 205 words

PD 2 March 2022

SN Total Telecom Plus

SC TOTEL

LA English

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MTN believes **gaming** and music will increase its customer attractiveness

TD

MTN have reiterated their commitment to supporting innovation by becoming the the first African company to enter the metaverse. Today they have announced the purchase of 144 plots of digital land in the Africarare metaverse UbuntuLand, which will showcase some of the best of African art, fashion, entertainment, sport, tech and creativity. UbuntuLand is being developed by Africarare and Mann Made Media. Mic Mann, co-founder of Africarare was quoted as saying "We've seen an immense amount of growth in the NFT space marketplace and Metaverses across the US, Europe, Asia, there hasn't been much coming out of Africa. We feel there's a great opportunity for Africa to take part in this new world." MTN's move is part of it's wider policy of positioning itself as a technology company, rather than a telecommunications company and is aligned with the companies Ambition 2025 strategy. Bernice Samuels, MTN's Group Executive for Marketing said "We have always been at the forefront of technological and digital changes and we remain alive to the exciting opportunities the metaverse presents for us and our customers".

RF 512655

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

RE africaz : Africa

IPD Press

PUB Terrapinn Limited

AN Document TOTEL00020220302ei3200002

HD 'MTN Customers Will Get Free Access to Davido's 02 Arena Concert'

WC 304 words

PD 2 March 2022

SN This Day

SC AIWTHD

LA English

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Leading technology company, MTN Nigeria, has secured exclusive global rights to stream Davido live at the O2 to its customers on Saturday, March 5, 2022. Through its partnership with the subscription-based music store and streaming service **platform**, uduX, MTN will be making history once again as the company with its pulse on technology and entertainment.

Following a brief hiatus, Davido has been gearing up to give his UK fans the ultimate Afrobeats experience. The concert comes as part of an elaborate prelude to the megastar's upcoming album 'We Rise By Lifting Others' – a celebration of a decade-long run in the music industry, from the early days of 'Dami Duro' in Lagos to the recent release of 'Champion Sound' globally.

TD

With MTN facilitating Davido's live-in concert experience to his global audience through UduX, fans can look forward to a seamless and immersive event. MTN Nigeria customers can tune into the action on Saturday, March 5, 2022 by subscribing to their favourite streaming data bundles, and logging on to wrblo2.udux.com to join the fun.

Commenting on the partnership, the Chief Marketing Officer, MTN Nigeria, Adia Sowho, said, "We are proud of this partnership with UduX and Davido, two stellar Nigerian brands that have become global ambassadors promoting Nigerian culture and music. In delivering this unparalleled experience to our customers across the country, we reiterate MTN Nigeria's commitment to continue to lead the delivery of a bold, new digital world."

MTN had previously delivered a successful all-inclusive live experience in November 2021 to its customers in Nigeria. The experience featured Grammy Award winning Nigerian artiste, Ayodeji 'Wizkid' Balogun at the O2, sharing his monster hit album 'Made in Lagos', with the world.

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RE nigea : Nigeria | africaz : Africa | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafz : West Africa

IPD News

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AN Document AIWTHD0020220302ei3200005

HD DAVIDO'S O2 CONCERT: MTN SUBSCRIBERS TO GET EXCLUSIVE FREE ACCESS

WC 296 words

PD 1 March 2022

SN Nigerian Tribune

SC NIGTRI

LA English

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LP

MTN Nigeria has secured exclusive global rights to stream 'Davido live' at the O2 to its customers on Saturday, March 5, 2022. Through its partnership with the subscription-based music store and streaming service **platform**, uduX, MTN will be in the front row as the company with its pulse on technology and entertainment.

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RE nigea : Nigeria | pakis : Pakistan | africaz : Africa | asiaz : Asia | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dypcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia | wafrz : West Africa

PUB African Newspapers of Nigeria Limited

AN Document NIGTRI0020220302ei3100010

HD MTN Group buys land in African **metaverse** 'Africarere'

WC 153 words

PD 1 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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MTN Group says it has become the first African company to enter the **metaverse**, by purchasing land in Africarere. It said Africarere made its debut in South Africa in October 2021 and is the first African Virtual Reality **metaverse** featuring digital land. MTN has acquired 144 plots of **virtual land** with an overall area of 12 x 12 m.

Bernice Samuels, group executive for marketing, said MTN has always been at the forefront of technological and digital changes, adding that the **metaverse** presents exciting opportunities for the company and its customers. The **investment** demonstrates MTN's commitment to supporting African innovation as it is the first company on the continent to back an initiative of this kind, it said. Through its presence in the **metaverse**, MTN intends to increase its customer attractiveness through a series of "experiences" merged with consumer "passion points" such as **gaming** and music.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

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NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c182 : Physical Asset Transactions | cacqu : Acquisitions/Mergers | c18 : Ownership Changes | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE africaz : Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220301ei310008g

HD MTN becomes first African company to invest in **metaverse**

WC 231 words

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SC TPUNC

LA English

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[Sodiq Oyeleke](#) Published 1 March 2022

MTN has become the first African company to enter the **metaverse** by purchasing land in Africarare.

TD

MTN made this known in a statement on its website titled, 'MTN Group becomes the first African company to enter the metaverse with land ownership on Africarare'.

"This investment demonstrates MTN's commitment to supporting African innovation as it is the first company on the continent to support an initiative of this kind. Through its presence in the metaverse, MTN intends to increase its customer attractiveness through a series of experiences merged with consumer passion points, like gaming and music.

"Africarare which made its debut in South Africa in October 2021, is the first African Virtual Reality metaverse featuring digital land. This purchase will see MTN owning 144 plots of virtual land with an overall area of 12x12m," part of the statement read.

MTN's Group Executive for Marketing, Bernice Samuels, said, "This is an exciting moment for us as we lead businesses on the continent to enter the metaverse marketplace. This is exactly what our Ambition 2025 strategy is premised on – leveraging trends that amplify consumer's digital experiences and engagement.

"We have always been at the forefront of technological and digital changes and we remain alive to the exciting opportunities the metaverse presents for us and our customers".

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ccapex : Capital Expenditure | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning

RE africaz : Africa

IPD news

PUB Punch Nigeria Limited

AN Document TPUNC00020220301ei31000xr

HD MTN Group Ltd. - MTN Group becomes the first African company to enter the **metaverse** with land ownership on Africarare

CR MTN Group Ltd. published this content on 28 Feb 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained herein. Distributed by PUBT, unedited and unaltered, on 23 Mar 2022 16:29:07 UTC.

WC 302 words

PD 28 February 2022

SN Public Companies News and Documents via PUBT

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MTN Group becomes the first African company to enter the **metaverse** with land ownership on Africarare

TD

Africarare is the first Virtual Reality metaverse in Africa

MTN today became the first African company to enter the metaverse by purchasing land in Africarare.

Africarare which made its debut in South Africa in October 2021, is the first African Virtual Reality metaverse featuring digital land. This purchase will see MTN owning 144 plots of virtual land with an overall area of 12x12m.

Bernice Samuels, MTN's Group Executive for Marketing said, "This is an exciting moment for us as we lead businesses on the continent to enter the metaverse marketplace. This is exactly what our Ambition 2025 strategy is premised on - leveraging trends that amplify consumer's digital experiences and engagement. We have always been at the forefront of technological and digital changes and we remain alive to the exciting opportunities the metaverse presents for us and our customers".

This investment demonstrates MTN's commitment to supporting African innovation as it is the first company on the continent to support an initiative of this kind. Through its presence in the metaverse, MTN intends to increase its customer attractiveness through a series of experiences merged with consumer passion points, like gaming and music.

* [Original Link](#)

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CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN ivrealt : Virtual Reality Technologies | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | npress : Press Releases | ncat : Content Types

RE africaz : Africa

PUB PUBT Inc

AN Document LCDVP00020220323ei2s00jah

HD NCC confirms 5G spectrum licence payments, MTN pays extra for preferred lot

WC 132 words

PD 28 February 2022

SN Telecompaper Africa

SC TELAFR

LA English

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LP

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has confirmed that MTN Nigeria and Mafab Communications have made their full **payment** of USD 273.6 million each for their 5G spectrum licences by the 24 February deadline. This follows the successful auction on 13 December 2021 and the emergence of MTN and Mafab as the winners.

The NCC said that MTN also paid another USD 15.9 million that it had offered at the assignment stage of the spectrum auction, enabling it to obtain its preferred Lot 1 (3500-3600 Megahertz-MHz) in the 3.5 GHz spectrum. Mafab Communications had bid less at the assignment stage and consequentially settled for Lot 2 (3700-3800Mhz) at no extra cost.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | ngcmu : Nigerian Communications Commission

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE africaz : Africa | nigea : Nigeria | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | wafrz : West Africa

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELAFR0020220228ei2s0005q

HD MTN Group underlines its role as a driver of Africa's progress through brand evolution

WC 391 words

PD 28 February 2022

SN New Vision

SC NEWVEN

LA English

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LP

MTN Group today unveiled its [evolved visual identity](#), articulating the context behind the logo many have seen since 16 February 2022. It is just the second brand overhaul since the Group was founded in 1994. Back in 2004, the changes made to the brand resulted in MTN taking ownership of the colour yellow that is now synonymous with MTN. Importantly, it also helped to elevate the brand to where it is today, recognised as the most valuable in Africa. ;

The brand is an extension and visual representation of the Group's refreshed strategy, dubbed Ambition 2025 and premised on leading digital solutions for Africa's progress. Through the delivery of this strategy, MTN aims to accelerate growth by building the largest and most valuable business platforms and driving its industry-leading **connectivity** operations.

TD

"Africa is a continent with enormous opportunity and energy," says MTN Group President and Chief Executive Officer Ralph Mupita. "We want to play our part in harnessing her potential and supporting her progress by driving digital and financial inclusion. It is a well-known fact that the youth are central to achieving this potential. Whilst we remain focused on all our customers and stakeholders, our brand evolution demonstrates an enhanced focus on the youth."

;The new brand identity is modern, simple, bold, and digitally dynamic. It kicks off with a provocative and simple question, "What are we doing today?" With a clear and concise brand strategy that Opportunity + Energy = Progress, MTN understands that to truly unlock the full benefits and potential of the digital world, people require a combination of drive, progressive thinking, and the right tools.

; ;This rebrand highlights MTN's commitment to continuously evolve and explore innovative initiatives that provide value to all our stakeholders. A pioneer of progress from the beginning, MTN looks to drive this progress further through action and doing. In delivering its vision, MTN aims to drive a positive shift in Africa and harness the continent's boundless opportunity.

"Africa is never still. True progress can only be realised by 'doing'," says Bernice Samuels, MTN Group Executive for Marketing. "It is off this insight that we launch our new positioning by challenging, celebrating and providing tools for doers because when individuals, communities and countries progress, so does Africa."

;

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CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c18 : Ownership Changes | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cbrand : Branding | c31 : Marketing | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE africaz : Africa

IPD News

PUB New Vision Printing & Publishing Company Limited

HD MTN Nigeria Launches Digital Multi-Experience Platform with Tecnotree Moments - for Gaming and Education

CR Tecnotree; Canada NewsWire

WC 632 words

PD 28 February 2022

ET 11:00

SN Canada NewsWire

SC CNW

LA English

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LP

ESPOO, Finland, Feb. 28, 2022 /CNW/ -- Tecnotree, a Finnish-based global provider of digital transformation solutions for Communication Service Providers CSPs and Digital Service Providers DSPs, today announces the launch of its digital multi-experience platform, Tecnotree Moments in collaboration with MTN Nigeria. The multi-experience partner ecosystem offering aims to create lifestyle bundles of content, applications, and connectivity through a pre-integrated digital partner ecosystem for global, local and glocal high-demand and hyper-growth sectors. The platform will attract leading partners across different sectors such as education, entertainment, gaming, sports, health, and wellness, to enter Nigeria and use direct customer billing to convert ecosystem partners into instant revenue generators.

https://mma.prnewswire.com/media/1754777/Tecnotree_Moments_Logo.jpg

TD

Tecnotree Moments is a gateway of digital services and lifestyle bundling products, being launched with e-sports content such as PUBG Mobile Daily, FIFA Daily, Rocket League Daily, Fortnite Monthly, and Fantasy Football. Its offerings also include Africa's top-played games, with fresh games being updated regularly. With dynamic ecosystem partners, the platform is uniquely positioned to cater for the convergence in education and gaming content around the globe that fosters social and emotional learning, imperative for personalized and adaptive experiences.

This collaboration between Tecnotree Moments and MTN Nigeria is ground-breaking for realizing the full human potential of Nigerians across the country and creating an inclusive society that is key to promoting national development. Moments contains the complete Nigerian JSSCE, SSSCE, and IGCSE syllabus in the form of interactive and immersive content and live classes. Also, to remain relevant in the rapidly evolving digital economy, the MTN-Moments partnership will look at providing Massive Online Open Curriculum (MOOC) for career development and progression facilitating the acquisition of soft and technical skills. Considering the local skills and talent pool in the country, the platform will be launched first in Nigeria, with further plans to launch these services across other MTN OpCos in Africa.

'MTN is constantly seeking partnerships to build platforms that provide a superior service to our customers. We have always been deliberate about giving our customers the very best in digital content. This partnership with Tecnotree is a reinforcement of that commitment. The platform will provide enormous quality content that cuts across education and entertainment for our customers,' said Aisha Mumuni, MTN's Acting Chief Digital Officer.

Padma Ravichander, CEO of Tecnotree Corporation said, 'Our Vision is to empower digitally connected communities, narrow the digital divide and create digital inclusion for various diasporas of the Nigerian population. We are very excited to partner with MTN Nigeria to launch our Tecnotree Moments platform that will support the Nigerian community with true digital services and products through our global partners. MTN's commitment to making Africa a truly digital economy is a powerful purpose and Tecnotree is proud to be its digital partner in the cause.'

Further Information

www.tecnotree.com

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CT Media Contact: Padma Ravichander, CEO, Tecnotree Corporation, tel. +97 156 414 1420; or write to us moments@tecnotree.com

ART

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | tcnmho : Tecnotree Oyj

IN itech : Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | icomp : Computing

NS c22 : New Products/Services | cdbus : Digitalization | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | gedu : Education | npress : Press Releases | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | gcat : Political/General News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE nigea : Nigeria | fin : Finland | bahrn : Bahrain | iraq : Iraq | israel : Israel | qatar : Qatar | uae : United Arab Emirates | yemar : Yemen | africaz : Africa | asiaz : Asia | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | gulfstz : Persian Gulf Region | meastz : Middle East | medz : Mediterranean | nordz : Nordic Countries | wafz : West Africa | wasiaz : Western Asia

IPD TECNOTREE-Digital

IPC STW

PUB PR Newswire Association, Inc.

AN Document CNNW000020220228ei2s001bg

HD MTN Nigeria Launches Digital Multi-Experience Platform with Tecnotree Moments - for Gaming and Education

CR Tecnotree; PR Newswire

WC 634 words

PD 28 February 2022

ET 11:00

SN PR Newswire Asia

SC PRNASI

LA English

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TD

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CT Media Contact: Padma Ravichander, CEO, Tecnotree Corporation, tel. +97 156 414 1420; or write to us moments@tecnotree.com

ART

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | tcnmho : Tecnotree Oyj

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IPC STW

PUB PR Newswire Association, Inc.

AN Document PRNASI0020220228ei2s0030d

HD MTN Nigeria Launches Digital Multi-Experience Platform with Tecnotree Moments - for Gaming and Education

CR Tecnotree; PR Newswire

WC 644 words

PD 28 February 2022

ET 11:00

SN PR Newswire Europe

SC TWOTEN

LA English

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LP

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IPD Tecnotree-MTN-Nigeria

IPC STW

PUB PR Newswire Association, Inc.

AN Document TWOTEN0020220228ei2s0038q

HD MTN launches a new brand in line with its ambitious 2025 strategy for Africa's digital progress

BY NewDawn

WC 557 words

PD 28 February 2022

SN The New Dawn

SC NEWDEN

LA English

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LP

Africa's most admired African brand, MTN, is rebranding to reflect its evolution from the continent's most valuable telecommunications provider to Africa's leading digital technology company.

The rebrand reflects MTN Group's commitment to its Ambition 2025 strategy to build leading digital platforms that enable Africa's progress across the telecom, fintech, infrastructure, API and **content** and messaging **ecosystem**. It is the second brand overhaul since the mobile operator's founding in 1994, the previous refresh being in 2004.

TD

Kicking off with a provocative and simple question, "What are we doing today?", the brand refresh promises to reveal MTN as more than just a telco. In developing and designing its new brand, MTN is responding to the reality that whilst it was born into the analog era, its customers today spend much of their time in the social and digital world. The new brand identity and its expression is modern, simple, bold and digitally dynamic.

Through its delivery of Ambition 2025, MTN aims to accelerate growth and unlock the value of its infrastructure, assets, and platforms. A pioneer of innovation, the brand refresh reasserts MTN's role as a technology leader in Africa and its role in accelerating progress through the simple act of doing.

Ralph Mupita, MTN Group President and CEO said, "It should come as no surprise that our identity as a telco is only a part of who we are and that our legacy and story are still in the making. We are at an inflection point; the world has changed and, as a digital first business, we must change with it. This is reflected in our active evolution from being a telco to a techno and doing this together with our Nation States for the benefit of our stakeholders. Our rebrand is an expression of this as we steer towards a singular global brand."

For Lonestar Cell MTN, this rebranding inspires Liberia's leading telecommunications company to continue its evolution as a technology company.

Lonestar Cell MTN Chief Executive Officer, Rahul De, said, "This rebrand demonstrates commitment to our Ambition 2025 strategy, to build leading digital platforms that accelerate Liberia's progress across the telecom, fintech, infrastructure, API and content and messaging eco-system."

With a clear and concise brand strategy that 'Opportunity + Energy = Progress', MTN understands that to truly unlock the full benefits and potential of the digital world requires a combination of drive, progressive thinking, and the right tools that help doers get from can, to done.

MTN Group Executive Marketing, Bernice Samuels said: "Our new positioning and refreshed brand identity is centred on the notion that Africa is never still. And now more than ever, true progress for Africa can only be realised by closing the gap between 'can' and 'done'. It is the doing that bridges the gap between can and done. "It is off this insight that our new campaign, "What are you doing today?" will launch across our footprint by challenging, celebrating and providing tools for doers, because we progress, as individuals, communities and countries, Africa progresses", she concludes.

The campaign rolled out from 17 February 2022 across digital and social platforms, OOH, print, radio and TV, with the first pan-African lighting on 27 February 2022.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

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RE africaz : Africa

IPD Business, News

PUB Searchlight Communications Incorporated

AN Document NEWDEN0020220228ei2s00002

HD MTN Group underlines its role as a driver of Africa's progress through brand evolution

WC 393 words

PD 27 February 2022

SN Business and Financial Times

SC BUSFINC

LA English

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TD

"Africa is a continent with enormous opportunity and energy," says MTN Group President and Chief Executive Officer Ralph Mupita. "We want to play our part in harnessing her potential and supporting her progress by driving digital and financial inclusion. It is a well-known fact that the youth are central to achieving this potential. Whilst we remain focussed on all our customers and stakeholders, our brand evolution demonstrates an enhanced focus on the youth."

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RE africaz : Africa

IPD News

PUB Business and Financial Times

AN Document BUSFINC020220228ei2r00002



HD 3.5GHz Spectrum: NCC Confirms MTN, Mafab Payment For Licence

WC 467 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN The Will

SC ASTHWL

LA English

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LP

February 24, (THEWILL) Provisional winners of the 3.5 Gigahertz (GHz) spectrum licence, MTN Communications Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications Limited, have made their full payment of \$273.6 million each for the 5G Spectrum licence to the Nigerian Communications Commission.

The Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof Umar Danbatta, officially confirmed the payment Thursday, just as the deadline set for the two winners of the spectrum auction elapsed. As part of the auction process emplaced by the Commission in the Information Memorandum (IM), three companies, namely MTN Nigeria, Mafab Communications Ltd and Airtel Networks Ltd submitted bids with an initial bid deposit (IBD) of \$19.74 million, representing 10 percent of the Reserve Price of the 3.

TD

5GHz Spectrum by the close of the Bid submission date of November 29, 2021. Following the successful auction on December 13, 2021 and the emergence of MTN and Mafab as winners, they were required to pay the balance of the bid amount of \$253.86 million on or before February 24, 2022. However, aside the \$273.6 million payment, MTN paid additional \$15.9 million, being the bidding sum it offered at the assignment state of the spectrum auction, making it clinch its preferred Lot 1 (3500-3600 Megahertz-MHz) in the 3.5Ghz spectrum; while, Mafab Communications, which bided lower at the assignment stage, consequentially settled with Lot 2 (3700-3800Mhz) at no extra cost.

Confirming the payments by the two licensees, Danbatta said: "I wish to officially announce that NCC has received and confirmed payments from MTN and Mafab for their acquisition of 1 slot of 100Mhz each in the 3.5Ghz spectrum auction, which was successfully conducted by the Commission on December 13, 2021. They both met the deadline of February 24, 2022 as set by the Commission.

"Arising from this and on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, the Board and Management of the NCC, I wish to congratulate the MTN and Mafab for this feat, as we look forward to accomplishing other deployment timelines in our 5G deployment roadmap, as articulated in the National Policy on 5G Networks for Nigeria's Digital Economy." For meeting the payment deadline, Danbatta has commended the two companies for their commitment to 5G deployment drive through their private investments, which he said, was a demonstration of the licensees' belief in the sound regulatory environment in the Nigerian telecommunications sector.

Danbatta also expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for its support and commitment to the deployment of 5G technology in Nigeria, which he said will bring substantial network improvements, including higher connection speed, mobility and capacity, as well as low-latency capabilities to communications services in Nigeria.

CO mcelsa : MTN Group Limited | ngcmu : Nigerian Communications Commission | twncmo : Taiwan National Communications Commission

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

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HD 3.5GHz Spectrum: MTN, Mafab Pay For Licences

BY By Justus Adejumoh

WC 667 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN Daily Independent

SC DALYIG

LA English

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Provisional winners of the 3.5 Gigahertz (GHz) spectrum licence, MTN Communications Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications Limited, have made their full **payment** of \$273.6 million each for the 5G spectrum licence to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

The Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof. Umar Danbatta, officially confirmed the **payment** status on Thursday, just as the deadline set for the two winners of the spectrum auction elapsed.

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As part of the auction process emplaced by the commission in the Information Memorandum (IM), three companies, namely MTN Nigeria, Mafab Communications Ltd and Airtel Networks Ltd submitted bids with an initial bid deposit (IBD) of \$19.74 million, representing 10 percent of the reserve price of the 3.5GHz spectrum by the close of the bid submission date of November 29, 2021.

Following the successful auction on December 13, 2021 and the emergence of MTN and Mafab as winners, they were required to pay the balance of the bid amount of \$253.86 million on or before February 24, 2022.

However, aside the \$273.6 million payment, MTN paid additional \$15.9 million, being the bidding sum it offered at the assignment state of the spectrum auction, making it clinch its preferred Lot 1 (3500-3600 Megahertz-MHz) in the 3.5Ghz spectrum; while Mafab Communications, which bid lower at the assignment stage, consequentially settled with Lot 2 (3700-3800Mhz) at no extra cost. Confirming the payments by the two licensees, Danbatta said: "I wish to officially announce that NCC has received and confirmed payments from MTN and Mafab for their acquisition of 1 slot of 100Mhz each in the 3.5Ghz spectrum auction, which was successfully conducted by the commission on December 13, 2021. They both met the deadline of February 24, 2022 as set by the commission. "Arising from this and on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, the board and management of the NCC, I wish to congratulate the MTN and Mafab for this feat, as we look forward to accomplishing other deployment timelines in the 5G deployment roadmap, as articulated in the National Policy on 5G Networks for Nigeria's Digital Economy". For meeting the payment deadline, Danbatta has commended the two companies for their commitment to 5G deployment drive through their private investments, which, he said, was a demonstration of the licensees' belief in the sound regulatory environment in the Nigerian telecommunications sector. Danbatta also expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for its support and commitment to the deployment of 5G technology in Nigeria which, he said, will bring substantial network improvements, including higher connection speed, mobility and capacity, as well as low-latency capabilities to communications services in Nigeria.

The commission published a public notice on its decision to award two lots of 100MHz Time Division Duplex (TDD) available in the 3.5 GHz band through an auction process, to support the delivery of ubiquitous broadband services for the deployment of 5G technology in Nigeria.

Subsequently, an Information Memorandum (IM) was issued on November 10, 2021, in which bid applications for the available spectrum lots were invited.

By the deadline for receipt of applications on November 29, 2021, the commission received applications from three licensed telecommunications companies, namely: Airtel Networks Limited, Mafab Communications Limited, and MTN Communications Nigeria Plc.

The auction held successfully on Monday, December 13, 2021 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja with the three bidders competing for the available two lots in which the commission adopted the ascending clock auction format that ended after Round 11, and proceeded to the assignment stage.

In the auction, MTN and Mafab emerged provisional licence winners and arising from this, the winning bid price for the auction was put at \$273.6 million for each lot of 100 MHz TDD.

The provisional licence winners were then directed to pay the winning bid price less the intention-to-bid deposit, by February 24, 2022.

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PUB Independent Newspapers Ltd. (Nigeria)

AN Document DALYIG0020220227ei2p0002u

HD 5G Licence: NCC confirms payment of \$273.6m each by MTN, Mafab

WC 346 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN The Guardian

SC AIWGUA

LA English

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- ITU adds standard to technology

Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has said provisional winners of the 3.5GHz spectrum licence, MTN Communications Nigeria Plc and Mafab Communications Limited, have made full payment of \$273.6 million each for the 5G Spectrum licence to the commission.

TD

Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof. Umar Danbatta, officially confirmed the payment yesterday, February 24, 2022, just as the deadline set for the two winners of the spectrum auction elapsed.

As part of the auction process emplaced by the commission in the Information Memorandum (IM), three companies, namely MTN Nigeria, Mafab Communications Ltd and Airtel Networks Ltd, submitted bids with an initial bid deposit (IBD) of \$19.74 million, representing 10 per cent of the Reserve Price of the 3.5GHz Spectrum by close of the November 29, 2021 submission.

Following the successful auction on December 13, 2021, and the emergence of MTN and Mafab as winners, they were required to pay the balance of the bid amount of \$253.86 million on or before February 24, 2022.

However, aside from the \$273.6 million payment, MTN paid an additional \$15.9 million, being the bidding sum is offered at the assignment state of the spectrum auction, making it clinch its preferred Lot 1 (3500-3600 Megahertz-MHz) in the 3.5Ghz spectrum, while Mafab Communications, which bid lower at the assignment stage, consequentially settled with Lot 2 (3700-3800Mhz) at no extra cost.

THIS was as members of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), yesterday, approved the fourth technology as part of ongoing standards development for 5G mobile services.

Known as "DECT 5G-SRIT", the new technology supports a range of uses, from wireless telephony and audio streaming to the industrial Internet of Things (IoT) applications, particularly in smart cities.

It was added in the first revision to ITU's key recommendation IMT-2020, which broadly encompasses fifth-generation, or 5G, networks, services, and devices.

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HD 30th Anniversary: Systemspecs Announces New Companies, Unveils Ndukwe As Chairman

BY By Our Correspondents

WC 326 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN Daily Independent

SC DALYIG

LA English

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SystemSpecs, Africa's software and financial technology giant, is commemorating its 30th anniversary and has expanded its operations through the establishment of two subsidiaries – SystemSpecs Technology Services Limited (STSL) and Remita **Payment** Services Limited (RPSL).

The organisation also announced the appointment of former Executive Vice Chairman of Nigerian Communications Commission and chairman of MTN Nigeria, Dr. Ernest Ndukwe, as Chairman who takes over from Nigeria's former Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Dr. Christopher Kolade. Kolade has retired after 15 years of leading the company through exceptional growth.

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To mark this milestone, SystemSpecs also unveiled a series of year-long initiatives which include the 30th Founders' Day commemoration, the SystemSpecs Graduate Internship Programme, awareness health walk, anniversary gala, a special Children's Day essay competition, and a summer coding boot camp

These disclosures were made at a recent event to flag off the company's 30th year of serving individuals, organisations and governments in Nigeria and other parts of Africa.

The firm will now operate as three distinct entities: a holding company, SystemSpecs Holdings Limited and two subsidiaries – Remita Payment Services Limited (RPSL) which focuses on payment and affiliated services and SystemSpecs Technology Services Limited (STSL) which focuses on a wide array of technology solutions and services.

Demola Igbalajobi has been appointed as the Managing Director of SystemSpecs Technology Services Limited while 'Deremi Atanda has been appointed as the Managing Director of Remita Payment Services Limited.

John Obaro, Group Managing Director, SystemSpecs, said the expansion is in alignment with the organisation's vision of deepening its capacity to meet the technology needs of a broader market.

"We are glad about how much we have been able to contribute to the transformation of the financial and human capital technology ecosystems in Africa, especially with Remita, our integrated payment and collections solution; HumanManager, our comprehensive payroll and HR management solution; and Paylink, our ecommerce platform."

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NS c411 : Management Moves | cncc : New Companies Creation | cboard : Board of Directors | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ciexp : International Expansion (Facilities) | cslmc : Senior Level Management | c22 : New Products/Services | c02 : Corporate Changes | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning | c24 : Capacity/Facilities | c41 : Management | cexpro : Products/Services | cprdp : Facility Openings | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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HD MTN, Mafab Pay \$273.6 Million Each for 5G Licence - NCC**CR** Premium Times**WC** 465 words**PD** 25 February 2022**ET** 08:32**SN** AllAfrica**SC** AFNWS**LA** English**CY** © 2022 AllAfrica, All Rights Reserved**LP**

MTN paid additional \$15.9 million to be assigned its preferred Lot 1 (3500-3600 Megahertz-MHz), while Mafab paid nothing for Lot 2.

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HD MTN, Mafab pay \$273.6 million each for 5G licence - NCC

BY Premium Times

WC 480 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN The Premium Times

SC HPREMT

LA English

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