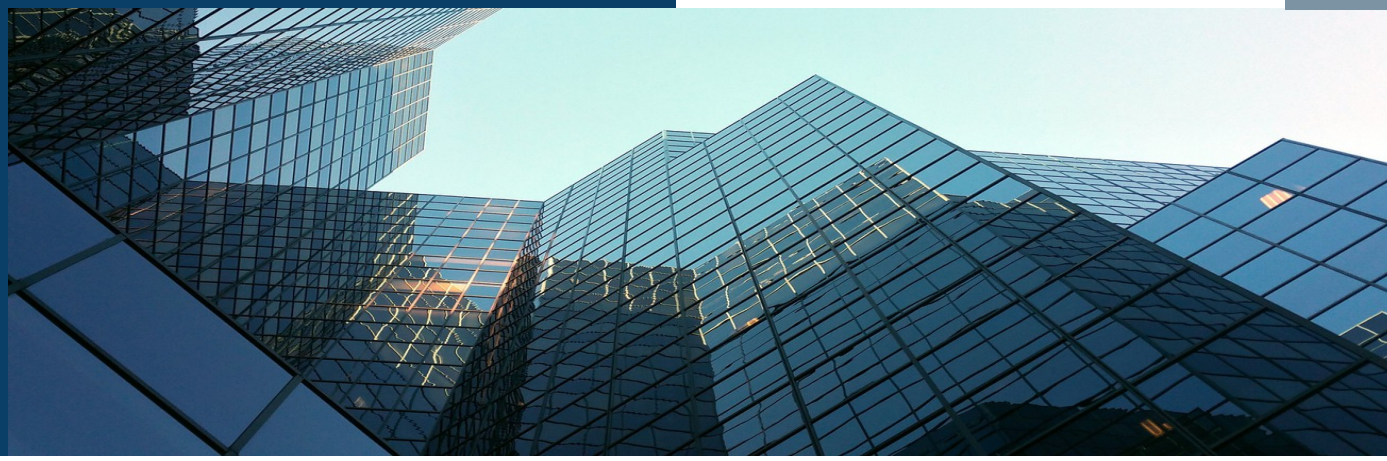

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY UPDATE

The following are recent updates on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)'s activities and other developments in the Nigerian Telecommunications Industry:

- The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has directed Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to conduct an independent audit of their billing system to address consumer complaint about data depletion. This motive is to provide enhanced transparency to consumers. See the link to the update here:https://www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/news-headlines/1454-ncc-a-digital-enabler-of-the-renewed-hope-agenda

- In line with the powers of the Commission to grant and renew licences, promote fair competition and develop the Communications Industry under the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003, the Commission has informed stakeholders about the temporary suspension on the issuance of 3 types of operator licences: (1) Interconnect Exchange Licence, (2) Mobile Virtual Network Operator Licence, and (3) Value Added Service Aggregator Licence. However, pending applications in the three licence categories before the temporary suspension which took effect on 17th of May 2024, will be considered on their merits by the NCC. See the link to the update here: https://www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/public-notices/1447-temporary-suspension-of-the-issuance-of-communications-licences-in-three-3-categories

- The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in exercise of its functions under the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003 has published three draft regulations and guidelines for stakeholders' comments. The draft regulatory instruments are: (1) Telecommunications Network Interconnection Regulations (as amended), (2) Guidelines on Procedure for Granting Approval to Disconnect Telecommunications Operators (as amended) and (3) Guidelines on Dispute Resolution (as amended). See the link to the update and access to the draft instruments here: https://www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/public-notices/1444-public-inquiries-on-draft-regulation-on-telecommunications-networks-interconnection-guidelines-on-procedure-for-granting-approval-to-disconnect-telecommunications-operators-dispute-resolution

- In line with the powers of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to encourage local and foreign investments in the Nigerian Communications industry, as well as the introduction of innovative services and practices in the industry under the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003, the NCC has proposed the urgent need to set up a framework for joint monitoring, risk mitigation, and emergency response procedures for the submarine cables that pass through the West African sub-region. See the link to the update here: https://www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/news-headlines/1442-press-statement-nigeria-seeks-joint-west-africa-regional-protection-of-undersea-cables

- The Nigerian Communications Commission recently collaborated with The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to enhance processes related to the NIN-SIM linkage. The collaboration aims to ensure: 1) seamless experience for Nigerian telecommunication subscribers in streamlining the NIN-SIM linkage. 2) Public awareness in understanding NIN-SIM linkage requirements. 3) Assistance to telecommunication operators in Data verification and validation. 4) harmonization of data protection and privacy regulations to safeguard the confidentiality and security of subscriber information. See the link to the update here: https://www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/news-headlines/1439-joint-press-statement-nimc-ncc-unveil-collaborative-efforts-to-enhance-nin-sim-linkage-processes

- The Nigerian Communications Commission announced that they will be requesting pertinent records and regular updates from Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) in order to promote a stable telecommunications ecosystem and to proactively prevent instances of interconnection debt dispute within the Nigerian telecommunications industry. See the link to the update here: https://www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/news-headlines/1437-press-statement-re-pre-disconnection-notice-glo-mtn-resolve-interconnect-debt-dispute-2

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- The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) informed all unlicensed operators against the unauthorized use of the 5.4GHz frequency band. The NCC clarified that this frequency band falls in the licensed category, and any transmission of signals or use of equipment on this band without obtaining a proper frequency license is illegal. See the link to the update here: https://www.ncc.gov.ng/media-centre/public-notices/1425-unauthorised-use-of-5-4ghz-frequency-band

- The NCC issued a first amendment to the Business Rules & Operational Processes for Implementation of the Registration of Communications Subscribers Regulations in April 2024. See the link to the first amendment here: https://www.ncc.gov.ng/accessible/documents/1189-registration-of-communications-subscribers-regulations-business-rules-2024/file

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