



PRESS STATEMENT

25th May, 2023

Commissioning of the Integration of the Ugandan and Tanzanian National ICT Backbone Infrastructure.

Today marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between Uganda and Tanzania as President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and President Samia Suluhu Hassan officially commissioned the integration of the Ugandan and Tanzanian ICT backbone infrastructure in Isingiro District. This monumental achievement brings both nations closer together in their pursuit of reliable and high-speed internet connectivity, which plays a pivotal role in driving socio-economic development and fostering innovation.

Under the visionary directive issued by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on March 16th, 2023, the National Information Technology Uganda (NITA-U) was instructed, through its parent Ministry, to establish immediate contact with the Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL) to access affordable internet services through the Tanzanian National ICT Broadband Backbone.

In a remarkable physical bridging of the Uganda and Tanzania National ICT backbones (NICTBB<>NBI), a pair of dedicated Fiber Optic Cables (FOC) were deployed at Mutukula, No Man's Land, establishing an alternative route to the undersea cables through Tanzania

The integration of the ICT backbone infrastructure between Uganda and Tanzania aims to achieve several key objectives;

Enhance Internet Infrastructure: This momentous commissioning involves the development of robust infrastructure, including fiber optic cables, network nodes, and data centers. These advancements provide a strong foundation for efficient and reliable internet connectivity, empowering individuals and organizations to thrive in the digital age.

Promote Cross-Border Collaboration: The newly established internet connection enables seamless communication and data exchange between businesses, educational institutions and government agencies in Uganda and Tanzania.

By fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint research initiatives, this enhanced connectivity will lead to unprecedented economic growth and technological advancement for both Uganda and Tanzania.

Expand Digital Services: With the direct internet connection established between Uganda and Tanzania, a multitude of digital services such as e-commerce, e-banking, telemedicine, and e-learning will experience remarkable growth. This expansion bridges the digital divide and ensures that citizens have access to a wide range of online services, significantly improving their overall quality of life

In his speech, Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, the Minister for ICT & NG, expressed his immense pride in the successful commissioning of the integration of the Ugandan and Tanzanian ICT backbone infrastructure. This achievement symbolizes the unwavering commitment of both countries to progress, innovation, and inclusive development.

The Presidents believes that this landmark milestone will serve as a catalyst for transformative change and ignite a new era of collaboration, connectivity, and prosperity for the people of Uganda and Tanzania.

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