

NATCOM'S NEW CHAIRMAN RAPS EMPLOYEES

By Abdul Kuyateh

The Management and Staff of the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM), on Monday 6th January 2014, formally welcomed their newly appointed Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Dr Tom Obaleh Kargbo at a well attended ceremony held at the HQ of the Commission.



NATCOM's New Chairman, Dr Tom Obaleh Kargbo

Responding to welcome statements made by various speakers, Dr Kargbo thanked Management for their kind gesture of welcoming him to the NATCOM fold with open hands.

He expressed gratitude to HE President Ernest Bai Koroma, for giving him the opportunity to serve in the new capacity. He encouraged members of staff to be dedicated to work in order to achieve success and make NATCOM a force to reckon with. He promised to improve staff welfare, but cautioned that “the wrath of the Commission will fall” on non-performance and indiscipline.

He encouraged colleague Commissioners and senior management to follow due processes and respect the role of the Director General as “Chief of Staff”. He warned against “back deals” that would bring the integrity of the Commission to question.

He appealed to the staff for their cooperation to transform the institution from mere “licensing to regulation.”

Making a welcome statement on behalf of the General Directorate, the Deputy Director General, Senesie Kallon, expressed optimism that the newly appointed Chairman “would rise up to the occasion to deliver on the confidence His Excellency has reposed in him.”

He underscored the importance of Telecoms and ICTs as catalysts in the accumulation and application of information and knowledge for the wellbeing of society. He highlighted the opportunities at hand and challenges to be addressed along the way in shaping the destiny of the sector, adding that “in doing our work, we should be fearless, bold, passionate, relentless, transparent, dedicated and above all forthright”.

He mentioned a few strategic issues for the attention of the new Chairman, which include, the National Broadband Strategy by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO); the NATCOM/IMC Position Paper on Digital Terrestrial Television; the current Sierra Leone Cable Divestiture; and the 2012/2013 Status Report.

He assured the Commission’s collaboration to work with the policy-making Ministry of Information and Communications to further the agenda of ICT development on many fronts, such as the Internet Exchange Point (IXP), ECOWAN Cross order, National Fiber backbone, e-Governance, to name just a few.

Commissioner Max William Thompson gave a brief profile of the new Chairman, calling him a “teacher, a Lecturer, a diplomat and administrator and a Regulator”.

The ceremony was chaired by the Director General, Mohamed Bangura.