



National Telecommunications Commission

NATCOM

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PUBLIC NOTICE

002/16

FM Broadcast Radio and TV Stations in Default

Freetown, 3rd February 2016 ... It has come to the notice of the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM), the body mandated by law to assign and manage the radio frequency spectrum in the country that a good number of FM Broadcast Radio and TV Stations have over the years reneged on paying their annual spectrum fees, which constitutes a persistent breach of their licence condition.

The Commission considers this perpetual breach with serious exception that cannot be tolerated. All owing (defaulting) FM Broadcast radio and TV Stations are hereby urged to immediately regularize their payment status or face appropriate regulatory punitive action, which will include but not limited to naming and shaming; and ultimately, cancellation of their licence and litigation to reclaim outstanding debts.

Further, the Commission wishes it to be known that all FM radio broadcast and TV stations holding on to resources assigned to them for a period exceeding two years without utilizing those resources are strongly advised to relinquish such resources and immediately pay up all accrued debts due and owing to the Commission.

The attention of Station Managers and or Technicians is also drawn to the incidence of **broadcasting interference** caused by either over- modulation of the signal, increasing the power (wattage) of the transmitter, lack of a band pass filter or a combination of two or all of these factors, which is also a serious breach of the licence.

Finally, all FMs licensed to broadcast in Freetown, **SHOULD NOT** broadcast beyond the geographical boundaries of Freetown. You are warned that you are committing an offence liable to regulatory penalties.