

BOFINET

Bits & Bytes

News letter

July 2025

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Foreword



Mr. Keabetswe Segole

I Welcome to another issue of our quarterly e-newsletter. In this issue, we are excited to introduce our new Board of Directors as appointed by the Minister of Communications and Innovation, Hon. David Tshere. The appointment of the new Board takes effect from the 1st of July, 2025. As BoFiNet, we are excited about this leadership renewal, which coincides with a period when BoFiNet will be charting a new corporate strategy to guide the direction of the company for the next five (5) years.

The new Board of Directors is led by Mr Molemisi Sechaba, who was retained from the immediate past Board. As the management of BoFiNet, we are confident that his retention and role at the helm of the Board will ensure continuity and stability in the transition.

I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new Board and look forward to a productive, enriching partnership with management as we strive to transform BoFiNet into an industry benchmark locally and continentally. In the same breath, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the outgoing Board, for their strategic leadership and prudent oversight, which have contributed immensely to the company's good performance over the last two (2) years.

As we edge closer to our anticipated launch date of the Digital Delta Data Centre, we continue to welcome potential clients and distinguished members of the society who wish to see the facility for various reasons. We were recently honoured to host an exclusive tour for the Administration of Justice (AoJ), led by His Lordship, Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe.

It was truly an honour to witness his leadership in ensuring that the AoJ is not left behind in the digital transformation journey that the country is on. Visits of this nature go a long way in confirming that the Digital Delta Data Centre is timely in its delivery, as our country leads the region on issues of strategic importance such as data sovereignty and digital transformation. The official launch of the data centre will include the unveiling of a suite of new, exciting products that we will announce in due course.

I hope you enjoy other insights shared in this issue, including progress updates on our planned and ongoing infrastructure projects. We are inspired to continue connecting with you through this platform, to bring to life our story and share with you how BoFiNet is transforming the ICT landscape in this country.



BOFINET

BoFiNet Welcomes New Board Members

Botswana Fibre Networks is pleased to introduce its new Board of Directors, appointed with effect from 1st July 2025. The new Board of Directors joins BoFiNet at an exciting time when the company is gearing up for a new corporate strategy and a fresh leap in the journey towards transforming Botswana into a digital powerhouse in Africa. The management and staff of BoFiNet warmly welcome the new Board and look forward to this new era in leadership.



Mr. Molemisi N. Sechaba
Board Chairperson



Ms. Lucy Ferguson
Board Member



Mr. Emmanuel Kgantumo
Board Member



Mr. Mosimanegape Moilwa
Board Member



Mr. Osego Garebamono
Board Member



Ms. Julia Ditlhong
Board Member



Mr. Innocent Molalapata
Board Member



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DRIVING DIGITAL TRUST WITH CYBER SECURITY



Guy Mafoko
Security Specialist

At BoFiNet, we are not just building networks, we are building the future of Botswana's digital economy. As the nation's premier provider of wholesale broadband infrastructure, our commitment to innovation, resilience, and security is unwavering. At the heart of this mission is our IT Security Department, a critical pillar ensuring that our digital transformation journey is secure, seamless, and sustainable.

The Botswana Data Protection Act of 2024 establishes a framework for safeguarding personal data, requiring organisations to implement strong technical and organisational measures to ensure security and confidentiality.



As a leader in Botswana's digital infrastructure, BoFiNet is at the forefront of compliance, actively implementing cutting-edge security initiatives that protect our information resources, infrastructure and empower our people:

- **Microsoft Intune Enrollment:** We are rolling out Microsoft Intune to manage and secure all corporate devices, enabling secure remote work and ensuring compliance across the board. The Microsoft Intune IT security solution helps secure access to company resources on mobile devices. Specifically, it helps:
 - Ensure compliance with the Botswana Data Protection Act of 2024 by enforcing technical safeguards for personal data.
 - Protect BOFINET systems from unauthorised access.
 - Enforce corporate IT security policies on mobile endpoints.
 - Reduce data breach risks due to unmanaged personal device usage.
- **Vulnerability & Patching Management:** Through continuous vulnerability assessments and timely patching, we proactively shield our systems from known threats reducing the risk of unauthorised access to personal and business critical data.
- **DDoS Protection Enhancements:** We are strengthening our defences against Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks to ensure uninterrupted service and network stability for our partners and clients.

DRIVING DIGITAL TRUST WITH CYBER SECURITY



Cybersecurity is not a one-time effort, it's a continuous journey. Our team is always on guard:

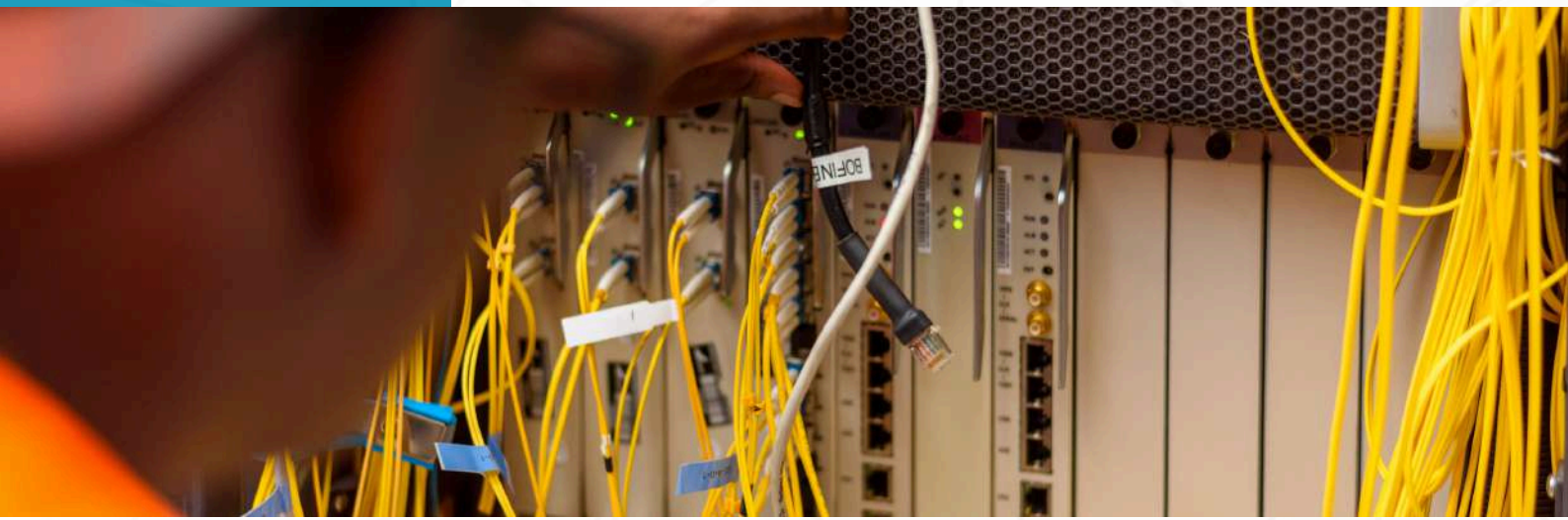
- **24/7 Threat Monitoring:** Around-the-clock surveillance of our networks ensures we detect and respond to threats before they escalate.
- **Access Management:** We enforce strict access controls to ensure that only authorised personnel can access sensitive systems and personal data, in line with the principles of integrity and confidentiality outlined in the Data Protection Act.
- **Incident Response:** Our rapid-response protocols allow us to investigate and mitigate security incidents swiftly and effectively.
- **User Awareness Training:** We empower our staff with regular cybersecurity training, turning every employee into a first line of defence.

As we continue to lead Botswana's digital transformation, our future-focused initiatives are designed to keep us ahead of the curve:

- **Zero Trust Architecture:** We are adopting a Zero Trust model, where no user or device is trusted by default to enhance our security posture.
- **AI-Driven Threat Hunting:** Leveraging artificial intelligence, we aim to detect and neutralise sophisticated threats before they can cause harm.
- **Enhanced Data Loss Prevention:** We are strengthening our safeguards to prevent accidental or malicious data leaks.
- **Cloud Security Optimisation:** As we expand our cloud infrastructure, we are enhancing our security controls to ensure data integrity and availability.

At BoFiNet, cybersecurity is more than a function, it's a foundation. Our IT Security department is not only protecting our systems but also enabling innovation, trust, regulatory compliance, and growth across the country's digital landscape. As Botswana accelerates toward a connected future, BoFiNet remains at the forefront, secure, resilient, and ready.

P100 MILLION INVESTMENT IS ALREADY TRANSFORMING LIVES ACROSS THE NATION



Three months after BoFiNet completed its major infrastructure upgrade, Batswana are already seeing tangible improvements in their digital experience and access to services. The investment has significantly enhanced the country's internet backbone, and here's how it's positively impacting citizens and institutions:

Urban centres like Gaborone and Francistown now enjoy high-speed internet, enabling smoother browsing, streaming, remote work, and access to online services. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are leveraging the upgraded infrastructure to deliver better services to homes and businesses.

Healthcare facilities are seeing improvements in telemedicine and patient data management, thanks to more stable and responsive connections. Educational institutions are benefiting from enhanced access to e-learning platforms, allowing students and teachers to engage more effectively in virtual classrooms.

Government services have become more efficient, with improved access to digital platforms for tasks such as tax filing, identity verification, and public service applications.

The infrastructure also supports the growing rollout of 5G, offering faster mobile internet and better app performance for entrepreneurs and tech innovators.

Upgrades at international exchange points in London and Johannesburg have **improved access to global platforms** like Netflix, Google, Facebook, and Microsoft, enhancing both entertainment and productivity. Additionally, relocating equipment to the Digital Delta Data Centre in Gaborone has strengthened Botswana's internet resilience and cybersecurity.

BoFiNet remains committed to supporting the Government's digital transformation agenda and driving socio-economic growth through robust connectivity.

"We are proud to be driving connectivity and economic growth. These projects are a major boost to services like e-health, e-education, smart government, and the Internet of Things," said Seneo Pule, Network Engineer.

**VANDALISM OF FIBRE CABLES IS
A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY LAW**

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DIGITAL INCLUSION PROMOTED AT THE GIRLS IN ICT COMMEMORATIONS



On 14 May 2025, BoFiNet proudly joined the Ministry of Communications and Innovation and other important partners to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day in Lehututu. The event aimed to empower girls and young women aged 6 to 35 from Hukuntsi and nearby communities by teaching them important digital skills and encouraging them to consider careers in the fast-changing world of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The initiative looked to increase gender equality in the digital world and inspire young women to take an interest in ICT-related jobs. Before the event, BoFiNet organised special Cyber Security training for primary school girls and held an AI Research Project competition for secondary school students in Lehututu. These activities were led by BoFiNet's own Girl in ICT ambassador, Susan Matlhomola, who served as a role model and mentor.

Lehutshelo Junior Secondary School won first place for their excellent research presentation during the AI competition and received brand-new laptops from BoFiNet to help them with their education and innovation. Lehututu Junior Secondary School came in second place and was given BoFiNet-branded hampers in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

BoFiNet remains dedicated to improving digital skills and promoting gender equality in Botswana's ICT sector by creating opportunities that empower the next generation of female technology leaders.



SHERWOOD-MATHATHANE PROJECT TO ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY



Mr. Tiro Nkola
Project Manager

The primary objective of the project is to deploy an Optical Fibre Cable Route from Sherwood to Mathathane in order to establish connectivity of voice and data traffic.

The project scope entails the supply, installation and commissioning of an overhead optical fibre network on a defined route to provide broadband network to sites between Sherwood and Mathathane over a total distance of 200kms. The areas/locations to be connected are Sherwood, Lerala, Martin's Drift, Zanzibar Repeater, Zanzibar, Baines Drift, Platjan Border and Mathathane.

Implementation commenced in June 2025 and is expected to be completed in August 2026. So far, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study was conducted and completed, while the monitoring of the Environmental Management Plan implementation is ongoing.

According to the Project Manager, Mr Tiro Nkola, "The project's focal point is to ensure widespread benefits of enhanced connectivity within the communities along the route. The installation of an anti – climb fence, backup generators, equipment shelters, active equipment (Metro), smart batteries and rectifiers in sites along the route aims to secure the physical network, shield vital elements from environmental factors, and guarantee uninterrupted service during power outages among other factors".



SHERWOOD MATHATHANE PROJECT TO ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY



Community Benefits

The positive outcomes for the community are both diverse and impactful. The project is set to bring a wide range of benefits to communities in the Tswapong and Tuli Block areas. One of the key improvements will be the creation of network redundancy. This means there will be alternative routes for national and transit services, making the network more reliable.

The project will also increase connectivity in areas that have previously been underserved. This is expected to open up new markets, boost local businesses, and stimulate economic growth. With better access to information, citizens will have more opportunities to learn and develop new skills.

Making services more affordable is another important goal. By focusing on cost-effectiveness, the project aims to give more people access to telecommunications, helping to empower local communities.

As the project moves forward, there is great optimism about its impact. It is not only about connecting villages and towns but also about building stronger, more connected communities. Improved communication will create opportunities in education, business, and overall community development.

Local communities will also benefit from job opportunities during the rollout. Villages along the route will see work for local contractors, suppliers, and service providers, including accommodation facilities. This will help to keep more of the economic benefits within the community. From Sherwood to Mathathane, including all the villages in between, this project represents real progress in network expansion on world-class infrastructure. Once complete, it promises to leave a lasting legacy of improved connectivity, stronger economies, and more opportunities for all.



CHIEF JUSTICE AND DELEGATION VISIT DIGITAL DELTA DATA CENTRE



On 9th July 2025, BoFiNet had the honour of hosting His Lordship, Chief Justice Gaolapelwe Ketlogetswe, alongside his Administration of Justice (AoJ) delegation for an exclusive tour of the Digital Delta Data Centre.

As one of the highest offices in the country, the visit was of strategic importance, offering the judiciary an opportunity to explore the largest, most secure, and always on data facility in Botswana as a potential option for their data infrastructure needs.

With the official launch of the Digital Delta Data Centre scheduled for September this year, early engagement with key stakeholders is both timely and commendable. The delegation expressed their keen interest and admiration for the scale, sophistication, and capabilities of the facility. Spanning 1,000 square metres and housing 400 racks, the Digital Delta Data Centre is a critical component of Botswana's ICT ecosystem and a cornerstone of the national digital transformation agenda.

It plays an important role in enabling the country to assert sovereignty over its data while creating regional integration and socio-economic development. BoFiNet is proud to continue engaging with stakeholders across all sectors, reaffirming its commitment to delivering secure, resilient, and world-class digital infrastructure for Botswana's future.



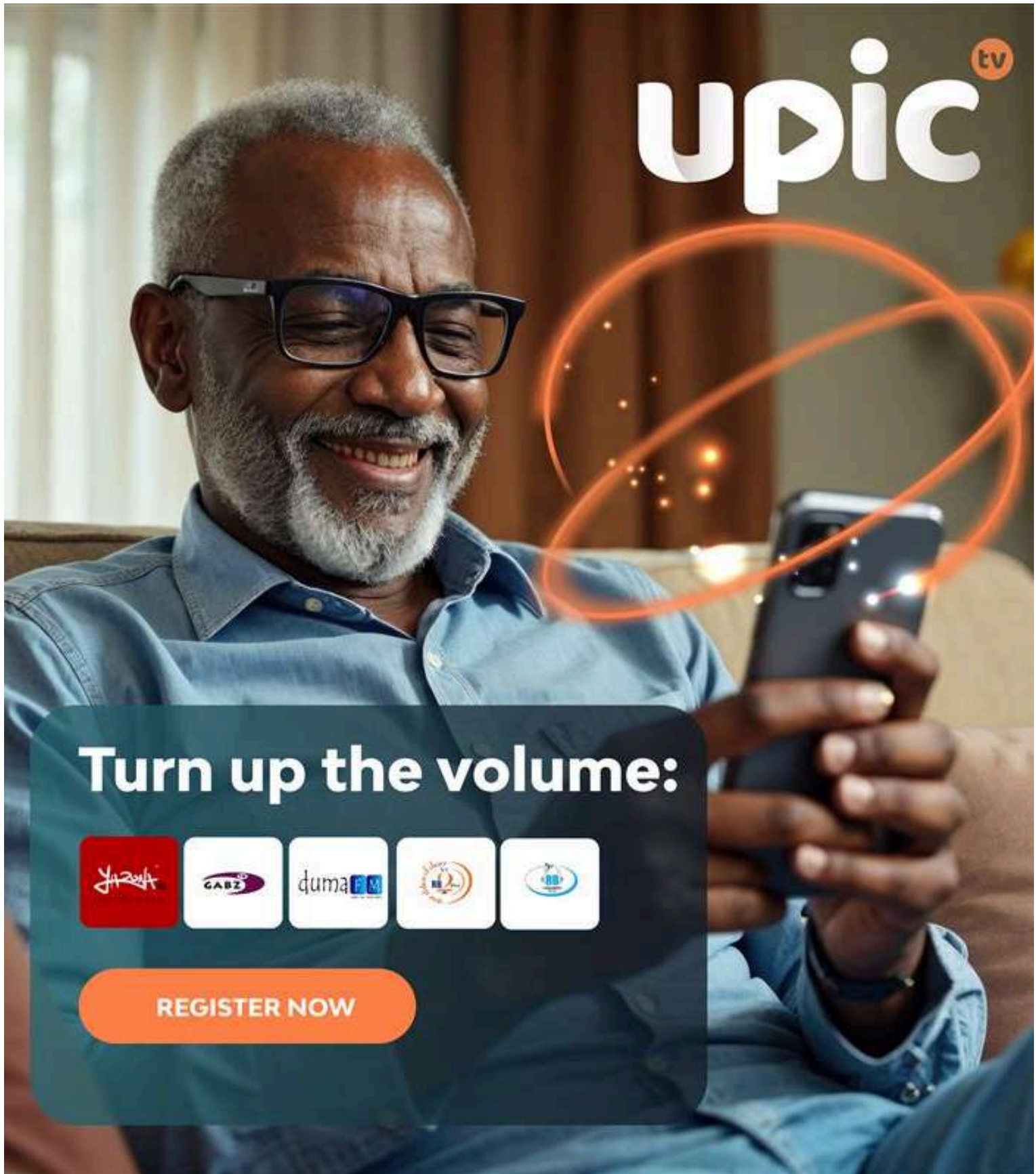
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UPICTV INTRODUCES CATCH-UP TV

UPICTv launched an upgraded user interface and user experience (Ui/UX), which is now live for all subscribers to enjoy. According to the UPICTv Manager, Mr. Ramphal Kgabanyane, "Among the new features on the interface is Catch-Up TV, which allows users never to miss their favorite shows, as they can watch them anytime and anywhere. There is also live rewind, allowing users to pause or rewind live TV, which gives users convenience and control."



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