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EXTRAORDINARY

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ANNOUNCES THAT THE LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY (LTA), PURSUANT TO PART III, (2), OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION ACT OF 2007, THE LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY (LTA), HEREBY ISSUES AND PUBLISHES ORDER NO: 0018-01-15-20 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE ROAMING ON PUBLIC MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS IN THE ECOWAS REGION.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

**HENRY B. FAHNBULLEH
ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
FEBRUARY 4, 2020**



LTA-ORDER: 0018-01-15-20

**On the Implementation of Free Roaming
On Public Mobile Communications Networks
in the ECOWAS Region**

January 15, 2020 _{1/15}

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PART 1: PRELIMINARY

1.1 This Order is made by the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (the "LTA") pursuant to Part III of the Telecommunications Act (2007) of the Republic of Liberia (the "Act").

1.2 The purpose of this Order is to oblige all mobile telecommunications service providers licensed within the Republic of Liberia to implement the provisions of ECOWAS Regulation C/REG 21/12/17 on Roaming on Public Mobile Communications Networks in the ECOWAS Region.

1.3 The terms used in this Order shall have the same meaning as given to them in ECOWAS Regulation C/REG 21/12/17, attached hereto at Annex 1.

1.4 For the purpose of this Order, implementation of the ECOWAS Regulation may be referred to as "free roaming".

PART II: BACKGROUND

2.1 In November 2016 Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Cote D'Ivoire & Guinea agreed in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, to a **"Memorandum of Understanding on the Basic Principles for the Implementation of Free Roaming"** (the **Abidjan Protocol**) among those countries. Mobile communications operators in these Abidjan Protocol countries have since 2017 implemented "free roaming" and have since been joined by Togo, Benin and Sierra Leone.

2.2 In December 2017, ECOWAS Ministers of Telecommunications adopted **ECOWAS Regulation C/REG 21/12/17 on "Roaming on Public Mobile Communications Networks in the ECOWAS Region"**. The intent of this Regulation is to establish a harmonized legal and tariff framework for roaming on public networks within ECOWAS. The Regulation is applicable to all providers of mobile communications services within the ECOWAS region.

2.3 In April 2019 telecommunications regulators from the Mano River Union countries - Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea & Cote D'Ivoire - agreed in Burkina Faso to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for regulatory cooperation, particularly regarding implementation of free roaming. 145

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PART III: FREE ROAMING

3.1 All licensees subject to this Order shall comply with and implement the provisions of ECOWAS Regulation C/REG 21/12/17 no later than 90 days after coming into effect of this Order.

3.2 All licensees subject to this Order shall provide to the LTA all information required for the implementation of ECOWAS Regulation C/REG 21/12/17 and shall provide adequate access and interconnection in order to ensure connectivity and interoperability of roaming services within the ECOWAS region.

3.3 All licensees subject to this Order shall conclude roaming agreements and implement roaming with all licensed mobile communications providers in the following ECOWAS countries already engaged in ECOWAS Community free roaming: Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali, Benin, Sierra Leone and Togo. The LTA shall inform licensees, through a written Notice, when other countries join the ECOWAS free roaming community.

3.4 Licensees are required to comply with the following principles of free roaming:

3.4.1 **Reception of Roaming Calls & SMS:** Reception of roaming calls in a Community country shall be free of charge for a total of 300 minutes within a 30-day period. On expiry of the 300 minutes, reception of roaming calls shall be billed on standard roaming tariffs.

3.4.2 **Origination of Roaming Calls & SMS:** The tariff for a roaming call or SMS originating on a visited network and terminating on any network of the visited country shall not exceed the highest tariff for local calls/SMS of that visited country. This tariff shall apply for a maximum of 30 days after which standard roaming tariffs shall be applicable.

3.4.3 **Intra-Community Roaming Calls & SMS:** The tariff for a roaming call/SMS originating in a visited country and terminating in any other Community country (including home country) shall not exceed the highest tariff for international calls from the visited country to other countries in the Community. This tariff shall be valid for a period of 30 days.

3.4.4 **Service Provider Revenue Sharing:** The wholesale charge that a visited network may levy on the roaming customer's home network for local roaming calls/SMS shall not exceed 60% of the retail charge for a local call/SMS.

The wholesale charge that a visited network may levy on a roaming customer's home network for an intra-community call/SMS shall not exceed 60% of the intra-community retail international charge.

3.4.5 **Emergency Roaming Calls & SMS:** A Community roaming customer shall have access to emergency numbers of the visited country and receive emergency alerts under the same conditions as subscribers of the visited country. Roaming calls to emergency numbers shall be free of charge.

3.4.6 **Service Provider Roaming Agreements:** Licensees are expected to enter roaming agreements with all other service providers in Community countries and meet all reasonable

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requests for Community wholesale roaming access under transparent and non-discriminatory conditions.

3.4.7 Subscriber Identification: Licensees shall take all steps to strengthen their subscriber identification processes for the prevention of fraud in compliance with the relevant LTA regulation.

3.4.8 Exemption on International Surcharges: Customers roaming in the following Community countries, and those countries to be subsequently specified by the LTA, shall be exempt from paying surcharges on international incoming and outgoing calls/SMS from/to Community countries: Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali, Benin, Sierra Leone and Togo.

3.5 Transitional Arrangements

The eight ECOWAS countries indicated in Part 3.3 above implement Free Roaming under the terms and conditions of the Abidjan Protocol. These countries have committed to migrating to the terms and conditions of the ECOWAS Regulation. By this Order, licensees in Liberia are required to implement Free Roaming in accordance with the Abidjan Protocol until such time when all other countries migrate to implementation of the full ECOWAS Regulation.

PART IV: COMPLIANCE

4.1 Non-compliance by licensees subject to this Order with any provisions of this Order, shall subject the licensee to the relevant fines, penalties or other sanctions as provided for in the Act, the LTA's *Regulations for the Treatment of Confidentiality, Dispute Resolution, Compliance and Enforcement, 2009* (LTA-REG-0002), and any other applicable LTA Rule, Order or Regulation. KE

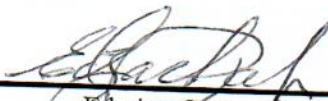
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THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS AT JANUARY 17th, 2020. UPON PUBLICATION, IT SHALL HAVE THE SAME LEGAL FORCE AS A REGULATION OF THE LTA AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE LTA OR PURSUANT TO LEGAL PROCESSES.

ISSUED THIS 17th DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 2020 IN THE CITY OF PAYNESVILLE, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA. *W* *ES*


Signed:



Edwina Crump Zackpah
Commissioner




Zotawon D. Titus
Commissioner



Israel A. Akinsanya
Commissioner

Maria G. Harrison
Commissioner



Ivan G. Brown
Chairman