

ACTING CHAIRLADY'S COMMENTARY

Almost half the population of the earth now uses mobile communications. According to the GSM Association (GSMA), a billion mobile subscribers were added in the last four years to make a total of 3.2 billion from the more than seven billion inhabitants in the world. What is incredible is the fact that more than 6.8 billion connections exist representing an average of more than two active connections per subscriber.

The SIM penetration per inhabitant now stands at 73%, for the above one billion inhabitants of the Africa Continent. Europe, North America, Russia, Latin America, the Middle East Region are all above 100% of penetration. Only Asia Pacific and Africa are below that desirable penetration. Currently the Asia Pacific region represents the largest rate of increase of the usage on the planet.

Another relevant point is that the Mobile Broadband (MBB) is the driving force of growth. With the opportunity for new Mobile Technologies, like 4G/LTE, faster connections are enabling the growth of data. We are witnessing the fact that the Mobile Network Operator which put its efforts in developing modern infrastructure has grown seven fold since 2008.

Namibia is one of five countries leading the African Continent, where the SIM connections are already above the symbolic 100 percent. Also, a tremendous investment has placed Namibia at a high level, regarding the national fibre connectivity to the most advanced submarine cable, the West Africa Cable System.

MTC has done and continues to do its best. We introduced Mobile Technology at a level of accessibility which exceeded expectations. It is now difficult to find an adult or even a young person not carrying a mobile device. They appreciate the social and economic benefits of mobile technology, regardless of the location, whether in a densely populated urban area or remote rural sites. The more than N\$1 billion investment for the last five years, the tremendous affordability of the mobile services, and broadband accessibility, are receiving high positive returns from the more than two million subscribers. It is this positive development which gives MTC impetus to move forward and grow from strength to strength.

It is therefore, an honour to submit this annual report with high positive financial results for the year ended 30th September 2012. This milestone achievement was made possible by the unwavering commitment of MTC staff. The men and women who collectively and individually work hard to solve MTC challenges, make the MTC business focus area sustainable.

Finally, the Board recognises and acknowledges the International Partner's achievements in steadily transferring knowledge, skills and competencies to and for the benefit of MTC and Namibia, showing that the decision made by the Government of this country to partially privatise the share holding of MTC in 2006, was indeed correct.

Dr. Itah U Kandjii-Murangi.
Acting Chairlady