

# UASF NEWS

## Empowering Rural Communities with Enhanced 4G Network Connectivity

### Connectivity Programme

In a significant step toward rural development, MTN has successfully activated its 4G network in 38 sites across remote rural areas. The expansion of network coverage aims to provide residents of these underserved communities with faster and more reliable internet access. By increasing rural connectivity, MTN's objective is to facilitate access to information, alleviate poverty through education and skill development, create employment opportunities, and enhance the overall quality of life.

A strong network service plays a pivotal role in stimulating economic growth and improving the standard of living. It not only benefits local businesses, allowing them to thrive, but also empowers schools to deliver digital learning experiences and opens diverse opportunities for the youth in these communities.

This significant network upgrade encompasses 23 Tinkhundla centers and is a result of MTN's collaboration with the UASF through the Rural Connectivity Project. The initiative has successfully activated 4G or LTE network capabilities in these rural areas, covering regions such as Shiselweni, Lubombo, Manzini, and Hhohho.

The expansion aligns with MTN's Ambition 2025 strategy, focusing on enhancing network efficiency and performance while simplifying network



operations. This strategic approach allows MTN to meet the evolving demands of its customers and deliver digital services effectively.

The introduction of MTN's 4G network began in 2016 with pilot sites along key business corridors. Following its success, the network rollout extended to various regions, including the King Mswati III International Airport, Siteki, and Nhlangano. The project continued to gain momentum, with network upgrades completed in 30 new sites by November 2023.

MTN's Corporate Services Manager, Thandiwe Mashinini, emphasizes that the activation of 4G technology translates to higher download speeds and improved network coverage for customers with 4G-capable devices across the four regions. She highlighted that MTN aims to offer an improved user experience and stresses the importance of fast internet speeds for Eswatini's aspiration to become a First World nation with a private sector-driven economy.