

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



PUBLIC NOTICE

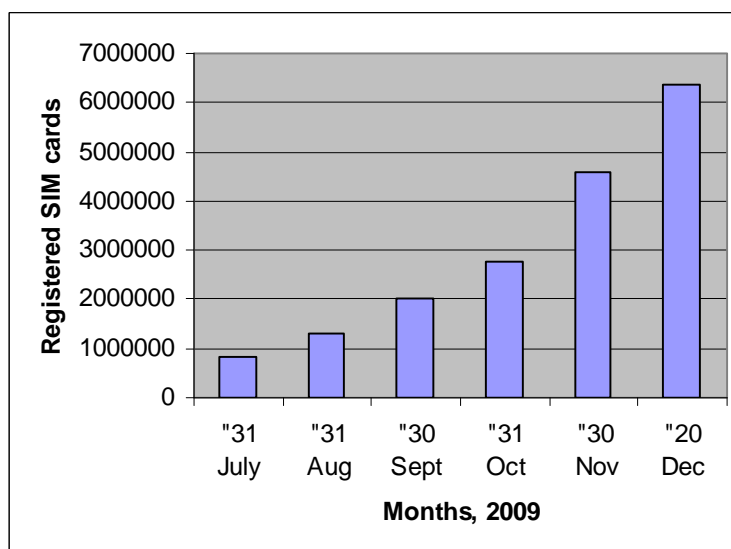
EXTENSION OF SIM CARD REGISTRATION PERIOD

1. An administrative order was given by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) that all SIM cards must be registered by their holders between 1st July 2009 and 31st December 2009.

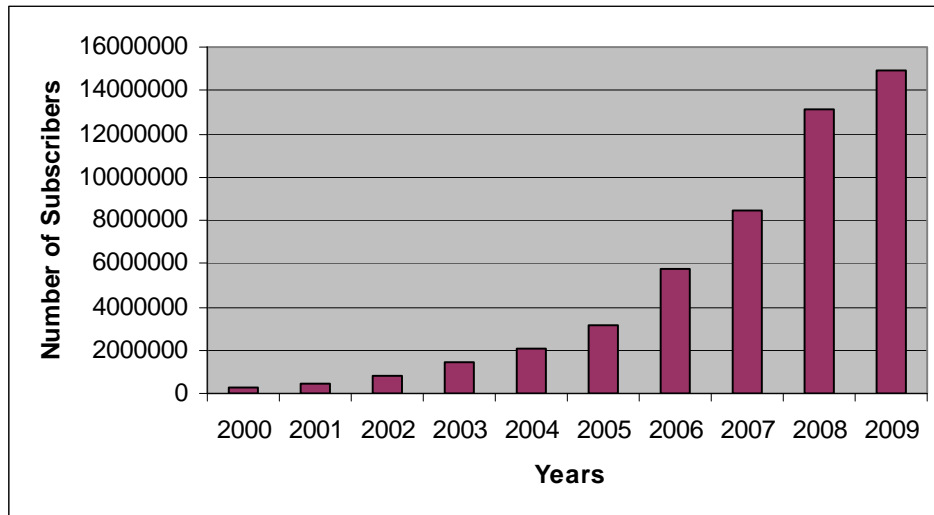
2. The reasons for introducing SIM card registration have been explained at several fora, and these include:

- (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)

3. There have been an overwhelming response from the public and network operators. The response of the SIM card registration exercise is illustrated in the graph below, where the growth of registered SIM cards is shown during the period July- December 2009, starting from 842 835 in July to 6 378 643 by 20th December 2009.



4. The number of SIM cards has grown exponentially over the past few years, rising from 284 109 in the year 2000 to the current number of 14 903 024 in 2009 as illustrated in the figure below. Comparing with item 3 above, where 6 378 643 SIM cards have been entered in the registration databases, it can be noted that approximately 43% SIM cards have been registered.



5. Although the SIM card registration has progressed fairly well in the last six months period, there have been some challenges such as registration of consumers in rural areas, obtaining identification, electric power for photocopying, entry of information into the registration databases of the various networks etc.

6. Appropriate legislation is in the process through which registration of every person desiring to own and use a SIM card shall be mandatory.

7. As a result of the above observations, and considering the interests of consumers, operators and all other stakeholders, the Authority is extending the SIM cards registration period for a further period of six months, to **30th June 2010**.

8. TCRA wishes to thank all Telecommunication operators and subscribers for their cooperation during the past six months and it is hoped that this cooperation will continue during the extension period so that the SIM card registration exercise is completed smoothly.

Issued by

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)
28th December 2009