

NATCOM DISHES OUT HUNDRED MILLION TO FIGHT EBOLA

Promptly responding to the President's recent broadcast on the deadly Ebola out-break, the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) has leaped forward to make a handsome contribution of Le 100,000,000.00 (hundred million Leones) towards fighting the dreaded virus. NATCOM deems it morally mandatory to join national efforts in nipping the contagious disease to the bud and save life. "I believe that the money will be of help to the medical team in procuring some of the necessary logistics to do their work" said Mr Mohamed Bangura, Director-General of NATCOM.

In addition to financial support the Commission will also facilitate SMS text messaging of vital communications on Ebola by mobile networks. Contributing to the national awareness-raising drive, the Commission has made it mandatory for all visitors to NATCOM to sanitize their hands before entering the building and interacting with the staff.

MOBILE OPERATORS CONVERTS TO LEONE PER SECOND BILLING

Sierra Leone's Telecoms Regulatory Authority, the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) has ordered mobile phone companies to start billing their subscribers on Leones per second rather than units per minute.

"This will enable our people to measure their money's worth" the Director-General of NATCOM, Mr Bangura explained. He went further to state that as per calculations based on the approved price cap of Le 4,100.00 (Four thousand one hundred Leones) for 100 Units and 10 units per minute, subscribers will now be billed Le 6.83 cents (six Leones eighty-three cents) per second for on-net calls.

The deadline for the conversion to take effect was 30th June, 2014, and the Commission has levied a penalty of USD2, 000.00 per day against any operator who failed to comply after the stated deadline. Meanwhile, the Commission intends to further drop down the inter-connect charge between networks from its current seven US cents to a more reasonable rate that would increase affordability for users.

NATCOM SUPPORTS POLICY DISSEMINATION...*distributes Right to Access Information Act country-wide*

Fulfilling its commitment in the Performance Contract of 2014 signed with HE Dr Ernest Bai Koroma to support policy dissemination, the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) has printed and distributed 4,000 copies of the Right to Access Information Law enacted in 2013.

A three-man team of NATCOM officials led by the Corporate Secretary, Abdul Kuyateh, has traversed the country to present copies of the Act to learning institutions including tertiary institutions and secondary schools. Among the institutions that benefited from the gesture are Northern Polytech, Eastern Polytech, University of Njala, University of Makeni (UNIMAK), Port Loko Teachers College and Secondary Schools in all the twelve districts of the country.

In Bo, the team paid a courtesy call to the Resident Minister South, Hon Muctarr Conteh, who expressed gratitude to NATCOM for the donation, describing the document as a vital pillar of democratic governance. He referred to the Chairman of NATCOM, Dr Tom Obaleh Kargbo as a man of progress who leaves no stone unturned to achieve results. “I am not surprised because the name Tom Obaleh means progress, transparency and development” the Minister said.



Resident Minister South, Muctarr Conteh, receives copies of the Right to Access Information Act from NATCOM Officials.

In his response, the Acting Principal, Eastern Polytech, Mr Adonis Kanneh expressed gratitude and assured that the material would be used for its intended purpose. He made reference to previous support his institution benefited from NATCOM, adding that he is optimistic that the partnership with the Commission will grow from strength to strength.



NATCOM Official presents copies to the Principal, Eastern Polytech in Kenema

“I wish to express my sincere gratitude for this token of a very relevant document. I will assure you that we would judiciously use this document for the purpose for which it is intended” adding, “this is not the first time that NATCOM is thinking of Eastern Polytech. We are partners in the development of this country. We are grateful for all that you have done for us”.

He promised to ensure that the document is accessible to all students and lecturers.

At the University of Njala, gratitude was expressed by the recipients, Mr Patrick Moseray and Ishmail Kamara on behalf of the Director of ICT, Dr Philip Songu, not only for the donation of the Right to Access Information Act, but also for previous support of computer hardware that the

Institution benefited from NATCOM. “We also want to thank you for providing computer resources for us. Presently they are working very well and we are using them effectively and responsibly. We want to thank you very much for that”.



Copies presented to the Librarian, Njala University College

Similar sentiments were expressed by the Registrar, Northern Polytech; the Librarian at UNIMAK and the Vice Principal, Port Loko Teachers College.

Meanwhile, the exercise continues in the Western Area, targeting Fourah Bay College (USL), Milton Margai College of Education, Science and Technology, College of Medicine, IPAM and Senior Secondary Schools.

The “***Right to Access Information Act***” provides for the disclosure of information held by public authorities or by persons providing services for them and to provide for other related matters. It is made up of nine parts of 51 sections.