



PRESS RELEASE: MTC LAUNCHED “081EVERY1” NETWORK TO ENSURE 100% POPULATION COVERAGE

For immediate release

Namibia’s biggest mobile network operator this morning announced, plans that will see the company invest over N\$1,1 billion dollars to erect new sites across the country.

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Windhoek – 26th July 2017 – Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC), the largest network operator in Namibia, today announced its plans to invest N\$1.1 billion dollars to expand its network capacity through the 081EVERY1 project which the company describe as the beginning of a journey towards 100%percent population density coverage.

The undertaking of this billion-dollar project is slated to commence in October 2017 and will run until October 2019, according to Acting Chief Executive Officer, Thinus Smit.

MTC will construct over 524 new sites which will see it increasing its footprints towards a tenfold network standard set to benefit the remote and rural areas. A total of 412 new sites will be erected in rural areas and 88 new sites in urban areas in all 14 regions of Namibia.

Headlined, as also part of the investment, this billion-dollar project will see the introduction of 3G in major rural areas, especially in areas previously only serviced before by the 2G sector.

Currently, MTC mainly has full 3G and 4G coverage in the urban areas and has limited coverage in most rural areas which are covered by 2G. The aim with this investment is to have the same technology needs move to rural areas.

Part of the project, according to Smit, is driven towards the anticipation of full system convergence especially with pending IoT (Internet of Things) and the long awaited 5G technology – shortly after the successful trialing of advance LTE May 2016 by the company.

“With the increasing usage of smartphones and rise in mobile broadband, MTC saw the need to enhance the quality of its network for greater customer satisfaction. There is a noticeable

rapid growth in technology, where customers engage in an increasing number of ways with the network and this enhanced network coverage project will aid these communications” raised Smit

Board Chairperson Elvis Nashilongo at the occasion pointed out that “Quality of network infrastructure is the foundation of digitalization and the network connects us both globally and locally, allowing us all to benefit from the information society. Poor network coverage has been one of the main customer complaints and as MTC took heed of the customers’ requests seriously this billion-dollar project has been introduced.

“We are fully aware of the advance and ever changing telecommunications technology, and last year’s 4.5G trial is an indication that MTC will always strive to keep up with the latest technology,” emphasis Nashilongo.

As a Board we wish to ensure that MTC’s strategic mission continues to resonate with customers’ expectation for affordable and practical telecommunication services, he added.

Officially launching the 081Every1 project, Deputy Minister of ICT, Honourable Stanley Simaata, commended MTC for the initiative. The 081Every1 project will ensure that nobody will be left out. This will now ensure that our citizens in the rural areas are now also included. With access now guaranteed, now we need to focus on the issue of affordability.

Complemented by its mandate and vision “to be the communications partner of choice”, MTC always strives to live by this mandate.

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