

PUBLIC NOTICE

NO INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF TOP-UP CARD

Freetown, 14 February, 2014 ... In the last few weeks, the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM), the body mandated by an Act of Parliament, the Telecommunications Act 2006 as amended, to regulate the telecommunications sector in the country, has been drawn to the unlawful increase in the price of the top-up cards sold to end-users.

The Commission wants to make it very clear to the public that it has **not approved any increase in the price of recharge card**, and strongly frowns at any attempt by any individual or group of unscrupulous individuals in breach of regulation against the interest of consumers.

The Commission wishes to reiterate that the approved price of recharge card (top-up card) sold to the end-user remains at **Le 4,100 per 100 units throughout the country**. Only the Commission has the mandate to approve price increase when deemed necessary and upon formal request from the Operators, citing realistic reasons why they need to increase the price of the product.

It is therefore criminal for any individual or group of individuals engaged in the telecoms market to take the law into their hands by selling recharge card above the stipulated cap price of **Le 4,100.00 without the due approval of the Commission**. NATCOM will always communicate to consumers when there is a need to reasonably increase the prices of top up cards consistent with due process.

The Commission also wishes the public to note that there is an ongoing joint operation with the Cyber Crime Prevention Unit of the Sierra Leone Police to arrest and prosecute anyone caught selling top-up prices to end-users above the approved price.

Finally, the Commission frowns at the orchestrated attempt the so-called Top Up Sellers Association utilizing the media to bring the Commission to disrepute. The Commission remains steadfast in the execution of its mandate to protect the

consumer and encourage investment in and the growth of the sector to contribute meaningfully to the Agenda for Prosperity. The Commission leaves its doors open to any party seeking its attention in the delivery of telecommunications services at all times.