



OFFICE OF PARLIAMENT

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**Committees:**  
Deputy Ranking, Communications  
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**RE: SIM REGISTRATION USING THE VOTER'S ID CARD - A CLARIFICATION**

[Accra, November 7, 2022] My attention has been drawn to an unsigned Press release purported to be emanating from the National Communications Authority. I would normally disregard unsigned releases as poor literary work from uninspired and lazy minds but in this instance, because I place premium on the work the Regulator of Ghana's Telecommunications space plays, I would respond. And adequately so.

1. I indeed authored a post on my social media handles on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022, where I emphatically stated that the National Communications Authority had engaged the Mobile Network Operators with the view to having the Voter's ID Card accepted for the registration of SIM cards. I also stated that it was common sense to adopt this approach and even went ahead to state my support for this move by urging all who had their Voter's ID Card to use same to register their SIM cards.

2. The National Communications Authority in its unsigned letter claims that my position is untrue yet in the same release admits to a technical committee meeting with Mobile Network Operators where "**updating the SIM registration App to allow a temporal use of Voter's ID**" was discussed. Yes, you read that right. They admit that this discussion has been had and processes for implementation are underway. They actually corroborate my point and give legitimacy to the essence of my social media posts

3. It is indeed shocking and sad that some of our country's finest Engineers and Lawyers have reduced themselves to puppets of a delusional puppeteer who has absolutely no understanding of technology deployment and whose ego is larger than her knowledge of the sector? These distinguished professionals at the National Communications Authority have allowed themselves to become conduits for unintelligent babble instead of industry best practices. For how long would they allow the Ministry to strangulate the Authority in the proper function of its duties?

4. I maintain that the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization has through the National Communications Authority realized the inanity of the current process and engaged with the Telcos to adapt the platform to accommodate the Voter's ID Card for Ghanaians domiciled locally and also to integrate the Ghanaian Passport in line with the Minister's earlier directive for Ghanaians resident abroad. This incontrovertible fact is contained in their very own release. Why they seek to run away from what they themselves have been quietly advising the Minister on can only be down to cheap patronage.

5. I am interested to know why the National Communications Authority with a Communications Director, a Director of Legal, a Corporate Affairs Director, two Deputy Director-Generals and a Director-General did not have any one of these management members put their name to the press release responding to me. Is it that they disagree with the content of the release that was forced on them or that all of these management members are cowards who are afraid to be identified as the one authoring that piece of detritus? The next time you are sent to respond to the Hon. Samuel Nartey George, you get your facts right and put your name to it or ask the person sending you to be woman enough to speak directly to me.





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Now that I have dealt with that matter, let me use this medium to remind the National Communications Authority of its mandate and point out how it is failing spectacularly at its core functions.

1. As we speak, the Directors of the National Communications Authority and the Minister for Communications and Digitalization have travelled to several international conferences over the last five (5) years where conversations have centered around the move of the telecoms industry to adopting e-SIMs. After using our taxes to attend these conferences, the National Communications Authority as we speak today has no technical modalities for the roll out of e-SIMs in Ghana today. I challenge the National Communications Authority to publish within the next 24 hours the framework agreed with industry players for the implementation of e-SIMs if they have one. I am well aware the reasons for the dragging of feet by the Regulator. I would come to that at another time.

2. The transition period for the switchover from analog to digital TV transmission started on 17 June 2006 and ended on 17 June 2015 with the exception of the VHF band in thirty four (34) countries for which the transition period was to end on 17 June 2020. As we speak today, over seven (7) years after the initial deadline and more than two (2) years past the extension period, Ghana has failed to complete the switchover. The Regulator and the Ministry have no clear roadmap with actionable dates that they can be held to. For how long would Ghana, once a shining example, be made a laughing stock on the world stage?

3. In 2015, Ghana launched the 4G service, a whole year ahead of Nigeria who launched in 2016. This opened new customer experiences for Ghanaians as we had faster connectivity and new digital frontiers were opened as OTTs. Today as we speak, Ghana has shown no preparedness in rolling out 5G whilst Nigeria, who was always trailing Ghana before the current Minister and Director-General took over, launched 5G in December 2021. Almost a year on, instead of focusing on giving Ghanaians better service experience using 5G like your counterparts in Nigeria are doing, The Ministry and the National Communications Authority are rather focused on deactivating SIM cards. How inept can one be?

4. The National Communications Authority as the Regulator is meant to ensure the best customer experience for Ghanaians by ensuring that Mobile Network Operators meet all their KPIs and continually invest in their infrastructure for the benefit of Ghanaians. We are currently experiencing the worst rates of call drops and erratic service from service providers without even a whimper from the Regulator. Such whimsical output from the Regulator should rather be the focus of the Authority and its mother Ministry and not the face saving gimmicks of unsigned Press releases.

Let me serve notice that I am prepared to continue my crusade of demanding better service from the folks at the NCA. The Engineers and Lawyers at the Authority must put an end to the spineless toadying we are witnessing and put their professional competencies on display. One thing I am certain of is that Engineers and Lawyers are no muppets. Stop putting a dent on the profession and get to work. That is what you are paid for with our taxes. If you fail to, remember, Samuel Nartey George would continue to expose your gauche conduct.

In service to God and Country,

**SAMUEL NARTEY GEORGE (MP)**

Deputy Ranking Member, Parliamentary Select Committee on Communications

