

**PRESIDENTIAL SWEARING-IN**  
12 MAY 2026

Government has already invested heavily in the National Backbone Infrastructure project, which continues to extend fibre connectivity across the country through the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U).

BY TREVOR LUTALO

Uganda is accelerating its transition into a digital economy through major investments in ICT infrastructure, broadband expansion, e-government services, and innovation ecosystems.

Under the Digital Transformation Roadmap, government is focusing on expanding connectivity, lowering internet costs, strengthening cybersecurity, and improving digital service delivery across sectors such as education, health, agriculture, trade, and commerce.

The roadmap, spearheaded by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, outlines plans to expand broadband infrastructure, increase online access to government services, strengthen data centres, and promote digital skills development among Ugandans.



The executive director of NITA-U, Dr Hatwib Mugasa (with mic), demonstrates to President Museveni and Dr Chris Baryomunsi key sites in Kanungu District that will connect to the NBI Phase five during the launch on November 29, 2025. PHOTO/FILE

# ICT Infrastructure: Driving digital transformation

Government has already invested heavily in the National Backbone Infrastructure project, which continues to extend fibre connectivity across the country through the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U). The expansion of fibre networks is intended to improve internet accessibility, support business growth, and enhance communication between government institutions.

The digital transformation agenda is also supporting initiatives such as e-government platforms, national identification systems, innovation hubs, and emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and Big Data. Government says these technologies are expected to improve efficiency, transparency, and competitiveness within the economy.

Speaking on Uganda's digital ambitions, Chris Baryomunsi said technology is now central to service delivery and economic growth.

"Through this plan, we envision a Uganda where broadband coverage is universal, government services are automated, and local ICT inno-

ventions are commercialised to drive inclusive growth and create jobs. This is about transforming our economy through digitalisation," he said.

Government says the roadmap is designed to create a well-connected Uganda capable of competing in the global digital economy.

Targets include improving broadband penetration, increasing household connectivity, reducing the cost of internet access, and expanding access to online public services.

The ICT sector has increasingly become a key driver of economic activity, supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and digital commerce. Mobile money platforms, digital banking, online learning, and e-commerce continue to expand opportunities for businesses and individuals across the country.

Officials say investments in digital infrastructure are also expected to improve efficiency within government institutions by reducing bureaucracy and increasing transparency in public service delivery. Several government services, including passport applications, tax payments, business registration, and national identification processes, are increasingly being digitised.

At the same time, govern-

ment is promoting local innovation through incubation programmes and support for technology startups, particularly among young people. Innovation hubs and skilling programmes are helping young entrepreneurs develop digital solutions in agriculture, health-care, transport, education, and financial services.

The education sector is also expected to benefit significantly from improved ICT infrastructure, especially through expanded access to digital learning platforms and online educational resources. In healthcare, digital systems are increasingly being used for patient management, health data collection, and telemedicine services.

Cybersecurity and data protection are emerging as key priorities as digital adoption grows.

Government is working on policy and legal frameworks to regulate emerging technologies while protecting users and institutions from cyber threats.

As Uganda advances its digital transformation agenda, ICT infrastructure is increasingly being viewed not only as a technology issue but as a critical pillar for economic competitiveness, job creation, innovation, and national development.

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