

Namibia Cuts Fiber Optic Cable

Article Overview

Recent fiber optic cable vandalism in Namibia has disrupted services in multiple regions, prompting Telecom Namibia to accelerate its fiber rollout and security measures.

Recent Incidents

Telecom Namibia has reported several cases of fiber optic cable damage due to vandalism. In the Grootfontein Constituency of the Otjozondjupa region, vandals cut fiber cables at two locations, affecting fixed and mobile communications for thousands of customers in Okamatapati and surrounding farms. The damage included 11 of 24 fibers in one cable and the removal of a telephone pole along with a 20-meter section of cable. Restoration required replacing a 3 km stretch of fiber to resume services . Another incident occurred near Elisenheim, outside Windhoek, where vandals damaged a 53-meter section of fiber-optic cable, leaving several households without voice and internet services. Telecom Namibia technicians worked to replace the affected cable while urging the public to report any information about the perpetrators .

Causes and Challenges

These disruptions are part of a broader pattern of infrastructure vandalism and theft, particularly targeting copper networks, which are more vulnerable. Copper theft has been a persistent problem, prompting Telecom Namibia to transition to fiber-optic networks, which offer higher speeds, greater reliability, and reduced susceptibility to theft . Despite fiber's advantages, it is not immune to damage, which can occur accidentally during construction or deliberately through vandalism .

Response and Mitigation

To address these challenges, Telecom Namibia has accelerated its fiber rollout through partnerships with providers like Lightstruck and Demshi Investment Holdings. These agreements allow the company to lease open-access fiber networks, expand high-speed internet services, and replace copper infrastructure in high-risk areas . The company has also increased security measures, upgraded backbone networks, and implemented redundancy to minimize service disruptions . Telecom Namibia encourages public cooperation by offering rewards for information leading to the arrest of vandals and emphasizes that tampering with network infrastructure is a violation of state law .

Broader Impact

The expansion of fiber networks is critical for improving connectivity across Namibia, particularly in underserved areas. Enhanced fiber infrastructure supports remote work, online education, telemedicine, and economic development, while reducing the operational risks associated with copper theft . In summary, while

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fiber optic vandalism continues to pose challenges, Telecom Namibia is actively modernizing its network, improving service reliability, and implementing measures to protect critical digital infrastructure.

According to network status reports, SAT-3 was cut on Sunday morning, while WACS went down later that evening.

The fibre-optic cables being laid in Namibian neighbourhoods represent a major leap forward in the country's digital

Expanding Connectivity Across Namibia Telecom Namibia's fiber network expansion has focused on several key

The recent theft of copper cables and vandalism of critical telecommunications infrastructure have resulted in

The government is looking at strengthening laws and enforcement measures to curb the growing problem of copper

Copper and fibre optic cables were then cut in the manhole and sections of copper cable

NAMIBIA will receive its second submarine fibre-optic internet cable this year, which promises to enhance the

Recently, Windhoek residents have been subjected to major ground-digging works as private contractors rush to lay

Staff Reporter TELECOM Namibia is grappling with poor connectivity due to a break in the fibre optic cables of the

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Telecom Namibia technicians went in to begin working on the restoration that includes the replacement of a 3km long fibre optic

Telecom Namibia says it has signed a strategic partnership agreement with local open-access fibre network provider

Learn how to repair a damaged or cut fiber optic cable with step-by-step instructions, essential tools, and best

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KIGALI - Plans by African countries to jointly construct an undersea telecommunications cable suffered a setback on

Thirteen countries across Africa experienced Internet outages on Thursday due to damage to submarine fiber optic

The WACS maintenance, set to run from June 1 to 16, includes repairs, upgrades, and technical checks on the 14,000

Web: <https://bssoda.pl>

