

## **MEDIA BRIEFING ON REGULATORY INTERVENTIONS BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATIONS**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the media.

Thank you for joining us today as we address two important matters currently engaging the attention of my Ministry (MOCDTI) and the National Communications Authority, NCA.

These two key issues go to the heart of consumer protection, fairness, and the sustainability of our digital and communications ecosystem. Today's briefing will provide clarity on the interventions taken, the decisions reached, and the way forward.

The first concerns the long-standing dispute between creditors of AT Ghana Limited, which has now escalated in the case of the tower company, ATC Ghana, into disconnection of power to telcom sites resulting in loss of service with potential implications for millions of subscribers. The Ministry and the NCA have taken proactive regulatory steps to safeguard consumers and ensure stability in the telecoms sector

### **1. Background**

The current impasse between ATC and AT dates back to 2020. Since then, there have been a series of meetings and exchanges of correspondence aimed at finding a lasting solution to the non-payment of recurring charges and legacy debt by AT.

By a letter dated 2nd June 2020, ATC notified the NCA of its intention to suspend electrical power supply to then Airtel Ghana Limited's sites, including towers and equipment. The NCA intervened at the time due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Subsequently, several meetings were held in an attempt to ensure AT honored its monthly charges and settled the legacy debt. Unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful, and the debt has continued to accumulate to in excess of US\$150 million, leading to the current situation.

## **2. Government of Ghana's Acquisition of AT**

In 2021, following the exit of Bharti Airtel from Ghana, the Government of Ghana acquired the shares of AT for USD \$1, in a bid to protect jobs and ensure the continuity of AT. The propriety or otherwise of that decision is evident in the current state of affairs.

Following this acquisition, ATC began making demands on the Government for payment of AT's debts, with threats of shutting down AT's sites if these demands were not met.

## **3. Current Situation**

On 1st September 2025, ATC commenced the disconnection of power to AT's radio access networks across the country due to the outstanding debt.

To avoid a national crisis that could affect over three million subscribers of AT Ghana, the NCA directed AT and Telecel to immediately establish national roaming, thereby migrating AT's traffic onto Telecel's network to minimize disruption.

It is important to note that AT's services i.e. voice, SMS, data, and AT Money — remain intact. As Minister, I want to commend the exceptional skill and commitment shown by the technical teams of AT Ghana and Telecel Ghana to pull off this integration under very difficult circumstances. It reaffirms my belief that with the right policy direction, we have the requisite technical expertise in the two companies to make a compelling case for the Ghanaian engineers.

## **4. Expected Challenges**

Some AT customers may experience limited challenges during the traffic migration, though the majority of subscribers are unlikely to notice any disruption.

The NCA and AT will issue timely communications to subscribers to address and resolve any concerns that may arise.

## **5. Future**

Government has appointed KPMG as a transaction advisor to provide guidance on the future of AT, with the goal of establishing a strong second operator to address the imbalance in Ghana's mobile market. The transaction advisor will also assess Government's shareholding interests in Telecel Ghana towards the same goal.

The transaction advisor has been given a strict 60-day timeline to complete its work due to the urgency of the situation.

## **6. Future of Staff**

The Government will ensure that the approximately 300 permanent staff of AT retain their employment. I have already met with the staff and offered assurances in this regard. The transaction advisor has instructions to also consider the fate of the over 200 contract staff of AT. I am grateful to the staff of AT Ghana for their openness and candour during my engagement with them. I am fully aware of the gravity of the current situation on the workers and their families and dependants but I remain committed on behalf of Government to protect them from any adverse situation. We would see the sunshine again, very soon.

Let me be clear that this current arrangement is not a merger or acquisition. We are dealing with a force majeure situation and the work of the transaction advisor and its recommendations would lay out a clear path for the consideration of Government.

## **7. Conclusion**

Government urges all stakeholders, including subscribers, tower companies, and creditors, to await the outcome of the transaction advisor's work, which will provide clarity on outstanding debts, services, and the future of AT.

Now to the second issue relates to the pricing concerns and the suspension notice served to MultiChoice Ghana Ltd.

The 30-day deadline given to MultiChoice by the NCA expires tomorrow, 6th September 2025. It would be recalled that the NCA had requested for a breakdown of the cost build up for the various bouquet offerings by MultiChoice in Ghana and in seven other African countries on the 4th of August 2025. That information had not been delivered by MultiChoice. Consequently, the Regulator imposed a GHS10,000 daily fine effective 14th August 2025 in line with Electronic Communications Act. The regulator also served a 30-day notice of suspension effective 7th August 2025.

However, ahead of the expiration of the suspension notice tomorrow, MultiChoice has now indicated its commitment to addressing the pricing concerns through a consultative process as was adopted by the Ministry for the mobile data pricing reduction which was implemented on 1st July, 2025.

### **Decision**

Consequently, I have established a Stakeholder Committee comprising representatives from:

- The Ministry of Communications, Digital Technology and Innovation (MoCDTI)
- The National Authority (NCA)
- MultiChoice Ghana
- MultiChoice Africa

This Committee will be chaired by the me.

Even though Multichoice requested for a further 30-days for the consultative process, I can only grant them 14 days as I believe that is sufficient enough to agree on the percentage of reduction. Therefore, the Committee has a strict 14-day mandate inclusive of weekends to conclude its work and present a suitable price reduction structure for the people of Ghana by 21st September, 2025

**Additional Note**

Government is mindful of the impending takeover of MultiChoice Africa by Canal+ at the end of September 2025. I have held engagements with Canal+, with emphasis placed on the need to respect any pricing reduction decisions and to consider further reductions in the future, if necessary. I have assurances from the management of Canal+ to respect the outcome of the stakeholder committee and work with government to address revenue losses occasioned by the grey market decoders.

Thank you.