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**REMARKS BY MR. CHARLES J. K. NJOROGE, DIRECTOR GENERAL,
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OF KENYA, DURING THE
LAUNCH OF SIM CARD REGISTRATION, 21ST JUNE 2010**

**Our Chief Guest, Minister for Information and Communications, Hon. Samuel Poghiso,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Dr. Bitange Ndemo,
CEOs of mobile phone operators and Local Loop Operators
Media fraternity
Invited guests
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today we mark a significant milestone for the industry in the country as we launch the SIM Registration campaign. This initiative is aimed at enhancing the general security of the country as well as also getting to know our subscribers.

SIM Card registration is not anything new in the world of telecommunications. It is done in all parts of the world. Those who have attempted to purchase SIM cards in other countries elsewhere can attest to this. For us in Kenya, we are all aware of many cases of criminality that have been perpetrated using mobile phones. This includes the loss of handsets to criminals.

The Commission has worked closely with the licensed service providers in the mobile business to ensure that the initiative of SIM registration is successful.

I wish to sincerely thank the operators for this coordination and support in making the exercise a success when it officially starts today. I need to add here that the operators have been carrying out, voluntarily, the registration which has given them useful experience in successfully undertaking the exercise. We are also grateful to the operators for the resources they are going to put in place to achieve compliance. On our part, the Commission is financing the sensitization of the public on the importance of coming forward to register their SIMs. The campaign starts today.

As we embark on this very important exercise that is bound to enhance our general security, I would like to call upon the cooperation of the general public in providing the necessary details to the mobile service providers. On the other hand, we equally urge the operators to make the process easy and friendly for subscribers because this is a collective effort.

You will also agree with me that it is also vital to ensure the security of databases in order to preserve the integrity and authenticity of the information collected. The exercise will require subscribers to give their phone number, name, date of birth, gender, address (postal and/or physical address), alternative telephone contacts, and Identification Card number or any other acceptable identification details.

We appreciate that the uptake of mobile services has attracted our youths in large numbers, some of who are considered minors and without registration documents. To ensure even this group is protected from mobile phone related crimes, minors shall need to be accompanied by a guardian who has the relevant identification documents to purchase or register as the owner of their SIM cards.

I would like to take this opportunity to allay any fears about the integrity of the information that will be collected during this exercise. I would like to assure the public that the information collected shall only be used for the purpose for which the registration exercise is being undertaken and where necessary the information may only be availed to the authorities to the extent permitted by the law. Furthermore, the mobile service providers have the obligation enforced by law of ensuring that the information collected from a subscriber is kept secure and confidential.

As I conclude, let me thank our Minister and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Communications for their commitment and relentless efforts to ensuring this process takes off. As I stated earlier, we have worked very closely with service providers to achieve this success. We all appreciate the importance of the exercise.

It is our responsibility as an industry to collectively ensure that the services we sell to Kenyans are enjoyed without posing any risks to anyone, more so the risk of insecurity. I have no doubt that this collaboration of the operators, the regulator and the government will make us achieve our goal without major challenges.

I thank you all for your attention.