

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF NUMBER PORTABILITY IN RWANDA

1-BACKGROUND

The general regulatory framework for the Telecommunications Numbering Resources, including Number Portability, in Rwanda is provided by Article 8 of the Presidential Degree No. 4/01 of 15th March, 2004 specifying the role of the RURA Regulatory Board in terms of Numbering Resources in the Republic of Rwanda.

1.1 Number Portability

Number Portability is a telecommunications network feature that enables consumers of telecommunication services to retain their telephone numbers whenever they decide to change service providers and/or service types. It is a key factor in enhancing competition in a multi-operator environment. This is due to the fact that this feature enables customers who wish to take advantage of benefits offered by other network operators in the market to migrate without having to worry about the prospects of having to be out of contact with business associates, friends, family, etc.

This inherently facilitates more competition by allowing seamless Customer churns.

1.2 Current Situation

With the recent introduction of one additional mobile service provider in Rwanda namely; Tigo Rwanda which has scheduled to launch its services later in the year, the number of licensed mobile cellular operators will increase to three. Coupled with the need to enhance effective competition in the telecommunications market, the introduction of Number Portability is now most appropriate in order to give consumers the attendant benefits and flexibility of changing their service providers.

The document detailing the activities involved in the introduction of Number Portability in Rwanda can be obtained by the public from the website of Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA) –www.rura.gov.rw

2- INVITATION FOR COMMENTS

The Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA) hereby invites comments and views from the public and the stakeholders on the Number Portability in general and specifically in regard to the following:

- a) The introduction of Number Portability in Rwanda.
- b) The preferred Option of implementation.
- c) The proposed implementation schedule.

Please kindly access the detailed document in the RURA website www.rura.gov.rw and submit your written comments and views, in accordance with the time frame shown in the document to the address given below:

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