

Sierra Leone Government Liberalizes the Telecommunications International Gateway



Friday, 6th March, 2015, the House of Parliament overwhelmingly adopted the Telecommunications Amendment Act 2015, tabled in the well of Parliament by the Deputy Minister of Justice Arrow Bockarie. Awaiting Presidential Assent, the amended Bill essentially repealed section 33 of the Telecommunications Act 2006, which provided for the monopoly of the only telecommunications international gateway by the incumbent Operator, the Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company (SIERRATEL). The event marks a significant development in the ICT sector in Sierra Leone. In the liberalized dispensation, the telecoms regulatory authority, the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM), is mandated to put in place an International Gateway Monitoring System (IGMS) for the efficient and transparent monitoring of Sierra Leone's international gateways.