

Newsletter



Television through Youthful Eyes: World TV Day 2026



Global Expo
Botswana 2026



Mabele & Ditladi
Digital Centres



World Radio Day
2026

Table of Contents

Tariff Reductions	5
iPRIS 2025B Africa Follow-Up Phase	6
BINX Stakeholder Workshop	7
National Roaming	8
World TV Day 2026	9
Mabele & Ditladi Digital Centre Launches	10
BOCRA Schools ICT Training	11
World Radio Day 2026	12
First National Cyber Drill	13
Capacity Building Corner	16
Mind, Body, and Wellness	17



Masego Jeremiah

Head, Broadcasting & Corporate Communications

Editor's Note

I have the pleasure to present to the readership the third edition to the BOCRA newsletter as part of the Authority's continued quest to advance digital literacy.

The edition covers activities undertaken for the final quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year. Highlights include stakeholder engagements on topical regulatory issues including cyber drill held for cybersecurity professionals, ICT training for schools that received donations of digital laboratories, workshop that discussed the Botswana Internet Exchange Point and stakeholder consultations around revisiting the issue of National Roaming.

We trust you will find the publication worthwhile and once again we remain open to your valuable feedback and/or suggestions.



Introducing CIRT Toll Free Numbers

0800 155 201
0800 155 202

Please note that these numbers are strictly for reporting cyber incidents only.

Cyber incidents include cybersecurity matters such as hacking attempts, website compromise, malware infections, and other online security threats.

Any scam, fraud, or criminal activity should be reported directly to the Botswana Police Service, particularly in cases involving financial loss or compromise of personal information.





Tariff Reductions Set to Transform Botswana's Communications Landscape

Botswana's communications services are becoming more affordable, and that's good news for everyone. Following a detailed costing and pricing study, BOCRA introduced a series of tariff reductions designed to lower the cost of connectivity while encouraging fair competition across the market. The study that was done with input from industry players focused on understanding the real cost of providing communication services, both behind the scenes between operators and at the retail level where consumers pay for calls, messages, and data.

On the wholesale side, mobile and fixed termination rates, that is, what operators charge each other to carry calls across networks, were reduced gradually over three years starting July 2025. At the time of reporting, the first cut had already been effected, easing costs for operators and setting the stage for more affordable services. Wholesale broadband prices have also dropped sharply after Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) revised its offerings, with some prices falling by as much as 93%. These changes make it economic

for service providers to operate and invest in network development and delivery of quality services.

For consumers, the biggest impact was felt in mobile data. While voice and SMS prices mostly stayed the same or changed slightly, both Orange Botswana and Mascom reduced data prices and introduced better-value bundles with more data for less money. Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) also followed with improved data packages. Altogether, these changes make staying connected more affordable and support Botswana's growing digital needs, from learning and working online to running businesses and accessing essential services. BOCRA remains committed to ensuring that connectivity is accessible, reliable, and within reach for all Botswana. Hence, costing and pricing studies are done periodically to determine the underlying cost of providing services with a view effecting retail price adjustments to ensure that communications services remain affordable.





Botswana Hosts iPRIS 2025B Africa Follow-Up Phase

Botswana successfully hosted the ICT Policy & Regulation Institutional Strengthening (iPRIS) 2025B Africa Follow-Up Phase from 6 to 9 October 2025 in Gaborone, which brought together communications regulatory authorities from across Africa to advance discussions on digital transformation and regulatory reform.

The official welcome address was delivered by Mr Murphy Setshwane, Director in the Department of Business Development. In his remarks, Mr Setshwane warmly welcomed delegates and development partners, underscoring Botswana's honour in hosting the continental forum at a time of national pride following recent sporting achievements and the country's Independence Day celebrations held on 30 September 2025.

The iPRIS 2025B Africa Follow-Up Phase convened representatives from the European Union, the Swedish Programme for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER), the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority, the Luxembourg Regulatory Institute, and participating African regulatory authorities, among others.

The session was specifically designed to allow participants to reunite and further develop their Change Initiatives, with a strong focus on practical implementation in the areas of telecommunications regulation and digital transformation within the African context. One of the focus areas, was the need for Africa to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through modernised and harmonised policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks. Mr Setshwane, in his address, emphasised that such frameworks are essential to enabling African citizens to fully leverage the power of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to improve quality of life.

The 2025B Africa Follow up Phase further, focused on the alignment of the objectives of iPRIS with the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030). Delegates were reminded of the Strategy's ambitious vision, which seeks to ensure that by 2030, all Africans are

digitally empowered and able to access affordable, secure, and reliable broadband services. The regional strategy also promotes locally developed digital content and devices manufactured within the continent. By adopting these targets, the African Union had effectively challenged the ICT industry and regulators to work collaboratively towards implementation, making initiatives such as iPRIS critical platforms for shared learning and regional cooperation.

Some of the highlights noted by iPRIS included Botswana's alignment with continental aspirations through its Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). The ETP aims to foster a "fast and fearless" delivery culture and advance a tech-forward future by digitising government services and driving reforms within state-owned enterprises

According to Mr Setshwane, Botswana's participation in iPRIS provided a valuable opportunity for the country through BOCRA, to learn from peer regulators across Africa, refine national strategies, and strengthen the country's digital policy and regulatory environment in line with global and regional best practices. He also expressed gratitude to development partners, including the European Union, SPIDER, and the Luxembourg Regulatory Institute, for their continued support. He added that the contribution by development partners, enabled African regulators to reflect, collaborate, and chart a shared path towards inclusive and sustainable digital development.

The successful hosting of the iPRIS 2025B Africa Follow-Up Phase reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to regional cooperation, regulatory excellence, and the advancement of Africa's digital transformation agenda.



Strengthening Botswana's Digital Future: BOCRA hosts **BINX Stakeholder Workshop**

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) successfully hosted the Botswana Internet Exchange Point (BINX) Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on 15 October 2025 at the BOCRA Auditorium.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders from across the internet ecosystem to deliberate on the strategic importance of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) in strengthening Botswana's digital resilience and positioning the country as a regional hub.

Mr. Cecil Masiga, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Innovation, provided an overview of the workshop. He emphasised its timely relevance, aligning discussions with the ongoing national budget process under NDP-12. Mr. Masiga highlighted the critical role of the private sector in driving Botswana's economic transformation and underscored the strategic importance of developing both national and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs). He further called for positioning Botswana competitively within the African digital market, pointing to opportunities in data center growth and digital infrastructure. He stressed the importance of data sovereignty, security, and compliance with the Data Protection Act, urging stakeholders to collaborate in building a robust and inclusive digital ecosystem that fosters innovation, local content creation, and economic transformation.

Mr. Seepelo Malefho, Head of IT, provided context for the workshop by referencing prior engagements with ISPs and the Ministry of Communications and Innovation aimed at elevating Botswana's internet infrastructure to international standards. He emphasised that the purpose of the consultative meeting was to unify stakeholders under a shared vision and deliver actionable outcomes. Mr. Malefho highlighted the participatory role of ISPs, who initiated the BINX project, and stressed the need for their continued leadership. Outlining the workshop's focus areas (governance and technology), he encouraged stakeholders to contribute ideas and commit to a roadmap that will ensure BINX evolves into a world-class Internet Exchange Point during the session, participants engaged in high-level discussions on:

- The role of IXPs in enhancing local internet traffic exchange.
- Updates on the current status of BINX.
- Stakeholder perspectives on governance, infrastructure, and technology.
- Collaborative approaches to shaping operational models for future development.

The Botswana Internet Exchange (BINX), established by the Internet Service Providers Association, continues to play a vital role in supporting local Internet infrastructure through its Google Cache Cluster and Packet Clearing House node. However, BINX is currently facing challenges around financial sustainability, outdated equipment, and governance delays due to regulatory changes.

Discussions highlighted the need to re-engage the Department of Information Technology to enable e-government peering, improve service delivery, and reduce latency.



Stakeholders emphasised transparency, inclusivity, and collective action in restructuring BINX, with proposals to transition from a trust to a society model, introduce mandatory ISP participation, and strengthen engagement with both local and international content providers. Technology upgrades, redundancy planning, and flexible connectivity options were also identified as priorities to ensure BINX's resilience and relevance.

Looking ahead, stakeholders agreed on a clear way forward: formalising BINX's governance under a society model, securing sustainable funding, and upgrading infrastructure to meet modern demands. Immediate actions included finalising banking arrangements, developing a tiered membership fee structure, and seeking partnerships with organisations such as Google and PCH to expand capacity beyond the current 1G. Regional alignment with CRASA frameworks and BOCRA's support in society registration were recommended to ensure compliance and long-term stability. With a renewed commitment to collaboration, BINX aims to evolve into a robust, inclusive, and future-ready platform that enhances local Internet performance and fosters digital growth across Botswana.

Strengthening Connectivity: BOCRA Consults on National Roaming

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) convened a stakeholder consultative meeting on national roaming on 31 October 2025, as part of ongoing efforts to address persistent connectivity gaps across the country. National roaming is increasingly viewed as a strategic tool to complement infrastructure rollout, particularly in rural, remote, and underserved areas.



Despite Botswana achieving approximately 98% mobile population coverage over the past two decades, full geographic coverage remains challenging, especially in areas with low population density, border settlements, and along major transport corridors. While infrastructure sharing guidelines and interventions through the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF) have improved connectivity, residual coverage gaps persist, prompting BOCRA to reassess national roaming as a targeted intervention.

National roaming enables customers of one mobile network operator (MNO) to access another operator's network where their home network lacks coverage. Although national roaming was first introduced in Botswana in 1998 and later discontinued due to concerns that it could discourage infrastructure investment, evolving market conditions and international best practices have led BOCRA to revisit the concept as a complementary, rather than substitutive, solution.

In his opening remarks, Mr Murphy Setshwane, Director of Business Development, noted that several countries, including the United States, France, Nigeria, and Australia, have adopted different national roaming models. These range from mandatory regulatory frameworks aimed at promoting competition and emergency access, to voluntary, commercially negotiated arrangements focused on rural and hard-to-reach areas. BOCRA seeks to draw lessons from these jurisdictions while developing a model that reflects Botswana's unique geographic, economic, and market realities.

The primary objective of the consultation was to obtain stakeholder views, particularly from licensed MNOs, on the feasibility and strategic value of reintroducing national roaming in Botswana. Specifically, BOCRA sought to:

- Explore viable mechanisms for implementing national roaming;
- Obtain stakeholder input on pricing and cost recovery;
- Identify priority areas such as rural villages, highways, and border communities; and
- Ensure that national roaming supports universal access without undermining long-term infrastructure investment.

During the consultation, BOCRA presented a set of preliminary positions informed by international benchmarks, market analysis, and public interest considerations. The key proposals included:

- Mandated national roaming in areas with fewer than three operators, including 21 initially identified villages, border communities, and major highways, to ensure service continuity and avoid unnecessary duplication of infrastructure.
- Zero premium pricing, whereby roaming services would be offered at standard national retail tariffs, ensuring rural consumers are not subjected to higher charges due to location.
- Prohibition of perpetual roaming, with roaming limited to a maximum of 30 days per subscriber per quarter, to prevent long-term reliance on competitor networks and to encourage investment.
- Coverage of both voice and data services, recognising the growing importance of data for education, digital financial services, e-government, and economic participation.
- Periodic review of national roaming agreements, linked to new infrastructure deployments, population changes, and network upgrades.

Licensed MNOs, that is Mascom, Orange Botswana, and BTC, provided written submissions and further elaborated their positions during the consultation meeting. While there was broad acknowledgement of the potential role of national roaming in improving connectivity, views varied on its scope and implementation.

The consultation highlighted divergent operator perspectives but also underscored a shared recognition that connectivity gaps persist and require innovative, targeted solutions. While stakeholders differed on regulatory obligations, pricing, and service scope, there was consensus on the need for clear regulatory guidance, transparency in pricing, and safeguards to protect service quality and competition.

Through this consultative approach, BOCRA reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all Batswana, regardless of location, have access to reliable, affordable, and quality communication services.

Television through Youthful Eyes: World TV Day 2026



World Television Day 2025 was celebrated on 21 November 2025 at BOCRA Auditorium in Gaborone, bringing together industry leaders, creatives, and young voices under the theme **TV is Changing. Its Power Remains**. The theme focused on television as a medium that has been playing a major role in connecting people, showcasing cultures and providing entertainment for a very long time. However, current environment of digitalisation require television to reassess its conventional model of operation to remain relevant. In Botswana the industry adapted the theme to **“Screen, Skills, Futures: Youth Shaping Botswana TV”** to focus on the role of youth in bringing about the changes required of television in the context of Botswana.

A highlight was the panel discussion moderated by Mr. Ramphael Kgabanyane, featuring media professionals such as Mr. Oaitse Senna, Ms. Thato Radijeng, and Ms. Latoyah Moji, who explored how youth are shaping the future of Botswana’s television

landscape. The panel debated the successes and challenges afflicting the Botswana television landscape ranging from policy support, small industry size, limited financial resources to global competition.

The program also showcased screenings from local stations like DSTv, Ytv, and UPICtv, alongside poetic performances and traditional dance, blending entertainment with thought provoking dialogue.

The event closed with a spirit of optimism, underscoring television’s enduring power to connect communities and amplify young voices.



Mabele & Ditladi Primary Schools to Advance ICT-Enabled Learning



November marked a significant milestone for primary school learning following official launches of two state-of-the-art Digital Centres at Ditladi Primary School on 28 November 2025 and Mabele Primary School on 28 November 2025. The event brought together policy makers, education stakeholders, community leadership as well as local communities in unison to celebrate a shared commitment to digital inclusion and quality education.

Officially launched by Honourable David Tshere M.P., Minister of Communications and Innovation, the Digital Centres form part of Government's broader drive to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution and ensure that learners across Botswana have equitable access to digital tools and connectivity. In his keynote address, Honourable Tshere emphasized that the facilities are designed not only to support teaching and learning, but also to inspire students and the wider communities (Ditladi and Mabele) to participate meaningfully in Botswana's emerging digital economy.

The centres are modern prefabricated ICT facility comprising a classroom accommodating 30 learners and equipped with 30 desktop computers, teacher laptops, a smartboard, printer, and high-speed broadband internet, supported by a local area network and dedicated server room. Delivered within time and budget at a cost of P1.59 million each, the projects demonstrate Government's

practical investment in strengthening ICT-enabled education, particularly in rural and remote areas.

These projects were implemented through a collaboration between Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) and the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF). Speaking on behalf of BOCRA, Mr. Martin Mokgware, the Chief Executive, highlighted that the initiative followed an assessment conducted in 2024, which revealed limited ICT resources at the schools. BOCRA, through the UASF, made a decision to facilitate the schools with ICT equipment as part of its continued resolve to drive connectivity in disadvantaged communities in line with its mandate of promoting countrywide inclusivity and digitisation.

The launches featured cultural performances by learners, remarks from community and education leaders, and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. Stakeholders expressed confidence that the Digital Centres would enhance learning outcomes, improve digital literacy, and position these Primary Schools as centres of excellence within their regions.

As Botswana accelerates its digital transformation agenda, initiatives such as the Ditladi and Mabele Primary Schools' Digital Centres underscore the power of partnerships in delivering lasting impact for learners and communities.

BOCRA Empowers Schools With ICT Training

Following the provision of Digital Centres to schools, the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) conducted an intensive ICT skills training programme from 19 to 20 January 2026. The training sessions were held at Mafitlhakgosi Primary School, Kgosi-Kgosi Primary School, Batlokwa National School, Botsalano Primary School, Mogobane Primary School, Kgomodiatshaba Primary School, Tewane Primary School, Ditladi Primary School and Mabele Primary School.

This initiative represented a significant step in bridging the digital divide within Botswana's education system. Teachers gained practical knowledge to integrate technology into their classrooms more effectively, while students were introduced to essential skills that will prepare them for the digital economy.

The training programme left a lasting impact on participating schools. Teachers now feel more confident in delivering ICT lessons, and students are better prepared to navigate the digital world safely. Beyond technical skills, the initiative instilled awareness of cybersecurity risks, empowering young learners to protect themselves online. Ultimately, BOCRA's efforts are helping to cultivate a generation of digitally literate citizens who can contribute meaningfully to Botswana's socio-economic development.

The programme focused on two key areas: **Basic IT Skills** and **Cybersecurity Awareness** and targeted teachers and students from standard 4 to 7. By equipping educators with enhanced digital competencies, BOCRA aimed to ensure the effective use of the newly established Digital Centres while fostering a culture of safe and responsible internet use among both teachers and learners.



World Radio Day 2026 in the Age of Artificial Intelligence



Botswana joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Radio Day 2026 on 13 February in Chadibe Village, in the Tswapong South district under the global theme **“Radio and Artificial Intelligence.”** The event brought together government leaders, broadcasters, communities and industry stakeholders to reflect on the persistent relevance of radio and its evolution in the digital era.

In his keynote address, Honourable David Tshere M.P., Minister of Communications and Innovation, emphasised radio’s unique power to inform, educate, entertain and unite communities, noting its historical role in nation building and social development in Botswana. He highlighted how advancements in digital technologies and artificial intelligence are transforming radio broadcasting through improved content creation, wider news gathering, and enhanced audience engagement via online platforms and social media.

The commemoration also marked a significant milestone in expanding access to broadcasting services. Through the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF), new transmitters installed in Chadibe, Maape and Maunatlala are set to improve commercial radio coverage across the Tswapong region, while additional infrastructure in Bobirwa will further promote diversity, plurality and consumer choice. As speakers echoed throughout the day, radio’s voice remains strong and with the responsible use of artificial intelligence, its future is even more promising.



Cyber Resilience in Action: Botswana Hosts First National Cyber Drill

In late February 2026, Gaborone became the stage for a groundbreaking moment in Botswana's digital journey. For four days, at the Travel Lodge, government officials, telecom operators, financial institutions, and cybersecurity professionals gathered for the country's first-ever National Cyber Drill hosted under the theme: **Cyber Resilience in Action**.

Led by the Botswana Computer Security Incident Response Team (BWCSIRT) and facilitated by the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), the drill was more than just a technical exercise. It was a national call to action, a chance to move beyond theory and test the country's collective ability to withstand and respond to real cyber threats.

The opening ceremony was graced by industry leaders and officiated by Honourable David Tshere M.P., the Minister of Communications & Innovation. The drill immersed participants in hands-on learning of a ransomware attack from start to the final simulation. They dissected Windows event logs, practiced digital forensics, explored advanced tools like KAPE and Hayabusa, and strengthened web application security. The highlight was the ransomware drill, where cross-sector teams worked together to trace attack vectors and contain the threat. The exercise served as a powerful reminder that collaboration provides the strongest defence to cyber threats.

Organizations left the drill with sharper incident response plans, stronger coordination channels, and a clearer picture of the vulnerabilities that must be addressed. More importantly, the drill reinforced Botswana CSIRT's role as the national hub for cybersecurity readiness and capacity building.

The inaugural drill was more than a technical milestone. It created impact by bringing together diverse voices, built trust across sectors, and sparked a shared commitment to safeguarding Botswana's digital future. As one participant put it, *"We didn't just learn tools; we learned teamwork."* With resilience now in action, Botswana is taking bold steps towards a safer, smarter, and more secure digital nation.



Outreach in Action

BOCRA at the **Global Expo Botswana 2025**

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) was honored to participate in the 18th edition of Global Expo Botswana, hosted by the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) from 8–11 October 2025 at the Botswana Conference & Exhibition Centre, Fairgrounds, Gaborone.



This year's Expo was held under the inspiring theme: ***“Unlocking Botswana’s Potential: Partnerships for Sustainable Growth.”*** The theme resonated strongly with BOCRA’s mission of fostering inclusive digital transformation and ensuring that communication services remain a cornerstone of sustainable national development.



LOBATSE & KANYE BNLS CONSUMER OUTREACH



Radio Botswana Financial Fraud Awareness Campaign



Inaugural Data Protection Day



Capacity Building Corner



MCI & BOCRA Board Meeting

Honorable David Tshere, Minister of Communications and Innovation and Assistant Minister Shawn Ntlhaile met with the newly appointed BOCRA Board to engage on Botswana's digital transformation.



ESG Framework Development Workshop

BOCRA invited key stakeholders to participate in a workshop aimed at supporting the development of an ESG framework to systematically integrate sustainability considerations into its core functions.



Data Protection Awareness Session

BOCRA, in collaboration with the Information and Data Protection Commission (IDPC) invited stakeholders to attend a Data Protection Awareness Session aimed at strengthening awareness and practical understanding of data protection obligations under the Data Protection Act.



Online Portal Refresher Training

BOCRA, hosted licensees and other key stakeholders for a refresher training on using the BOCRA online portal.



BOCRA Website Development Hackathon

BOCRA, in partnership with BDIH carried out a youth hackathon for the development of the BOCRA website.



Mind, Body, and Wellness

BOCRA hosts a Wellness Week for staff members, over a 3-day period. The wellness week consisted of various wellness teachings and activity including topics of financial management, nutrition, spirituality, mental and physical health.

Let's talk Data Protection



Privacy Is Everyone's Responsibility

Everyone plays a role in safeguarding personal information and maintaining public trust.



Think Before You Click

Phishing emails remain one of the biggest causes of data breaches. Verify suspicious emails, links, and attachments before opening them.



Double-Check Recipients

Before sending emails containing personal information, verify recipient addresses carefully to avoid accidental disclosures.



Protect Data During Travel

Be mindful when working in public places. Avoid discussing sensitive information where it can be overheard and intercepted.



Backup Important Data Regularly

Maintain secure backups to prevent data loss from cyberattacks or technical failures.



Dispose of Data Securely

Shred physical documents and permanently delete electronic files that are no longer needed.

2026 Information Communication Technology Quality of Service and Quality of Experience Guidelines



Scan the QR Code, or follow the link below to access this document.

<https://tinyurl.com/2026-QoE-QoS>



Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority

 Plot 50761, Independence Avenue, Gaborone

 info@bocra.org.bw

 +267 368 5500