



The

Regulator

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

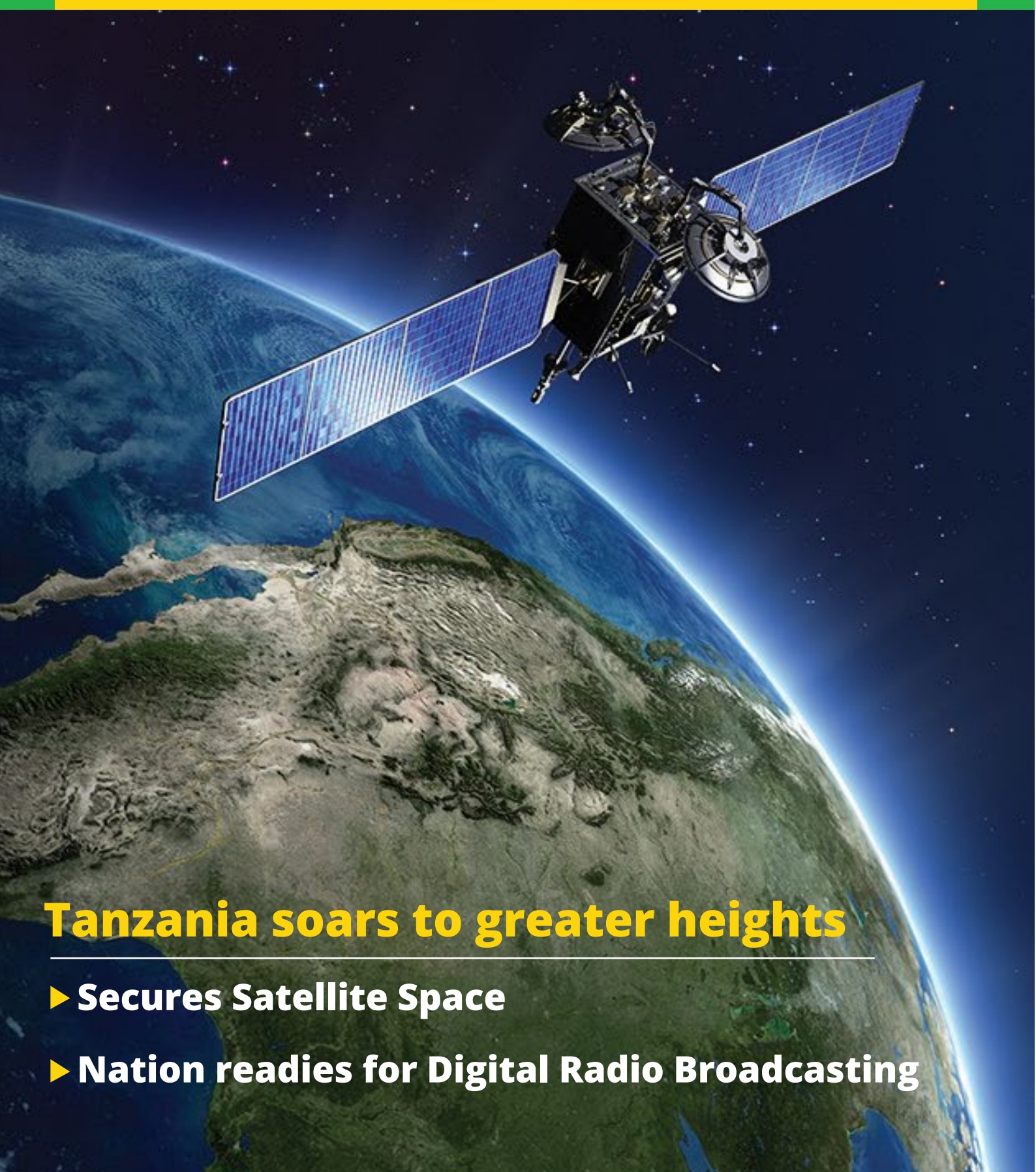
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JANUARY - MARCH 2024



Tanzania soars to greater heights

- ▶ Secures Satellite Space
- ▶ Nation readies for Digital Radio Broadcasting

TCRA Core Values



Professionalism

We undertake our activities objectively to deliver quality services by observing ethical standards and maintain due respect to our customers.



Integrity

We undertake our activities with honest, consistence, ethics and adhere to strong moral values.



Accountability

We take responsibility and ownership when providing services.



Innovation

We embark on creativity in handling regulatory issues, while coping with the dynamic technological World.



Team work

We believe in synergies to solve problems and understand that communicating effectively and constructively is important to maintaining a collaborative environment.

The Regulator is published quarterly by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

TCRA is a Government agency regulating the electronic and postal communications sectors in Tanzania. The Authority's duties include:

- (i) issuing, renewing and cancelling licences;
- (ii) establishing standards for regulated goods and regulated services and for their supply;
- (iii) regulating rates and charges;
- (iv) making rules for the regulated sectors;
- (v) monitoring the performance of the regulated sectors;
- (vi) facilitating the resolution of complaints and disputes;
- (vii) disseminating information about matters relevant to the functions of the Authority.

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TCRA's headquarters are in Tanzania's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and in five zones. The zonal offices and their coverage are Northern; (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Manyara), Central; (Dodoma, Singida, Tabora and Kigoma); Southern Highland (Mbeya, Ruvuma, Iringa, Njombe, Rukwa, Songwe and Katavi); Lake (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Geita, Mara, Simiyu and Kagera); and Eastern (Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Lindi, Coast and Morogoro regions).

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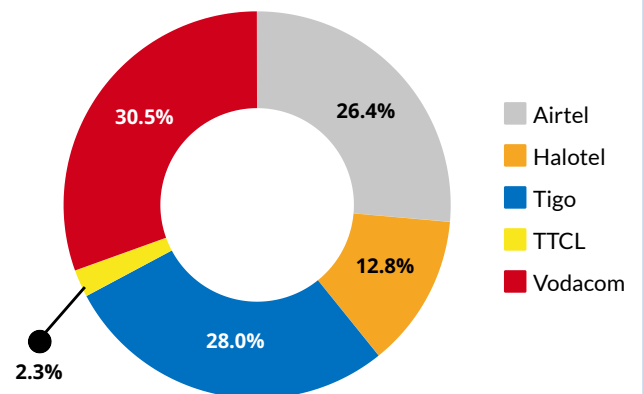
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Universal broadcasting services

We have extensively covered the broadcasting sector in this edition, highlighting three recent developments in the broadcasting sector that will ensure universal coverage and redefine service quality.

They include Tanzania's acquisition of an orbit slot for its first communications satellite and the proposed programme of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and the Universal Communications Access Fund (UCSAF) programme to build broadcasting infrastructure in hard-to-reach locations.

These have coincided with the planned introduction of digital radio services to complement the current analogue standards based on AM and FM spectrum bands.

Digital sound broadcasting (DSB) is more spectrum and energy efficient and more convenient to listeners.

Alongside these is TCRA's latest programme that involves stakeholders in promoting quality broadcasting content that safeguards Tanzania's national values and its production and distribution to comply with regulations, guidelines and rules.

TCRA regulates broadcasting content in Tanzania Mainland and has a dedicated committee mandated to monitor compliance with radio, television, and online broadcasting content regulations and ethics.

The Authority has targeted education programmes on broadcasting content regulations and has, since 2007, organized and hosted an annual gathering of broadcasting services stakeholders.

The participants in this year's conference urged the Government to expedite the establishment of a media accreditation board to arrest the deterioration of media ethics and a departure from professionalism.



Embracing collaboration, innovation



By Dr Jabiri K. Bakari, TCRA Director General

Dear Esteemed Readers,

I am delighted to present this edition of our corporate magazine, capturing the essence of our remarkable journey up to the third quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

The main article is especially significant. It unveils the profound impact of Tanzania's participation in the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23), in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 20 November to 15 December 2023.

Tanzania's crucial role in WRC-23 cannot be over-stated as our country has emerged as a potential beneficiary, among others, by successfully navigating the intricate landscape of spectrum allocation.

The tangible outcomes of our efforts include securing a broadcasting satellite orbital position at 16 degrees West and acquiring additional frequencies with far-reaching implications in the communications space.

These achievements extend from advancing fifth-generation (5G) internet services to strengthening air and maritime communications safety.

They also include bridging the digital divide in rural areas and fostering innovation through robust research and development initiatives.

The outcomes of WRC-23 bear the promise of transforming Tanzania's communications sector, thereby enhancing the quality of life for every citizen. This achievement is a testament to the collective dedication and tireless efforts of our National Preparatory Committee (NPC).

The committee comprises representatives of ministries, regulatory bodies, universities, and industry stakeholders. The NPC played a pivotal role in safeguarding Tanzania's interests and ensuring our success at the conference.



I appreciate the role of the TCRA technical team, especially those who participated in the conference and defended our position with technical inputs. My gratitude also goes to all other stakeholders for their unwavering commitment and diligence in implementing the decisions of WRC-23 in favour of Africa and Tanzania in particular.

— Dr Jabiri Kuwe Bakari

TCRA Director General

Through their dedication they have been instrumental in laying the foundation for the positive changes that will unfold in our communications landscape, now and tomorrow.

Moving forward, we remain resolute in our commitment to collaborate with all stakeholders and

create a conducive environment that maximizes the potential of the spectrum revolution.

As regulators, our role extends beyond boundaries, encompassing active engagement with investors, policymakers, and other sector players.

This collective effort will enable us to realize the full benefits of the spectrum allocations acquired during WRC-23 and the orbit slot for broadcasting satellite services.

I urge you to join us in embracing the transformative power of collaboration and innovation. We can jointly build a future where the spectrum revolution becomes a cornerstone for progress and prosperity.

I look forward to exciting developments as we work together to shape a brighter and more connected Tanzania.



I take this opportunity to encourage every stakeholder to actively participate in motivating young individuals to fully capitalize the advantages of digital opportunities.

— Dr Jabiri Kuwe Bakari

TCRA Director General

We should support the ongoing formation of Digital Clubs in various schools and colleges throughout Tanzania to inspire youths to become enthusiastic contributors to the positive utilization of digital technology opportunities in our dynamic digital world.

In doing so, we will prepare our younger generation to embrace WRC-23 resolutions and all other upcoming sector transformations.

UPDATE

TCRA Board in place

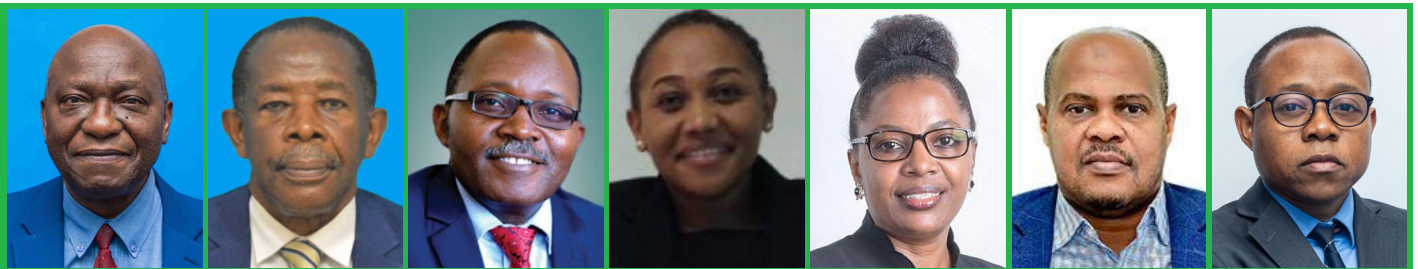
The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Board of Directors is now firmly in place following the appointment of four new members by the Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Hon. Nape M. Nnauye.

The new members, appointed on 21 March this year, will join the Chairman, Dr Jones A. Killimbe and Vice Chairman, Mr Juma Hassan Reli, who were appointed by the President H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan earlier

this year and the Director General, Dr. Jabiri Kuwe Bakari.

The four are Prof. Aloys Ntaturu Mvuma, Dr Hanifa Twaha Masawe, Dr. Irene Charles Isaka and Mr. Mohamed Ame Makame.

TCRA's mission is to regulate communications services for the welfare of the Tanzanian society. Its vision is to have a society empowered by communication services.



Dr. Jones A. Killimbe

Mr. Juma Hassan Reli

Prof. Aloys Ntaturu Mvuma

Dr. Hanifa Twaha Masawe

Dr. Irene Charles Isaka

Mr. Mohamed Ame Makame

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari

Tanzania Secures Satellite Orbit Position

By Rolf Kibaja

Tanzania has secured an orbital position for its inaugural broadcasting satellite. This accomplishment, at the 2023 World Radio-communication Conference (WRC23) in Dubai signifies a remarkable stride for the nation, underscoring its commitment to advancing technological capabilities.

The Minister for Information, Communication, and Information Technology, Honourable Nape Nnauye (MP), said the achievement reflected a positive outcome of international collaborative efforts and solidified Tanzania's position in the global space arena. It also sets the stage for a promising future in satellite communication, he added. Tanzania's orbital slot is at 16 degrees West.

Now, positioned in the expansive realm of the cosmos, Tanzania is on the verge of joining the ranks of nations utilising the potential of satellite technology to enhance communication services for its people.

Tanzania joins other African nations in adopting satellite technology, placing it alongside Egypt, South

Africa, Algeria, Nigeria, Morocco, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Mauritius.

Tanzania's potential has garnered global attention and attracted investors from around the world, highlighting the country's ambitious vision to become a spacefaring nation.

The Director-General of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari acknowledged the significant progress made by the government in solidifying the country's position in the communication sector.

He emphasized the crucial role of satellites in the communication infrastructure, considering them a vital component for years.

Dr Bakari expressed determination as a regulator to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure the success of these initiatives, recognizing the achievement of attaining a prestigious position in the field.



The acquisition of the slot showcases Tanzania's dedication to advancing technology on a global level, said Dr. Francis Ng'atigwa, a lecturer in communication studies at St. Augustine University of Tanzania.



I believe we are going to have improved broadcasting services in our country which is paramount in discoursing edutainment and further information dissemination which are important tenets of any country's development.

— Dr. Francis Ng'atigwa

A lecturer in Communication Studies at St. Augustine University of Tanzania

John Athanas, a Dar es Salaam-based telecommunications engineer, emphasized the financial implications for countries without their satellites. He noted that such nations would incur substantial expenses by leasing satellite capacity from other countries or regional satellite spaces.

Membership fees charged by international organizations, often based on a country's GDP and satellite usage, can range from millions to tens of millions of dollars per year, particularly for entities like Intelsat.

Athanas stressed the importance of strategic planning for ownership and effective utilization, highlighting that while leasing capacity on others' satellites is

costly, having one's satellites is highly recommended for enhanced communication services.

"It is imperative for a country to invest in its satellites, as this not only fosters autonomy but also ensures optimal utilization for improved communication services, he said.

Athanas pointed out the profit-driven nature of commercial satellite operators, noting that they prioritize financial gains over the affordability concerns of countries. "Commercial satellite operators prioritize profits and may not consider the financial constraints faced by countries, leading to exorbitant charges. Costs vary based on service type, bandwidth requirements, and lease duration, ranging from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars annually", he said.

Tanzania's achievements at WRC23 go beyond securing orbital slots, as the country has also successfully acquired additional frequencies within the 3600-3800 MHz range, advanced 5th generation mobile technology (5G).



The expansion of the spectrum to accommodate high-speed 5G technology was among key topics addressed at WRC 2023.

These frequencies have the potential to transform internet speed significantly, enhance the reach of the mobile network, and drive economic growth by fostering digital communication advancements" said Dr. Bakari.



Tanzania ready for digital sound broadcasting

By Lokila Mosso

Ten years after successfully migrating to a more advanced television broadcasting standard, Tanzania is finalizing a programme to introduce digital sound broadcasting (DSB).

The move to DSB is a strategic response to two key challenges: limited radio frequency availability, especially in urban areas, and the need to bring radio content to a broader audience. With traditional FM frequencies becoming increasingly congested, DSB offers a versatile solution by utilising various communication infrastructures for content delivery.

This opens up exciting possibilities for new stations and wider coverage, potentially reaching every corner of the country.

The superior spectrum-efficient DSB, with its high audio quality and consumer convenience, will be implemented parallel to the existing FM radio broadcasting services currently offered by 234 radio stations in Tanzania Mainland.



234 FM Radio stations in Tanzania Mainland

The Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology is finalizing regulations on DSB deployment in the country, the Deputy Minister Eng. Mathew Kundo said at the 2024 annual broadcasting conference in Dodoma in February 2024 [1].

The Deputy minister added that while embracing technological advancements, the Government remained committed to upholding high-quality and ethically-sound broadcasting content.

Tanzania was the first country in East and Southern Africa to fully migrate to digital terrestrial television broadcasting after switching off analogue networks in December 2014, ahead of the international deadline of June 2015.

DSB which uses digital standards and not analogue, will co-exist with the prevalent FM broadcasting platforms.

Television and radio are two sectors of broadcasting. The latter's wide coverage makes it prevalent. Radio is the dominant medium of mass communication due to its wide geographical reach, handset portability and affordability.

Besides being conveniently accessed on traditional handsets and car radios, this medium is easily available through other devices such as mobile phones.

Radio broadcasting uses sound to deliver. For quite some time, analogue sound broadcasting technologies have dominated.

Amplitude Modulation (AM) and Frequency Modulation (FM) have been the only broadcasting standards, with the latter being most preferred. It is more robust, has lower investment costs and has better coverage and more quality sound than AM.

However, most countries have reported the near exhaustion of their FM Spectrum Band; hence the need for alternative broadcasting standards to ease the congestion. FM frequencies are found in the 87.5 to 108 megahertz (MHz) spectrum band.

DSB uses bands in the 535.51606.5 kHz and 214-230 MHz band.

There are two DSB standards;

- Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) and
- Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM)

DAB was developed from the need for good reception whilst in motion. It can provide more radio programmes.

It was first used in Europe, with the first trial broadcast in 1990.

DRM was developed in 1997 in China to digitize long, medium and short-wave bands. Six years later, in 2005, the DRM system was extended to incorporate modes designed to operate in the VHF broadcasting bands.[2]

Africa's strategy for introducing and promoting DSB was developed by the continent's specialized agency for Information and communications technologies. The ATU DSB strategy is being implemented with the Union's Strategic Plan 2023 and envisages that by 2024 at least 56 per cent of African countries will have plans to introduce DSB.

Key elements in the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) strategy include common DSB frequency bands and associated standards. [3]

Most African countries have adopted plans to introduce DSB. Regional economic cooperation groupings have harmonized their positions on DSB. For example, the East African Community (EAC), through the regional communications organization –EACO and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through the Communications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) have developed frameworks for introducing DSB.

SADC Communications and ICT ministers adopted a resolution in September 2017 on DSB to complement their respective countries' analogue sound broadcasting services.

The ministers observed that the SADC region was pushed by the desire for efficient use broadcasting services spectrum. They also noted the need for broadcasters to expand their service portfolios to meet the public's need for access to information and conveyance of messages in emergencies.

They decided after realizing the growing demand for radio broadcasting services that have overtaken the existing FM radio frequencies. The other aim was to ensure efficient utilization of the scarce broadcasting spectrum and satisfy the growing demand for radio broadcasting services.

Some of the SADC and EAC countries have either started DSB trials in major cities or have launched

consultations on draft regulations for licensing digital radio.[4]

The trials evaluate the technology's attributes and gauge market readiness through listener feedback. The pilot will also enable the commission to foster digital content development, understand costs and revenue models, and shape policy and regulatory requirements introducing DSB in these countries.

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) has introduced a framework to introduce DSB services in that country by 2025.

The framework assesses options, approaches and requirements for successfully implementing the DAB standard in Kenya as an additional platform to existing FM analogue radio that can enable the development and diversification of the radio broadcasting landscape, the CA Acting Director General said.

Kenya has identified potential DAB promotion challenges. They include possible stakeholder resistance to changes in market structure and competition and the availability and affordability to the general public of receivers.

The other challenges are the costs of infrastructure rollout affordability of carriage costs to content providers and the need for a compelling value proposition in the absence of a switch-off date. [5]

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has launched a Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB+) Pilot Project.

South Africa, through the Communications regulator- ICASA – has published a framework for introducing DSB services.

They are in the form of regulations for sound broadcasting licensees seeking to provide digital sound broadcasting services. The regulations also prescribe the procedure for applicants seeking to provide DSB services. [7]

In West Africa, Ghana has become the first country in the region to test DSB through 18 existing radio stations, of which 11 are in the capital, Accra.

The stations shared one frequency channel out of VHF Band III (174-230MHz) and a transmitter. [8]

There is no universal deadline for moving to DSB, unlike in digital terrestrial television migration which has a deadline set by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The introduction of DSB is aimed at enhancing the quality of sound broadcasting and providing additional spectrum capacity to foster further market development in the broadcasting industry without discontinuing analogue sound broadcasting.

ITU emphasizes that implementing digital sound broadcasting will not replace analogue sound broadcasting outright, but that the two technologies will co-exist until the market determines the direction.

The advantage of analogue FM sound broadcasting is accessibility. Until DAB receiver penetration starts to reflect that of FM receivers, broadcasters will be reluctant to turn off their FM transmitters. [9]

According to EACO, the successful commercial implementation of digital sound broadcasting will require the replacement of analogue receivers with receivers capable of receiving both analogue and

digital sound broadcasts, for example, car radios and personal radio sets.

“The receivers are to support both technologies to facilitate the seamless provision of broadcasting services whilst moving from one geographical area to another”, it explains. [10]

Countries should review their legal and regulatory frameworks to accommodate the introduction of DSB. This includes revisiting radio spectrum planning, introducing regulations and engaging stakeholders in the broadcasting supply chain.

TCRA Broadcasting Services Manager, Eng. Andrew Kisaka, highlighted DSB benefits, including the availability of affordable receivers available, and seamless transition for listeners.

Industry seasoned broadcast engineer Sunday Nkayamba expressed optimism about DSB's potential to reshape the industry, encouraging broadcasters to adapt their business models and create high-quality content to thrive in the competitive landscape.

80
Kilometre
radius | The pilot covers an 80-kilometre radius around Kampala to test the technology's feasibility and effectiveness. [6]

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Navigating Tanzania's Digital Frontier

By Our Correspondent

This article looks at Tanzania's leap into a connected future and focuses on Transforming Digital Governance in Tanzania and the role of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

"As Tanzania strides confidently into the digital era, the collaborative efforts of TCRA, government leadership, and strategic partnerships are laying the groundwork for a digitally inclusive society."

Tanzania is witnessing a profound transformation in its digital governance landscape, spearheaded by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

As the nation embraces the digital era, TCRA stands out as a beacon of progress, driving Tanzania towards a more connected, inclusive, and digitally adept society.

Established under the TCRA Act No. 12 of 2003 to regulate telecommunications, broadcasting, and postal services in Tanzania, TCRA has laid the groundwork for a transformative digital governance model.

TCRA's vision is to create a Tanzanian society empowered by communication services.

Milestones in Connectivity and Digital Inclusion

Tanzania has made significant strides in expanding its digital infrastructure in recent years, notably through enhancing the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB). This has increased internet accessibility and significantly reduced communications services costs in the country.

TCRA's efforts have seen a remarkable surge in mobile financial services, with registered SIM cards reaching 70.2 million in December 2023, translating to a penetration rate of 111 per cent.

This expansion underscores a critical leap towards

digital inclusivity, with 52.9 million mobile money subscriptions or 75.4 per cent of total registered SIM cards in the same period.

Fostering Innovation and Security in the Digital Economy

The remarkable growth in mobile financial services highlights TCRA's success in fostering a conducive environment for digital economic activities.

TCRA has enabled a significant portion of the Tanzanian population to access banking and financial services, many for the first time, by regulating and promoting safe, reliable, and inclusive financial technologies.

The achievement enhances economic participation and contributes to financial inclusion and poverty reduction.

Strategic Collaborations and Partnerships

Strategic partnerships between national telecommunications entities are playing a crucial role in a quest to bridge the digital divide in East Africa.

A prime example of such collaboration is the recent agreement between the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation Limited (TTCL) and the Burundi Backbone System (BBS).

3.3
million
dollar

This partnership, underpinned by a 3.3 million-dollar deal, leverages Tanzania's robust digital infrastructure to boost Burundi's access to quality communication services.

It epitomizes the essence of regional cooperation in the digital transformation journey.

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This partnership, underpinned by a 3.3 million-dollar deal, leverages Tanzania's robust digital infrastructure to boost Burundi's access to quality communication services. It epitomizes the essence of regional cooperation in the digital transformation journey.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Director General, Dr Jabiri Kuwe Bakari, reflecting on the role of TCRA in fostering regional digital bridges, remarked:



Our efforts to regulate and promote digital connectivity extend beyond national borders, aiming to knit a closer East African community through technology and innovation

— Dr Jabiri Kuwe Bakari

TCRA Director General

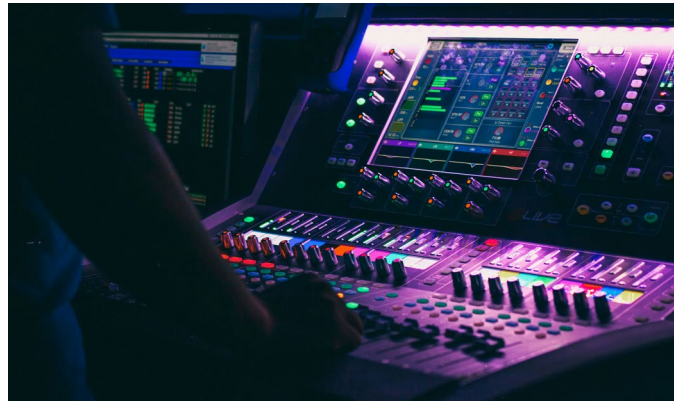
While TCRA is not a direct party to this agreement, it plays a central role in creating a conducive regulatory environment that enables such cross-border collaboration.

TCRA's regulatory framework and approaches ensure that partnerships like the one between TTCL and BBS flourish.

TCRA facilitates a seamless digital connection across national borders. This aligns with the broader vision of a digitally interconnected East African community, where enhanced communication infrastructure fosters economic growth, cultural exchange, and social integration.

Additionally, TCRA's initiative to steer Tanzania towards Digital Sound Broadcasting (DSB) technology marks a significant leap in the broadcasting sector.

By transitioning to DSB, Tanzania is set to revolutionize the radio broadcasting industry with superior audio quality and more efficient spectrum use.



Dr Bakari underlined the importance of this transition. "Adopting DSB aligns Tanzania with global digital broadcasting trends and underscores our dedication to enhancing the quality of media consumption within the region," he said.

He added that the move not only positions Tanzania as a pioneer in digital broadcasting innovation within the region but also demonstrates "the potential benefits of adopting advanced digital technologies in enhancing media consumption quality and diversity."

Leveraging International Standards

TCRA's engagement in international forums and adherence to global standards align Tanzania's digital governance with best practices worldwide.

Participation in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) meetings and implementing the Union's recommendations ensure that Tanzania's digital infrastructure development, policy formulation, and regulatory frameworks are globally competitive and responsive to the rapid changes in the ICT sector.

Enhancing Digital Literacy and Safety

Recognizing the importance of digital literacy in the digital age, TCRA has embarked on initiatives to empower Tanzanians with the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy.

The digital clubs established in schools and colleges aim to foster ICT awareness, skills development, and responsible digital citizenship.

TCRA's commitment to online safety and security is more critical than ever. The Authority's efforts to educate the public, particularly vulnerable groups, on the importance of cybersecurity measures are commendable.

TCRA's recent training of passenger motorcycle drivers (bodaboda) and women entrepreneurs on online safety and the benefits of ICT highlights its commitment to equip Tanzanians with knowledge on safe and effective technology use.

TCRA's proactive approach, in collaboration with law enforcement and other stakeholders, to educate the public on cyber safety, plays a critical role in creating a secure digital environment.

"Educating our citizens on cybersecurity is pivotal in safeguarding our digital landscape," Dr. Bakari emphasized.

The annual celebration of Safer Internet Day on 6 February further emphasizes TCRA's dedication to promoting a safer and more positive digital space for all users.

Collaborations with law enforcement agencies to address cybercrimes and establishing platforms for reporting online offences are vital steps towards a secure digital environment for all Tanzanians.

Conclusion

TCRA is a pillar of digital governance in Tanzania. It steers the country towards a future where digital technologies are integrated seamlessly into every aspect of Tanzanian life.

Through strategic collaborations and a focus on digital literacy and inclusion, TCRA transforms the digital landscape and empowers Tanzanians to thrive in the digital age. As TCRA continues to navigate the complexities of the digital revolution, its role as a catalyst for change, innovation, and growth in Tanzania's digital governance remains indispensable.

Tanzania active in international communications bodies



The Director General of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Dr Jabiri Bakari has been appointed member of the Digital Innovation Board of an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) alliance.

The Board, known in full as the Digital Innovation Board of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development, promotes information and communications technologies (ICT) innovations.

Dr. Bakari led Tanzania's delegation to the Board's inaugural meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in March 2024. Other delegates were the Director General of the ICT Commission, Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, and the TCRA Director of Industrial Affairs, Eng Mwesigwa Felician.

The inaugural agenda included digital innovation, intellectual property rights, and governments' contributions to innovation promotion. The meeting also discussed the prioritization of digital innovations that solve societal challenges.

Tanzania is a member of several international ICT and Postal bodies. It has seats in the Administrative Councils of ITU, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), and the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU).

These achievements underscore the commitment of the Sixth Phase Government to open the country to the world.

EVENTS

ICT centres of excellence

The Government plans to build ICT centres of excellence at Nala in Dodoma and Buhigwe, Kigoma. The Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Hon. Nnauye said the Government would ensure that all Tanzanians had the necessary digital skills to navigate the digital world. Digital skills were vital to ensure the digital inclusion of Tanzanians, he added.



The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, Mr. Mohammed Khamis Abdulla with Korean consultants at the site of the proposed ICT Centre of Excellence, Nala Dodoma region in January this year.



TCRA Director General Dr Jabiri Kuwe Bakari briefing members of the Communications, Lands and Energy of the Zanzibar House of Representatives; when they visited the head offices of the Authority in Dar es Salaam recently. The seven-member delegation was led by the Committee's Chairman, Hon. Yahya Rashid Abdulla.

Adding value to postcodes

By Our Correspondent

This column presents the latest legal and regulatory developments in Tanzania in the communications sector. In this edition, we look at the amended Postal regulations (ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS (POSTAL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2024.

TCRA is mandated, under the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (Cap 306), to allocate, manage and regulate addresses and Postcodes. The Authority is also empowered to regulate the publication and sale of postcode lists and directories in compliance with the principle of publicity.

Postal licensees are required to keep deliveries and postcode directories and avail them to the public free of charge.

The Electronic and Postal Communications (Postal) Regulations have been amended to improve the operationalization of the address systems and to introduce the commercialization of the postcodes.

In January 2024, the Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology Hon. Nape M. Nnauye published Government Notice No. 18 of 2024 on amendments to the 2018 Electronic and Postal Communications (Postal) Regulations.

Regulation 28 of the 2018 edition has been amended by adding new sub-regulations after sub-regulation (8). It now which reads thus: "(9).

The Authority may allocate and assign postcodes in five categories with respective usage as follows: -

- a. Administrative Areas postcodes to be assigned to administrative Wards;
- b. Post Offices Postcodes to be assigned to post offices;
- c. Big Mailers Postcodes to be assigned to selected government institutions;
- d. Landmarks Postcodes to be assigned to 'special' areas; and

- e. Special Activity or Event Postcodes to be temporarily assigned for special events.

(10) Assignment of Special Activity or Event Postcodes shall be subject to payment of relevant fees as prescribed in the Schedule."

TCRA assigns postcodes free of charge to Administrative areas, Post Offices and Big Mailers and Landmarks - depending on their residential or business areas and the nature of the business.

Postcodes for 'special' activities or events

The Authority can now assign a postcode for a special event to a person or a company for commercial purposes upon payment of a fee prescribed in the 2nd Schedule to the Regulations.

Applicants are required to specify and describe the activity, including the time frame and activity approval documents from the respective Local Government Authority.

Additionally, the applicants should specify the geographical location and coordinates of the respective activity (showing latitude and longitude). Activity postcodes have a maximum time frame of 30 days, subject to renewal if an activity exceeds this duration.

TCRA invites individuals and companies interested in promoting their events or activities, including entertainment, exhibitions and religious festivals, to apply for the Special Event postcodes. The postcodes would facilitate customers' easy access to event locations and allow faster and more accurate sorting and delivery of mail.

Pushing digital transformation

This article revisits communications statistics in the three years of the Sixth phase Government of President, H.E Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan (March 2021–March 2024)

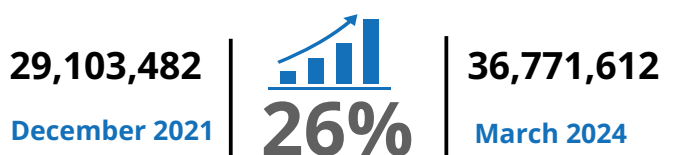
Sector growth indicators show sharp upward trends in most areas between March 2021 and March 2024.

Smartphone penetration increased by eight percentage points between December 2021 and March 2024, from 15 percent to 32.6 per cent of the population. This is significant as smartphones accelerate internet uptake. Some 99.8 per cent of internet users access the service on mobile phones and tablets.

March 2024 communications statistics show that feature phones decreased from 85.62 per cent penetration in December 2023 to 85.56 in March 2024.

TCRA Director General. Dr Jabiri Bakari said the Authority was working on the costs of smartphones since they accounted for low internet usage.

Internet subscriptions increased by 26 percent between December 2021 and March 2024 – from 29,103,482 to 36,771,612.



Internet subscriptions refer to the total number of lines, including SIM cards and fixed lines, that have accessed and used Internet services over three

months, regardless of the technology used.

Data usage increased to 3,702 MB per subscriber in March 2024 compared with 2,957 in December 2023.

However, Tanzania’s internet users utilize only 28.5 per cent of available international internet network capacity, measured in Gigabytes per second(Gbps). This is a six point increase from 22.5 percent in 2022.

Recent acquisition of additional frequencies within the 3600-3800 MHz range, advanced 5th generation mobile technology (5G) will boost the deployment of high-speed internet networks and uptake in the country. The frequencies were allocated to Tanzania at the December 2023 World Radio Communication Conference (WRC), convened by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Dr Bakari said the frequencies would transform internet speed significantly, enhance the reach of the mobile network, and drive economic growth by fostering digital communication advancements.

Zanzibar SIM card registration trends indicate a 12 per cent increase in the penetration of mobile phone services among the population.

Table 1: International data capacity and usage between December 2022 and March 2024 (in GBs per second)

Details	Outgoing capacity			Incoming capacity		
	2022	2023	March 2024	2022	December 2023	March 2024
Total/owned	4,790	5,667,729	16.06	60,192,331	6,147,947	11.37
Activated	52,875,129	11,921,633	29.11	70,215,144	10,023,034	16.65
Available to new			18.17			11.17
Activated percentage (%)	52,875,129	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023



Mobile money accounts and transactions more than doubled between December 2021 and December 2023. Accounts increased from 35,285,767 which made 3,752,084,894 transactions to 52,875,129 with 5,273,086,154 transactions in the period under review.

There were 53,013,385 mobile money accounts in March 2024.

Mobile money and digital financial services have created many jobs, including agencies. Additionally, most banks use mobile money outlets. Besides facilitating payments, mobile money services have

reduced many organizations' operating costs and created financial integrity in government payments through its gateway (GePG).

TCRA assigns and licences the shortcodes such as *150*...# used for financial transactions and other value-added services. The Bank of Tanzania regulates the financial sector. These institutions have a memorandum of understanding on digital financial services.

Digital broadcasting platforms now reach more than 50 per cent of the population. Broadcasting services are characterized by increased access to digital terrestrial and satellite broadcasting services through decoders.

Digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasts reach 56 per cent of the population. Signals delivered through satellite systems, categorized as direct-to-the-home (DTH), cover the whole country.

Set-top-boxes - decoders, are used to receive DTT and DTH signals. Acquisition of the devices increased by 2.5 per cent between December 2023 and March this year - from 3.7 to 3.8 million, according to the March 2024 communications status report.

Tanzania migrated to DTT in December 2014, ahead of the international deadline of June 2015.

Cable television services have also penetrated more areas in lake zone regions.

Table 2: Digital terrestrial (DTT) and satellite (DTH) television decoders trend between December 2021 and March 2024

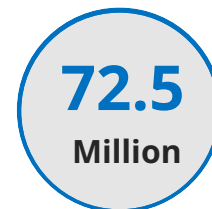
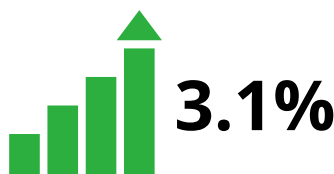
No.	Description	Year/Penetration percentage			
	Type of decoder	2021	2022	December 2023	March 2024
1	Digital terrestrial broadcasting (DTT)	1,613,031	1,667,465	1,781,340	1,801,979
2	Satellite (DTH)	1,577,315	1,702,877	1,880,636	1,950,191

Communications statistics in figures

Total number of subscriptions



December 2023

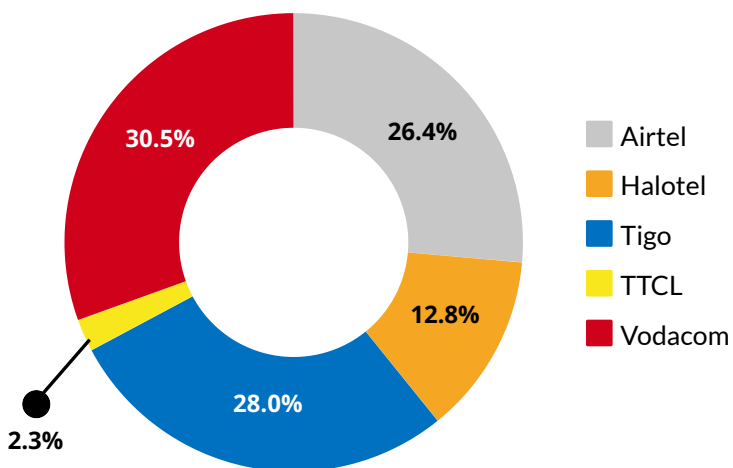


March 2024

Telecom Subscriptions for P2P and M2M communications per operator

Operator	Vodacom	Halotel	TTCL	Airtel	Tigo	Total
M2M Subscriptions	522,381	55,350	6,544	320,471	24,937	929,683
P2P Subscriptions	22,106,960	9,298,742	1,669,997	19,144,882	20,275,514	72,496,095
Total	22,629,341	9,354,092	1,676,541	19,465,353	20,300,451	73,425,778

Operators' subscriptions market shares in brief



There is no operator with a market share greater than **35%**, which is the minimum level for a dominant operator

Vodacom controls the market with more than half (**56.2%**) of all M2M subscriptions, Airtel ranks second with **34.5%**, followed by Halotel with **6.0%**.

Trend of telecom subscriptions over the past five years

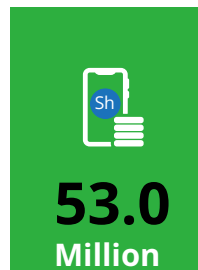
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Mobile Subscriptions	47,685,232	51,220,233	54,044,384	60,192,331	70,215,144
Fixed Subscriptions	76,288	72,469	71,834	84,696	75,732
Total Subscriptions	47,763,539	51,294,722	54,118,239	60,279,049	70,290,876
Penetration	78%	81%	88%	98%	111%

Mobile money subscriptions

0.2%

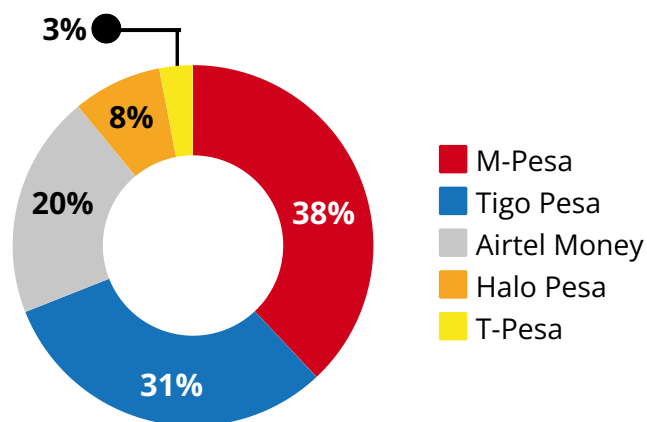


December 2023



March 2024

Mobile money subscriptions market share



Trend of mobile money transactions in the past five years

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. of Subscription	25,864,318	32,268,630	35,285,767	40,953,496	52,875,129
No. of Transactions	3,021,142,958	3,412,210,062	3,752,084,894	4,195,899,414	5,273,086,154
Average No. of Trans/Subs	117	106	106	102	100

Subscription to postal receptacles

TPC letter boxes and private bags

Reporting Month	No. of Letter Boxes	No. of Private Bags
January	158,183	10,000
February	158,183	10,000
March	316,182	10,069

Courier customers

Reporting Month	Corporate Customers	Individual Customers
January	33,170	19,645
February	32,005	18,350
March	30,748	34,152

Internet subscription

Are you aware?

The subscription to mobile and fixed internet, the primary means of internet access, is defined as the **total number of lines**, including **SIM cards and fixed lines**, that have accessed and used internet services in the last three months, regardless of the technology used (FTTX, GPRS, 3G, 4G, or 5G)



36.8 Million

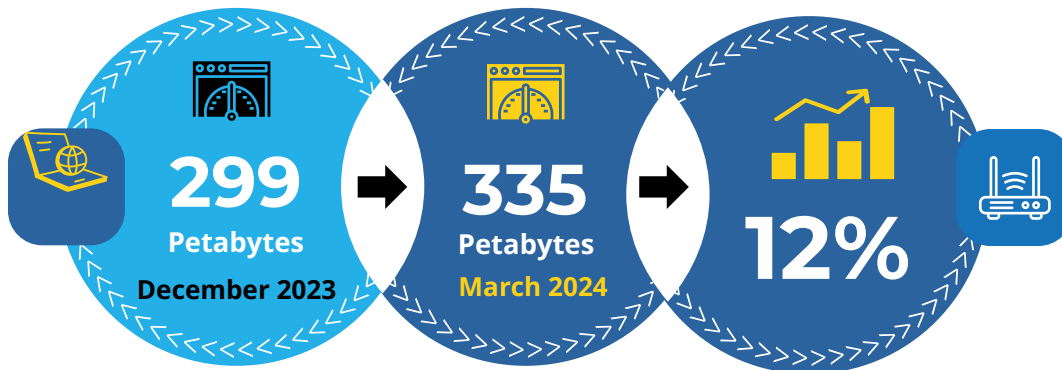


Internet subscriptions as of March 2024, equivalent to **2.5% increase** from the number recorded during the quarter ending December 2023

Monthly internet subscriptions

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Mobile Wireless Subs	36,145,670	35,727,226	36,687,794
Fixed Wireless Subs	8,614	9,079	27,563
Fixed Wired Subs	57,275	61,277	56,255
TOTAL	36,211,559	35,797,582	36,771,612

Internet usage per month



Trend of subscriptions for the past five years

