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## LEGAL NOTICE NO. 3 OF 2025

**Lesotho Communications Authority (Licensing Classification and Fees)  
(Amendment of Schedule) Rules, 2025**

Pursuant to section 5(1)(c) and 15(1)(a) of the Communications Act, 2012<sup>1</sup>, I,

**NIZAM GOOLAM,**

Chief Executive Officer of the Lesotho Communications Authority, make the following Rules:

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Rules may be cited as the Lesotho Communications Authority (Licensing Classification and Fees) (Amendment of Schedule) Rules, 2025 and shall come into operation on the date of publication in the Gazette.

**Amendment of paragraph 3 of First Schedule: Individual numbers**

2. Paragraph 3 of the First Schedule is amended by inserting the following new sub-paragraph after sub-paragraph (2):

“(3) Each application may accommodate up to 5 numbers. Beyond 5 numbers, the applicant has to submit a separate application. The annual fee is for each number allocated.”.

**Amendment of paragraph 4 of the First Schedule: Lesotho National Numbering Plans**

3. Paragraph 4 of the First Schedule is amended by inserting the following new paragraph after paragraph 4:

“4A. USSD Codes in Level 1 used by Unified Licensees for internal use for provision of information for accessing communication services by subscribers shall be exempted from being charged. Unified Licensee should notify the Authority in writing prior to the use of Level 1 USSD Codes.”.

**Amendment of paragraph 6 of the First Schedule: Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO), Internet Service Provider (ISP) and Rural Community Networks**

4. Paragraph 6(2) of the First Schedule is deleted and substituted with the following:

**“An ISP licensee**

(2) An ISP licensee may provide internet services under the following sub-categories:

- (a) **Terrestrial Networks** -under which the ISP licensee -
  - (i) may own infrastructure in accordance with licence conditions;
  - (ii) qualifies for access to spectrum but do not qualify for numbering blocks;
  - (iii) may also use license-exempt bands such as Industrial, Scientific, and Medical (ISM bands) to build mesh networks in order to enable the expansion of services and create Wi-Fi hotspots. Quality of Service on the mesh networks cannot be guaranteed nor enforced as the bands are not protected like licensed bands; and
  - (iv) may arrange international interconnection with foreign parties.
- (b) **Satellite Networks** - under which the ISP licensee may -
  - (i) provide broadband connectivity using satellite-based technology such as Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit (NGSO) systems;

- (ii) is required to pay landing rights fees for NGSO systems as prescribed in these rules;
  - (iii) qualifies for access to licensed radio spectrum but do not qualify for numbering blocks; and
  - (iv) may arrange international interconnection with foreign parties.
- (c) **Hybrid Networks (terrestrial and satellite) -**  
under which the ISP licensee -
- (i) may provide broadband connectivity using a combination of terrestrial and satellite-based technology such as NGSO systems network;
  - (ii) may partner with another licensee to provide broadband connectivity using a hybrid network;
  - (iii) is required to pay landing rights fees for NGSO systems as prescribed in these rules;
  - (iv) may own infrastructure in accordance with licence conditions;
  - (v) may also use license-exempt bands such as ISM bands to build mesh networks in order to enable the expansion of services and create Wi-Fi hotspots. Quality of Service on the mesh networks cannot be guaranteed nor enforced as the bands are not protected like licensed bands;
  - (vi) may arrange international interconnection with foreign parties; and

- (vii) qualifies for access to licensed radio frequency spectrum but do not qualify for numbering blocks.

#### **Amendment of paragraph 10: Amateur radio licence**

5. Paragraph 10 of the First Schedule is amended by inserting the following new paragraph after paragraph 10:

“(10A) Amateur radio service is a radio-communication service for the purpose of self-training, inter-communication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest. Amateur service may also be operated through the use of space stations on earth satellites.”.

#### **Amendment of paragraph 13: Permit (for short term activities)**

6. Paragraph 13 of the First Schedule is amended by inserting the following sub-paragraph after sub-paragraph (1):

“(2) The Authority may, at its discretion and for the purposes of encouraging innovation in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, waive fees for temporary permits related to the trial, testing, or experimentation of ICT services, technologies and equipment.”.

#### **Amendment of paragraph 19: Resale Internet Service Providers (RISPs)**

7. Paragraph 19(3) of the First Schedule is deleted and substituted with the following:

“(3) Notwithstanding item 19(2)(b), RISPs may set up their own infrastructure to service customers, with the exception where they require-

- (a) a radio spectrum that is subject to licensing;
- (b) right of way to cross public lands to reach cus-

tomers; and

(c) numbering resources to serve customers.”.

### Amendment of Table 2 of Third Schedule

8. Table 2 of the Third Schedule to the Principal Rules is amended as follows:

(a) in item 2.1, by deleting sub-item 2.1.2.1 and substituting the following:

| Category  | Authorisation<br>Tenure (Years) | Application<br>Fee (Maloti) | Initial Fee<br>(Maloti) | Renewal<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) | Annual<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.2.1A<br>Internet<br>Service<br>Provider (<br>Terrestrial) | 20 years                        | 70,000                      | 146,300                 | 146,300                    | 4% NOI                    |
| 2.1.2.1B<br>Internet<br>Service<br>Provider<br>(Hybrid)       | 20 years                        | 70,000                      | 146,300                 | 146,300                    | 4% NOI                    |
| 2.1.2.1C<br>Internet<br>Service<br>Provider<br>(Satellite)    | 10 years                        | 70,000                      | 146,300                 | 146,300                    | 4%NOI                     |

(b) in item 2.2, by deleting sub-item 2.2.4 and substituting the following:

| Category        | Authorisation<br>Tenure (Years) | Application<br>Fee (Maloti) | Initial Fee<br>(Maloti) | Renewal<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) | Annual<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.4<br>Public | 20 years                        | 13,500                      | 0                       | 100,000                    | 100,000                   |

(c) in item 2.3, by deleting sub-item 2.3.4 and substituting the following:

| Category        | Authorisation<br>Tenure (Years) | Application<br>Fee (Maloti) | Initial Fee<br>(Maloti) | Renewal<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) | Annual<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.4<br>Public | 20 years                        | 13,500                      | 0                       | 200,000                    | 200,000                   |

(d) in item 2.5, by deleting sub-item 2.5.3 and substituting the following:

| Category   | Authorisation<br>Tenure (Years) | Application<br>Fee (Maloti) | Initial Fee<br>(Maloti) | Renewal<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) | Annual<br>Fee<br>(Maloti) |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.5.3<br>Courier<br>Postal<br>Services<br>(Tier 2) | 5 years                         | 2,000                       | 3,000                   | 5,000                      | 5,000                     |

#### Amendment of Table 3 of Third Schedule

9. Table 3 of the Third Schedule to the Principal Rules is amended as follows:

(a) in item 3.2 by inserting sub-item 3.2.4 and 3.2.5 as follows:

| Type of Service                                    | Application Fee | Annual Fee |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| 3.2.4 Landing Rights (NGSO -<br>Satellite Systems) |                 | 2,900,000  |

- (b) in item 3.5 by inserting “(Per MHz)” after “Access Spectrum”.

**Amendment of Table 6 of Third Schedule**

10. Table 6 of the Third Schedule to the Principal Rules is amended by inserting item 6.3 as follows:

|  | <b>Permit Fees (Maloti)</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 6.3 Mobile two-way radio stations (National)”. | M1,900                      |

**Amendment of Table 8 of Third Schedule**

11. Table 8 of the Third Schedule to the Principal Rules is amended by deleting item 8.2 and substituting the following:

**8.2 Unauthorised use of numbering resources, spectrum or exceeding authorised power limits.** Payment of three times the applicable annual fee

**Transition**

12. (1) Current Network Services licensees will continue to operate with their existing licences until their licence periods expire.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-rule (1) the licensees may choose to convert their licences to hybrid or satellite networks category within a period of 24 months from the date when these Rules come into operation.

**DATED: 16TH JANUARY, 2025**

**NIZAM GOOLAM  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**NOTE**

1. Act No. 4 of 2012