



GENERAL NOTICE NO. 5/2022

**DECISION IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 OF THE ESWATINI
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ACT, 2013:**

**REDUCTION OF ESWATINI POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CORPORATION WHOLESALE RATES**

1. PRICE BENCHMARK STUDY 2020

1.1 The Commission undertook an assessment of EPTC's wholesale Leased Line, Broadband and Installation costs and compared EPTC's available Wholesale Leased Line Prices, Wholesale Internet Broadband Prices and Installation prices with similar-sized markets within SADC. The benchmark countries were Botswana and Lesotho.

2. FINDINGS

2.1 Eswatini prices remain the highest for Wholesale Installation fee, Wholesale Leased Lines and Wholesale Internet Broadband with comparable and competitive markets in the SADC region.

2.2 Interconnection or access services prices in Eswatini are high, which contributes to market distortion in the downstream market for leased lines and internet broadband, to the detriment of end-users.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS IN TERMS OF SECTION 32 OF THE ACT

In light of the findings above, and in exercise of its function to ensure that all communications services best promote economic and social development and to protect end-users from excessive pricing, the Commission issued a proposed decision for public consultation. The Commission received comments from the Competition Commission, EPTC and MTN Eswatini, respectively.

4. FINAL DECISION IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 OF THE ACT

Having duly considered comments received through the public consultation process, the Commission hereby issues a Final Decision for the implementation of a 60% price reduction on a three (3) year glide path, and directs as follows:

1. EPTC to review and reduce current wholesale installation costs;
2. EPTC to introduce a flat fee installation cost for all bandwidth speeds;
3. EPTC to offer wholesale lastmile ADSL - shared internet access services at wholesale rates;
4. EPTC to review and reduce all wholesale National Leased Line rates; and
5. EPTC to review and reduce all wholesale Internet Bandwidth rates across all speeds.

EPTC to implement a three-year glide path reduction in wholesale rates as per table below:

Table 1: National Leased Lines Wholesale Rates Reduction Across All Speeds – Three Year Glide Path (60%)

Percentage Reduction	
Year 1	20%
Year 2	25%
Year 3	33%

Table 2: Wholesale Internet Bandwidth Rates - Three Year Glide Path (60%)

Percentage Reduction	
Year 1	25%
Year 2	29%
Year 3	29%

The Pricing Benchmark Study Report is available on the Commission website at www.esccom.org.sz

Effective date of decision: 01 April 2022

Mvilawemphi Dlamini
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

