

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**SIM CARD REGISTRATION**

1. An administrative order was given by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) that all SIM cards must be registered by their holders between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. The period was extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 **with no further extension**. The reasons for introducing SIM card registration have been explained several times, and these include:

- (i) to protect consumers from misuse of communication services
- (ii) to enable consumers to be identified as they use value added services such as mobile banking, mobile money transfer, electronic payments for services such as water, electricity, pay-TV etc
- (iii) to enhance national security
- (iv) to enable network operators to promote "know your customer" (KYC)

2. As we approach the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, arrangements with telecommunication networks are such that as from **1<sup>st</sup> June 2010**, every SIM card bought will only be able to be used to make or receive calls, use the short message service (sms) if it is registered.

3. After 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, beginning **00.00hrs 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010**, any unregistered SIM card will be **locked** for up to 90 days unless it is registered. A locked SIM card can not be used to make or receive calls or use sms. If a locked SIM card is registered within the said 90 days i.e. before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, it will be unlocked, and can then be used. Any locked SIM card not registered by **30<sup>th</sup> September 2010** will be permanently deleted.

4. The Authority has agreed with Telecom Operators to verify subscriber registration by using the **\*106#** code for all GSM network (**Vodacom, Zain, MIC (Tigo) and Zantel**). All CDMA network operators (**SASATEL, BOL and TTCL Mobile**) subscribers should call 106 to get information on their registration status.

5. As you are aware, recently an appropriate legislation known as the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (**EPOCA**), 2010, has been passed by Parliament. This legislation makes SIM card registration mandatory as from now onwards.

6. TCRA wishes to thank all Telecommunication operators and subscribers for their cooperation in making the SIM card registration successful.

Issued by  
**Director General**  
**Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)**