

LTA ORDER: 0012-09-23-2024

Temporarily Adjusting Sections 2.1 and 2.3 of the Price Floor Order of 2019

WHEREAS the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) issued *LTA ORDER: 0016-02-25-19 (Price Floor Order)* establishing Price Floors for on-net voice telephony and mobile data services;

WHEREAS licensees have been found to be in violation of the Order for a protracted period of time;

WHEREAS in violating the Floor Price Order, the MTN and Orange Liberia blame each other as the reason for their failure or refusal to adhere, citing competition as the reason;

WHEREAS the failure of the Licensees to heed the calls of the LTA to adhere to the Price Floors Order resulted in the imposition of financial penalty on Orange Liberia and Lonestar Cell MTN on June 26, 2024, as deterrence;

WHEREAS the LTA observes that the imposition of the fine has not deterred the Licensees as they continue to offer the prices of their voice and data services below the floor prices; and

WHEREAS the LTA recognizes the lapse of time since the Floor Price Order was issued in 2019 and the changes in market conditions since that time;

WHEREAS the LTA further recognizes the technical and other challenges associated with readjusting to the floor prices on voice and data as contained in the Floor Price Order of 2019;

WHEREAS the LTA has commissioned a cost study to establish the continuing validity of the costs underpinning the price floors;

NOW THEREFORE, the Acting Board of Commissioners of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority hereby orders and directs as follows:

1. That price floors in Sections 2.1 and 2.3 of the Floor Price Order of 2019 are hereby temporarily adjusted as follows; pending the outcome of the ongoing cost study:

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- a) That licensees subject to this Order shall not price On-net Voice Call service, whether as a stand-alone or as part of a bundle of services, below the level of US\$0.0130 per minute.
- b) That licensees subject to this Order shall not price Mobile Data services, whether as a stand-alone or as part of a bundle of services, below the level of US\$0.00153 per minute.
- 2. That the go-live date for implementation of this Amended Floor Price Order with respect to On-net Voice Call service (Section 1(a) above) is 30 days as of the date of execution of this order; same being 12-midnight on October 22, 2024.
- 3. That the go-live date for implementation of this Amended Floor Price Order with respect to Mobile Data service (Section 1(b) above) is 60 days as of the date of execution of this order; same being 12-midnight on November 22, 2024.
- 4. That any licensee pricing its On-net Voice Call service or Mobile Data service in violation of this Amended Floor Price Order after the dates stated in Sections two (2) and three (3) above shall be subject to a fine of Seventy-Five Thousand United States Dollars (US\$75,000.00) per day for each day of violation.
- 5. That this Order shall take effect upon its issuance and compliance-monitoring shall begin immediately as of the times stated in Sections 2 and 3 hereinabove.

Kamara, MSc. MBA

Acting Chairman

Done by the Acting Board of Commissioners of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority on this 23 day of September, A. D. 2024 in the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia:

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Acting Commissioner

Ben A. Fofana

Acting Commissioner

Angela Cassell Bush Acting Commissioner

Clarence K. Massaquoi Acting Commissioner