

Liberia Telecommunications Authority

168 D Congo Town Back Road
Monrovia, Liberia



PRESS RELEASE

Monrovia, Liberia September 2, 2016: The Liberia Telecommunications Authority has launched an investigation into a complaint submitted by Cellcom Telecommunications Inc. alleging LonestarCell MTN's violations of LTA's Interconnection regulations, among other things.

Cellcom alleges that Novafone, which was recently acquired by LonestarCell MTN, sent out promotional texts to LonestarCell MTN customers announcing 4 days of free calls for USD1.00. Cellcom also claims promotional texts were sent to their customers from LonestarCell message center. Earlier this year, LonestarCell MTN made a similar allegation against Cellcom.

In its letter of complaint against LonestarCell, Cellcom demanded the immediate intervention of the LTA, or Cellcom would be compelled to shut down its interconnection trunks with Novafone and LonestarCell.

The LTA takes very seriously, any threat to disrupt the telecommunications sector; and has issued to Cellcom and LonestarCell, strong warnings against any retaliatory action that could potentially have National Security implications. The LTA has requested both companies to submit evidence and/or repudiate the claims against them.

In the meanwhile, the LTA urges any and all third parties that might be involved in SMS schemes to cease and desist from doing so.

Signed

Jarsea Burphy
Director Public Affairs LTA