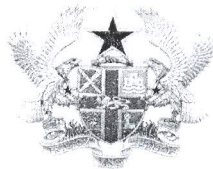


*In case of reply the **number and date** of this letter should be **quoted***

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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
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My Ref. No:

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June 11, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE ON THE COMMON MONITORING PLATFORM CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Further to my statement to Parliament on 31/5/18 in which I indicated that the deadline for all Telcos to connect to the Common Monitoring Platform was 11/6/18, I am delighted to update you on progress so far made on the connectivity.

All Telcos were notified by the National Communications Authority (NCA) on 11/5/18 of government's intention to establish the Common Monitoring Platform (CMP) envisaged by Act 864. By law, they had seven (7) days within which to challenge the manner in which the NCA intended to proceed if they were dissatisfied with the proposed technical solution. None of them did so. Presumably they were satisfied with the proposed solution.

The Telecoms Chamber later requested to meet the NCA to express some concerns they belatedly had and the Minister directed them to channel their concerns to her for redress. Section 7(b) (7) of the Communication Service Tax (Amendment) Act, Act 864 provides that;

"A service provider who has an objection to a request for the introduction of an equipment to the physical node of its network as provided under subsection 4 (b) shall within seven days of receipt of the request apply to the High Court for a determination of the objection stating reasons for the objection, to the request".

The MNOs ought to have gone to court if they had any serious objection to the introduction of the CMP equipment but chose dialogue with the Regulator and the Ministry of Communications (MoC). In that same spirit, the MoC accommodated and addressed their concerns. The meeting was held on 16/5/18, during which they indicated they were worried the proposed KelniGVG architecture would be intrusive and expose the contents of customers communication.

The Minister assured them of full compliance with the law on protection of the content of customers voice and data communication, as the contract itself mandated KelniGVG to do so. She directed their technical officers to work with NCA to ensure all their concerns were addressed. Apparently dissatisfied with the outcome of this meeting, the Telecom Chamber collaborated with Imani to launch a blistering attack on the CMP starting the very next day, 17/5/18, instead of going to court. What happened subsequently is water under the bridge.

Government is fully committed to the implementation of the CMP in compliance with our law and has made that clear to all Mobile Network Operators (MNOs). In this regard, following a meeting with MNO Chief Executive Officers, I am happy to announce that they are all cooperating with the NCA, Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and their contractors to implement the CMP.

Physical installation of servers has been completed at various data centres of all the MNOs and preparations towards testing and transmission are at various stages of completion.

Even though they were not required to, changes have been made to the original technical specifications to provide a further layer of protection and security to address the privacy concerns of the MNOs. A filtering server and mirroring installation have been included to ensure that only the signalling information needed for the purposes of traffic monitoring will be received by the NCA and GRA. No other information –either voice, SMS, video or data, will be received by KelniGVG servers.

We hereby reiterate our full commitment to comply with the laws of the land in the implementation of this project as we have stated from day one. The NCA and GRA will continue to meet with the technical teams of all MNOs, to address any issues which may arise in the implementation of this project.

Government's revenue will be assured and the privacy of all our citizens will also be protected. This is non-negotiable.



MRS. URSULA OWUSU-EKUFUL (MP)
MINISTER