

ZANTEL SET TO INCREASE DATA SERVICES COUNTRYWIDE

After dominating with good performance for data & Internet –the Zanzibar Telecoms Limited (ZANTEL) are anticipating improving its data Internet services and increasing access closer to the user in the entire country by the end of May this year.

The leading mobile broadband provider in the country, ZANTEL is set to expand its own network this year on the mainland and Zanzibar. In an interview with Business Times held this week, the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) for ZANTEL, Norman Moyo, said through the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology, the firm has geared up to extend more Internet towers in the entire country presumably by end of May this year so to improve data and get closer to the users.

“Well, our performance in data and Internet business has been great and through this CDMA platform we have managed to roll-out Internet services countrywide with the exceptions of Singida and Kigoma. Albeit, we will soon be able to cover the whole country in all over major towns,” the CCO stated.

The CCO further said that the demand for Internet connectivity is high as the world becoming a global village. To that end, he said ZANTEL would continue to expand its data network so as to meet its demand to the customer at quality of service and affordable price.

The company is expecting to increase more mobile's telecoms towers in the nation's commercial capital de facto, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Coast Region, Mwanza and Kilimanjaro.

According to the CCO, the company has targeted to roll-out 11 more mobile telecoms towers in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar and about 50 more mobile towers in up country.

Recently, the company launched two new Internet sites in Wete and Chake Chake in Pemba Island, Njiro-Arusha, Bukoba and Dar es Salaam. This has mainly contributed by the Internet connectivity high demand as the island is growing economically as new businesses are coming up attracting more visitors to the island.

Commenting on the services provided by ZANTEL, the Chairman for Tanzania Consumer Advocacy Society (TCAS), Daimon Mwakyembe, said “I am really impressed with the firm's initiatives to bring technology closer to the people at affordable price. Personally I use ZANTEL's services because it is cheaper and faster in downloading files.”

Mwakyembe who was the former Director General for Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), said if and when the company would extend its services further would serve various businesses, offices, institutions, hospitals, schools and residential areas in all over major towns benefit by accessing quality data services at affordable price.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Parasol Real Estate, Bernard Kihyo, said with an increase investment by ZANTEL in the country would help the economic benefits that would emerge from this development are great and would start to be felt by consumers in various parts of the country.

Kihyo cited that people could now be able to advertise online and create websites making it easy for tourists to book online and find out the best tourist attractions available in the country.

“The expansion of the data services would open up the country to more business opportunities as it will increase the floor of people to the country and creating employment and business opportunities leading to an increase trade as demand for goods and services increases,” he noted.

He said tourists and visitors to the island can enjoy their holiday or business trip with ease as they will be able to keep in touch with their family and friends back at home as well as colleagues back at the office.

The CCO for ZANTEL has said that his company provides capacity to 10 ISP's in Tanzania can't mention their names but 8 of them are among the top ten ISP's in the country.

“Our company has a a number of success with widest network coverage, affordable prices of the dongles which are now going for Tsh49,900 as opposed to Tsh150,000 about 8 months ago. We decided to subsidize the cost of the modem so that we can increase penetration of the service, flexible and affordable packages - daily, weekly and monthly bundles, network quality, and Stability/strength, no downtime and we offer the highest speed in the market - 3.1mbps,” Moyo explained.

ZANTEL has also donated Internet services to the cabinet of Revolution government of Zanzibar, speaker of House Representatives and the entire representatives as per the promise made by the CCO for ZANTEL during the seminar to the cabinet.

Pemba is the third region where ZANTEL has launched new Internet sites since the beginning of the year; the other two regions were Njoro in Arusha and Bukoba town.