

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AUTHORITY
Level 12, The Celicourt, 6 Sir Celicourt Antelme Street,
Port Louis, MAURITIUS

Ref. ICTA/IUC/TO/1/2006

12 January 2006

THE TELECOMMUNICATION ORDER (1 of 2006)

The Information & Communication Technologies Authority (hereinafter referred to as the **Authority**) in exercise of its statutory functions under the Information & Communication Technologies Act 2001 (as amended), hereby issues the following Directive, pursuant to section 17(3) combined with section 18 (1) (f) of the said Act.

1. Short title, extent and commencement

- (i) This Directive shall be referred to as “The Telecommunication Order (1 of 2006)”.
- (ii) Telecommunication Order (1 of 2006) amends the interconnection usage charges (IUC) for international calls originated from mobile network and shall come into force as from the 1st day of February 2006.

2. Interconnection Charges for inter network calls

Where mobile to international calls are routed through the network of a fixed line operator, the associated transit charges, if any, shall be paid by the operator at whose option such routing is carried out.

3. Consequential amendment

Provision 4 (a) (i) of Schedule I to Telecommunication Order (11 of 2003) is repealed.

4. No additional charges where IUC is prescribed

Where an IUC has been prescribed in respect of a service by way of a Telecommunication Order, no other additional charges may be levied on the consumers in respect of such service.

5. Explanatory Memorandum

This Directive contains at Annexure-A, an explanatory memorandum regarding the Interconnection charges and tariffs specified herein.

BY ORDER

Dr M. K. Oolun
Executive Director

To:

- i. Cellplus Mobile Communications Limited, 9th Floor, Telecom Tower, Port Louis.
- ii. Emtel Limited, 1, Boundary Road, Rose Hill.
- iii. Mauritius Telecom Limited, 18th Floor, Telecom Tower, Port Louis
- iv. Mahanagar Telephone (Mauritius) Limited, MTML Tower, Port Louis
- v. All ILD operators and Internet Telephony Service Providers

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. For a mobile to international call which is routed through the network of a fixed line operator (transit point), the mobile operator receives an IUC (Interconnection Usage Charge) of Rs.1.00 per minute from the ILD operator but has to pay an IUC of Rs.1.25 per minute to the fixed line operator.
2. To make up for the above extra payment, mobile operators currently charge a local airtime to the mobile end-users.
3. It has however been reported that the local airtime charge is currently being applied indiscriminately to calls that are routed via the network of a fixed line operator, as well as to calls which are routed through direct interconnection to the ILD operators. The latter represents an extra charge being claimed to the consumers.
4. To avoid the above extra amount being charged to the mobile customers, the Authority had directed the mobile operators to apply the prescribed IUC without any additional charges to the customers.
5. The operators had subsequently pointed out:
 - a. the anomaly mentioned at paragraph 1 above in the IUC, and,
 - b. that by reason of the origination cost being higher than the prescribed IUC, they had to charge for the local airtime.
6. The cost per minute of mobile network had been determined in the last quarter of 2004 and accordingly an IUC of Rs.0.90 per minute was prescribed for mobile to mobile calls. As such the present call origination IUC of Rs.1.00 per minute for mobile to ILD calls is reasonable.
7. The Authority having taken note of the anomaly in the above IUC as prescribed under TO11 of 2003, hereby deletes the IUC prescribed in respect of mobile to ILD calls through fixed line operator in this Telecommunication Order.
8. The Authority further reiterates that wherever an IUC is prescribed by way of a Telecommunication Order, no other additional charge(s) may be levied on the consumers in respect of such service.
9. Presently call originating IUC is prescribed for mobile/PSTN to ILD/ISP calls.
10. The Authority recommends direct interconnection between operators. In case of continued routing of traffic through the fixed line operator, the transit charges involved, if any, shall be negotiated and paid by the operator (mobile or ILD) at whose option such routing takes place.
11. The above provisions shall come into force on 1st February 2006.