



National Communications Authority

- Press Release

NCA CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL FREQUENCY USERS IN THE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER (ISP) BANDS

For Immediate Release

Accra, 25th July, 2016

The National Communications Authority (NCA) on Thursday, 21st July, 2016 began a frequency monitoring and inspection exercise which has led to the decommissioning and confiscation of transmitters and antennas illegally operating in the 2.3GHz, 3.3GHz, 3.5GHz and 3.6GHz frequency bands in the Greater Accra Region. The afore-mentioned bands are classified by the Authority as '*Licensed bands*' and are allocated for use by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

The exercise is being conducted in accordance with sections 62 and 71 of the Electronic Communications Act (ECA), 2008, Act 775. The activities of illegal users contravene Section 9 of the ECA, 2008, Act 775 which states that:

(1) A person shall not use a spectrum for designated services without a frequency authorization granted by the Authority.

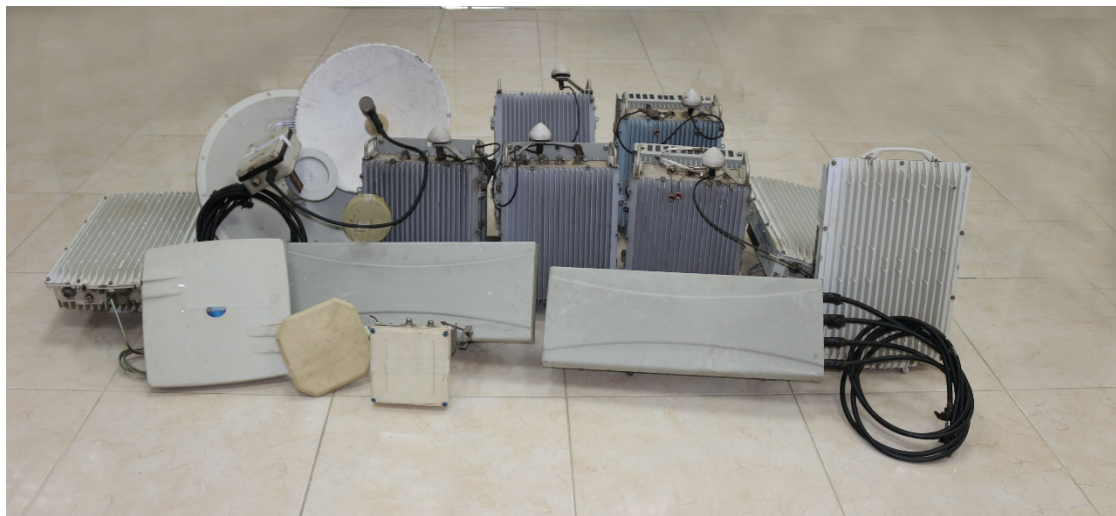
(2) A person who wishes to use a spectrum shall apply to the Authority in the manner specified in Regulations.

Explaining further, Mr. Henry Kanor, Director, Engineering at the NCA said the activities of illegal frequency users cause harmful interference to the operations of licensed ISPs and they also deny the Authority of revenue in the form of Regulatory and Spectrum fees. The

purpose of this monitoring exercise is therefore to clear the licensed ISP frequency bands of all illegal users.

The Authority, with the help of its state of the art Mobile Spectrum Monitoring Systems has detected unwanted or illegal signals at various locations in the Greater Accra Region. Further investigations are being also conducted to ascertain the owners of the equipment used to perpetrate these illegal actions. The appropriate actions will be taken against the perpetrators in accordance with the Electronic Communications Act, 2008.

To curb these illegal activities, the NCA wishes to caution all Mast Owners to, at all times, check that Telecommunication service providers are licensed by the NCA before allowing them to co-locate on their facility. Henceforth, Mast Owners would equally be held liable for illegal transmissions from their masts.



A picture of some of the equipment which were confiscated by the NCA during the monitoring exercise.

The list of Authorised ISPs is published on the website of the National Communications Authority, Consumers and the general public should desist from working with unauthorized service providers.

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Editor's Note

About NCA

The National Communications Authority, (NCA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 524 in December 1996, which has been repealed and replaced by the National Communications Authority Act, 2008 (Act 769). The Authority is the statutory body mandated to license and to regulate electronic communication activities and services in the country.

Electronic Communications Act, 2008

Section 62- The Authority may operate frequency monitoring stations to (a) monitor the use of the frequency spectrum, and (b) carry out a technical function necessary for fulfilling the requirements of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union.

Section 63- The Authority Harmful interference - (1) A person shall not operate a facility, terminal equipment or other equipment in a manner that is likely to cause harmful interference except as is necessary on the grounds of national security. (2) Where the Authority is of the opinion that the use of a facility, terminal or other equipment is likely to cause or has caused or is causing harmful interference, the Authority may (a) serve notice on the person in possession of the facility, terminal equipment or other equipment requiring that person to cease the use of the facility, terminal or equipment within seven days from the date of service of the notice, or (b) impose limits as to when the facility, terminal, equipment or other equipment may be used, and whether or not reasonable steps have been taken to minimise the interference

Section 9- Requirement for a frequency authorization-(1) A person shall not use a spectrum for designated services with- out a frequency authorisation granted by the Authority.

(2) A person who wishes to use a spectrum shall apply to the Authority in the manner specified in Regulations. (3) The Authority may grant or refuse an application for frequency authorisations in accordance with policies and rules published by the Authority.

Section 13- Suspension and revocation of licences and frequency authorisations- (1) The Authority may suspend or revoke a licence or a frequency authorisation where (a) the licence or the authorisation holder has failed to comply materially with any of the provisions of this Act,

Regulations or the terms and conditions of its licence or frequency authorisation, (b) the licensee or the authorisation holder has failed to comply materially with a lawful direction of the Authority.