

Mobile penetration on the decline in Rwanda

According to the most recent statistics from Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), the country's mobile penetration rate has declined. The report shows that mobile telephone subscriptions in Rwanda decreased from 8.37 million at the end of April- 2017 to 8.35 million at the end of May 2017, showing a decrease of 0.32% for the total number of March 2017 active mobile telephone subscribers.



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This indicates a decline of 0.28% in the total number of active mobile subscribers, which pushed the country's penetration rate down to 72.45% from 72.65% in April.

The country's mobile phone penetration rate stood at 79.2% or 8.9 million subscribers as at the end of December 2016. The results show a big decline in the number of active mobile phone subscribers of the first five months of the year.

The report revealed a decline in prepaid mobile subscribers for the three telecom mobile operators in the country. Tigo Rwanda had 66,065 postpaid subscribers, with a growth rate of 3.1%, up from 64,050, while its prepaid mobile users dropped to 3.186 million from 3.189 million the previous month.

MTN Rwanda's postpaid subscribers inched lower marginally from 50,829 to 50,787 users in May, and prepaid customers went down 0.45% from 3.48 million users to 3.46 million.

Airtel Rwanda's prepaid customers declined to 1.57 million from 1.58 million clients the previous month, leaving the total number of its active mobile numbers at 1.581 million.

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