

SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF. UMAR GARBA DANBATTI, FRAES ,FNSE AT THE PUBLIC INQUIRY HELD ON THE TRANSFER OF LICENCE AND RESOURCES,INCLUDING 800MHz SPECTRUM FROM VISAFONE COMMUNICATION LIMITED TO MTN NIGERIA HELD ON THE 25TH JUNE,2018 AT NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONFERENCE HALL.

Protocols

It is a great pleasure and honor to address and welcome you to this public inquiry organized by the Commission on the transfer of licence and resources, including 800MHz Spectrum from **Visafone Communications Limited** to **MTN Nigeria Communication Limited**.

The Commission seeks your active participation in the deliberations that would lead to an informed decision consistent with our mandate to create an enabling environment for effective competition in the industry as well to ensure the provision of qualitative and efficient telecommunications services throughout the country.

As you may all be aware, the demand for Spectrum has increased due to emergence of disruptive innovations such Mobile Broadband, Web Applications, Cloud Computing (CC), Internet of Things (IoT) and the proliferation of smart devices amongst others.

Consequently, in order to reap the benefits of effective utilization of Spectrum as well as improve operational efficiency and regulatory excellence, the Commission in accordance with its mandate as enshrined in the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003 embarked on re-planning of some of its Frequency bands.

Specifically in 2013, the Commission re-planned the use of 800MHz band to accommodate technology development in the telecom industry, and new Spectrum Assignments were conveyed to the Operators according to their spectrum holdings in the 800MHz band. Visafone is one of such incumbents on the Spectrum that got 10MHz FDD Assignment. Subsequent to the re-planning of the band Visafone wrote to the Commission requesting for transfer of its licence including the 800MHz Spectrum to MTN.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in line with the spirit of participatory regulation and the strategic objective of the Commission to hold regular consultation with the industry stakeholders which include Operators, Consumers, Academia etc., the Commission has decided to hold a public inquiry to elicit inputs and comments from stakeholders to enable us draw important and beneficial contributions from your wealth of field experience and research.

We sincerely hope that this public inquiry will provide an avenue for the Commission to receive inputs and comments to conclude this matter amicably.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor and privilege to declare this forum open. I therefore wish you a very fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.

**Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, FRAES, FNSE
Executive Vice Chairman/CEO,
Nigerian Communications Commission.**