

**LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY**

12<sup>TH</sup> Street, Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor  
Monrovia, Liberia

**LTA-ORDER-0007-02-15-13**

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV SECTION 20 OF THE LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2007, THE LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY HEREBY ISSUES AND PUBLISHES THE FOLLOWING ORDER, WHICH RESCINDS LTA-ORDER-0006-11-21-12. THE FOLLOWING IS PROFERRED IN SUPPORT:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 2007 of the Republic of Liberia (the "**Act**") and the Telecommunications Licensing Authorization Regulations (LTA-REG-001) (the "**Regulations**"), the LTA granted two licenses to Lonestar Communications Corporation (hereinafter "**LONESTARCELL**"): (i) a standardized GSM License Number LTA-001/LS-GSM/039 under which LONESTARCELL has installed and is operating and maintaining a Public Telecommunications Network for the purposes of providing GSM voice and Second Generation (2G) related data services within the Republic of Liberia (the "**Standardized License**"); and (ii) a WiMAX License Number LTA-002/LS-WiMAX/0309; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the LTA has determined that the interruption by LONESTARCELL of the interconnection services between it and Comium Liberia in May 2012 without the prior consent of the LTA was in violation of the provisions of the Interconnection Regulations (the "**Comium interconnection issue**"); and

**WHEREAS**, as a penalty for the aforesaid violation and consistent with its powers under the Act and Section 22 of the Interconnection Regulations, the LTA announced its Initial Decision to suspend LONESTARCELL's operating License for two (2) weeks, which subsequently, following public consultations and by Order dated 21 November 2012 (LTA-0006-11-21-12), was reduced to a suspension for three (3) days during which period LONESTARCELL was ordered to partially disconnect its network whereby customers would be able to receive but not to make calls, and that in places where LONESTARCELL is the only operator, that its customers would be able to make and receive calls but with the provision that 25% of the revenue from all such calls shall be paid to the Government of Liberia (hereinafter "**Order**"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Order, having been challenged by LONESTARCELL, gave rise to a dispute so that LONESTARCELL filed with the LTA, a Notice to Arbitrate the LTA's decision to suspend; and

*FLM*

*↑*

*Acutt*

*AKel*

**WHEREAS**, predicated on LTA's procedural challenge to LONESTARCELL's Notice to Arbitrate, LONESTARCELL filed a Motion to Compel Arbitration in the Civil Law Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Montserrado County and obtained injunctive relief against enforcement of the Suspension Order on December 1, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequent to issuance of the Order and while the Stay Order was in effect, the LTA received significant interventions from a cross-section of the general public, key stakeholders and other mediation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the LTA has deliberated the pros and cons of these new interventions and mediation efforts and has reconsidered the Suspension Order; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding Lonestar's denial of any violation of law or regulation, the LTA has determined that the imposition of a monetary penalty against LONESTARCELL will be far more beneficial to the Government and people of Liberia than the service interruptions contemplated by the Suspension Order.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing premises, the LTA hereby orders:

1. That within three (3) business days following the issuance of this revised Order, LONESTARCELL, without admitting nor denying liability for the allegations of violations related to the Suspension Order in connection with Comium interconnection issue, shall make a one-time lump sum payment of One Million United States Dollars (US\$1,000,000.00) to the Consolidated General Revenue Account of the Government of the Republic of Liberia and submit an official flag receipt therefor to the LTA.
2. Upon payment of said One Million United States Dollars (US\$1,000,000.00) to the Consolidated General Revenue Account of the Government of the Republic of Liberia, all matters related to the LTA Suspension Order in connection with the Comium interconnection issue are hereby settled.

THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT. UPON PUBLICATION, IT SHALL HAVE THE SAME LEGAL FORCE AS A RULE OF THE LTA AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNLESS / UNTIL OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE LTA OR PURSUANT TO LEGAL PROCESS.

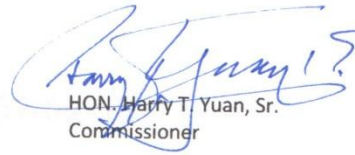
ISSUED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY A. D. 2013 IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.



SIGNED:



HON. Lamini A. Waritay  
Commissioner



HON. Harry T. Yuan, Sr.  
Commissioner



HON. Henry W. Benson  
Commissioner

HON. Abdullah L. Kamara  
Commissioner



HON. Angelique Weeks  
CHAIRPERSON