

BTC and Powertel sign a memorandum of understanding
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The Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) and Zimbabwe's cable telecommunications firm, PowerTel, on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which the state utility outfit will provide PowerTel with Internet services as well as mobile net freeway.

Speaking before the signing of the memorandum, BTC Chief Executive Officer, Thapelo Lippe, said though the deal had taken a while to materialise, they were finally proud that they are going to work together with PowerTel in taking their services forward and Northward.

Duncan Pie, the BTC Head of Wholesale reiterated Lippe's remarks adding that they saw it needful to expand their services into the region, hence having PowerTel on board.

"We chose PowerTel because of their expansive network services and strategies," Pie said.

He also added that they had so far had a similar deal with Zambia and they intend to expand their services.

Managing Director of PowerTel, Samuel Maminimini, said he was optimistic that their relationship with BTC is destined for greater things, quipping that "the deal will provide affordable access to communications to the citizens of Botswana and Zimbabwe".

PowerTel, one of Zimbabwe's telecommunications players, has recently rolled out a 3G network after Zimbabwe's telecommunications regulator, the Post and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) granted 3G network services to Zimbabwe's telecommunication providers.

PowerTel has spent US\$4.4 million in the installation of the 3G network service.