



National Communications Authority

- Press Release

NCA MEETS FM STATIONS IN VIOLATION OF COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS IN SOME PARTS OF ACCRA

Accra, 1st July, 2022: The National Communications Authority (NCA) on Thursday 30th June, 2022 held a Frequency Module (FM) Coverage Compliance Workshop for some FM Radio Authorisation Holders at the NCA Tower in Accra. The Workshop which was attended by about sixty (60) participants from thirty-one (31) radio stations who are in violation of their coverage requirements was organised in wake of the collaborative regulation strategy adopted by the NCA which is being championed by the Board of Directors of the Authority.

Giving a presentation on the Coverage Compliance, the Acting Director of Engineering at the NCA, Rev. Ing. Edmund Yirenkyi Fianko noted that as part of the NCA's mandate to regulate radio frequency spectrum for broadcasting services and to determine technical and other standards for the operation of broadcasting services, there was a reclassification of FM Radio station in 2013. The reclassification which sought to amongst others, reduce the maximum coverage of FM radio signals to 45km applied to new stations from 2013 and existing stations upon renewal of their Authorisations.



- ***Rev. Ing. Edmund Fianko addressing the participants***

Following that, he said, the Authority began to ensure that all stations were compliant by monitoring their coverage radii. He mentioned that in April this year, the NCA conducted a Coverage Compliance Monitoring Exercise at Ahwerase and its environs (Akuapem Mountains) to assess coverage compliance of thirty-seven (37) stations in the Greater Accra Region. It was observed during the exercise that out of the thirty-seven (37) stations, thirty-one (31) of them were in violation of the coverage requirement in at least one direction.

Rev. Ing. Fianko went on to explain that the NCA has acquired state-of-the-art equipment including the Broadcast Monitoring System to monitor and ensure the compliance of the conditions entailed in the FM Broadcasting Authorisation. Taking the participants through findings of the monitoring exercise, he highlighted the methodology of the report hinting of the NCA's readiness to assist Authorisation holders who may have difficulty in the process of reducing their transmitter signal strength.

Taking the participants through the legal enforcement of FM coverage, the Director Legal of NCA, Dr. Poku Adusei cautioned stations in violation to be circumspect in their regulatory activities. He went on to further explain the conditions of the FM Radio Broadcasting Authorisation to participants and the consequences of non-compliance. Dr. Poku Adusei also urged them to contact the NCA should they require any clarifications or assistance regarding their Authorisation conditions.



- ***Dr. Poku Adusei taking the participants through the Authorisation obligations***



- *A cross section of participants at the Workshop*

Attendees were informed that the NCA will be continuing with this monitoring for the rest of the country and at regular intervals.

The NCA will continue to perform its regulatory functions which include monitoring the performance of operations of authorisation and license holders to ensure compliance for a streamlined industry.

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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.