

Rwanda will begin shutting down older mobile networks as part of a major digital upgrade aimed at expanding high-speed internet access, improving connectivity and preparing the country for wider adoption of advanced technologies, including 5G.

The government said 3G services will be discontinued nationwide on **June 30, 2027**, while the older 2G network will be phased out later after an assessment confirms that newer technologies can support users without disrupting essential services.

The transition marks one of Rwanda's biggest telecommunications upgrades in recent years and is expected to free up network capacity for faster, more reliable digital services. Officials say the move will strengthen mobile connectivity and support growing demand for online public services, digital payments and business applications.



Under a roadmap released by the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT), telecom operators will be encouraged to invest more in expanding and improving 4G services while accelerating preparations for wider 5G deployment.

MINICT said the shift away from older networks will improve internet speeds, enhance voice call quality and reduce network interruptions. It will also support increased access to services that depend on reliable connectivity, including Mobile Money, digital government platforms, online education and telemedicine.

The migration will be overseen by MINICT and the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) in partnership with mobile network operators, government institutions and private sector stakeholders.

Authorities said maintaining uninterrupted access to essential services, including voice calls, SMS, Mobile Money and emergency communications, will remain a priority throughout the transition.

Before the nationwide shutdown of 3G, Rwanda plans to conduct pilot switch-off exercises in 2026 while continuing to expand and strengthen 4G coverage across the country.

Mobile phone users have been encouraged to check whether their devices and SIM

cards support 4G services. MTN Rwanda subscribers can verify compatibility by dialing ***4561#**, while Airtel Rwanda users can dial ***2555*4#**.

Businesses and public institutions still using systems that depend on 2G or 3G networks, including payment services, transport systems, healthcare and public safety infrastructure, have been advised to begin upgrading their equipment.

The transition is part of Rwanda's broader digital transformation agenda to modernize communications infrastructure, expand access to reliable internet and support a technology-driven economy.