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STATISTICS BOTSWANA RELEASES 2024 ICT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

Internet Access on the Rise, Digital Divide Persists in Rural Areas

Gaborone, Botswana – Statistics Botswana has released the results of the 2024 Botswana Household Access and Individual Use of ICTs Survey, revealing significant growth in internet access and technology adoption, alongside persistent gaps in rural connectivity and digital skills.

The survey, conducted nationwide, provides key insights into how households and individuals access and use information and communication technologies (ICTs). It covers internet and telephone connectivity, computer ownership, e-commerce, e-government usage, e-skills, and protection of children online, as well as awareness and disposal of ICT e-waste.

Key Findings:

- **Internet Access:** 68.9% of households had internet access in 2024, up from 40.6% in 2014. Mobile broadband via handsets remains the dominant mode (86.1%).
- **Urban-Rural Divide:** Internet access is much higher in urban areas (79.2%) than in rural areas (20.8%).
- **Computer Ownership:** 25.8% of households had computers, with laptops being the most common (23.2%).
- **Mass Media Access:** Television ownership dropped to 54.8% (from 60.3% in 2014), and radio ownership to 51.8% (from 59.4%).
- **Individual Use:** 84.2% of individuals aged 5+ use mobile phones; 57.5% use the internet, and 32.2% use computers.
- **E-Commerce & E-Government:** E-commerce usage remains low at 7.9%, while e-government adoption stands at 8.5%.
- **Children Online:** Of households with children under 15 who have internet access, 45.9% reported that children used the internet. YouTube, search engines, and TikTok are the most popular platforms among children.
- **ICT E-Waste:** 40.9% of households reported having unused or obsolete ICT equipment, with mobile phones being the most common. Awareness of proper disposal methods remains low.

Speaking on the findings, **Dr. Lucky Mokgathe, Acting Statistician General**, noted:

“ICTs are a critical driver for economic diversification and service delivery improvement. The latest results show progress, but also highlight areas requiring



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targeted interventions, particularly in rural access, digital literacy, and safe technology use for children.”

Full details of the survey are available on the Statistics Botswana website at www.statsbots.org.bw.

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