



National Telecommunications Commission

NATCOM



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NATCOM FINES ORANGE (SL) LIMITED FOR THE ILLEGAL USE OF UPPER 6GHZ MICROWAVE TRANSMISSION FREQUENCY

The National telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) wishes to inform the public that it has penalized ORANGE (SL) Limited for illegally using the upper 6GHz microwave transmission frequency in their ring backhaul network.

Following the Commission's regulatory enforcement and compliance checks, ORANGE (SL) Limited was found causing harmful interference from Kamboi-Blama and Blama-Gbandi links, which adversely affected the operations and quality of service of different service providers.

Discovering the hoarding of radio frequency spectrum in 2019, the Commission, on 23rd January 2020 cancelled the assignment of eight (8) channels of the upper 6GHZ band to ORANGE (SL) Limited and re-assigned four (4) each to AFRICELL (SL) Limited and QCELL (SL) Limited on 30th April 2020 within the range: TX-6800-7080 MHz and RX- 6460- 6740 MHz.

ORANGE (SL) Limited did not heed the cancellation of carriers in the upper 6GHz band but continued to use the aforesaid channels without recourse to the Commission for last two (2) years, making it illegal and therefore attracts penalties.

Having ascertained the illegal and fraudulent use of frequencies in the upper 6GHz on 19th May 2021, the Commission hereby imposes the following:

1. ORANGE (SL) Limited should pay **SLL 2,688,000,000** as two years' spectrum fee for 280MHz bandwidth;
2. ORANGE (SL) Limited should pay **SLL 10,752,000,000** as penalty for illegal use of eight (8) carriers of the upper 6GHz band for past two years;
3. ORANGE (SL) Limited should pay the penalty and spectrum fees within 30 days.
4. ORANGE (SL) Limited should relinquish the frequencies at Kamboi- Blama link within seven (7) days and other links within two (2) weeks;
5. ORANGE (SL) should furnish the Commission with the coordinates and other data of all 6GHz sites within two (2) weeks;
6. The Commission and ORANGE (SL) Limited shall conduct verification to ascertain the relinquishments of frequencies in the Upper 6GHz band within three (3) weeks, and the cost of executing the verification shall be borne by ORANGE (SL) Limited.

END

NATCOM MANAGEMENT

