



## DESCRIPTION OF TELECOM LICENSES AND AUTHORISATIONS

### A. Description of Telecom Licenses

No.	License Category	License Description
1.	National Telecom Operator (NTO) license	<p>This licence shall be granted to an operator that demonstrates financial and technical capacity to establish and operate a telecommunications network spanning across the entire geographical boundary of Uganda.</p> <p>The NTO license will allow the license holder to establish and provide both telecommunication infrastructure and services across the entire country.</p> <p>The NTO license shall be for a period of 20 (twenty) years, renewable in accordance with the Uganda Communications Act 2013.</p> <p>The following are some of the salient features of this license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The licensee shall be eligible for national spectrum allocation based on technical expansion/development plan, legal and regulatory framework, public interest and availability of the respective resources.</li> <li>(b) The licensee shall be obliged to host and/or provide infrastructure services to PSP licensees within their respective licensed zones.</li> <li>(c) The licensee shall be obliged to host and/or lease to or from other National Telecommunications Operator and/or PIP license holders for network rollout and provision of infrastructure services within licensed zones.</li> <li>(d) The licensee shall be obliged to share active and passive infrastructure including National roaming.</li> </ul>

		<p>(e) The licensee shall be required to list at least 20% percent of its shares on the Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) within two (2) years from the date of grant/ issuance of license. This shall be undertaken in accordance with the existing listing rules as prescribed by the Uganda Capital Markets Authority.</p>
2.	National Public Infrastructure Provider (NPIP) License	<p>This license shall be granted to persons who intend to provide telecommunication infrastructure services to licensed operators across the entire geographical boundary of Uganda.</p> <p>A NPIP licensee shall be entitled to provide infrastructure services to licensed National Telecom Operators, Public Infrastructure providers, Public Service Providers and Private Networks in Uganda.</p> <p>The following are some of the key features of the NPIP license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) This license will allow the license holder to establish, install and provide infrastructure services throughout Uganda.</li> <li>(b) A NPIP licensee shall be authorised to provide infrastructure services to licensed National Telecom Operators, Public Infrastructure providers, Public Service Providers and Private Networks in Uganda.</li> <li>(c) Holders of this license will not be allowed to provide services to final consumers, except where the operator also holds a PSP license.</li> <li>(d) Depending on the licensee's technical plan, a holder of NPIP license may be assigned spectrum.</li> <li>(e) The license shall be for a period of 15 (fifteen) years, renewable in accordance with the Uganda Communications Act 2013.</li> </ul>
3.	Regional Public Infrastructure Provider (RPIP) License	<p>This license will be granted to persons who intend to provide telecommunication infrastructure services to licensed operators in one or two region(s) in Uganda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The following are some of the key features of the RPIP license:</li> </ul>

		<p>(b) This license will allow the holder to install, establish and maintain telecommunication infrastructure services in a specific region(s).</p> <p>(c) A NPIP licensee shall be authorised to provide infrastructure services to licensed National Telecom Operators, Public Infrastructure providers, Public Service Providers and Private Networks in the specific region(s). An operator may only hold one or two regional PIP license(s).</p> <p>(d) Holders of this license will not be allowed to provide services to final consumers, except where the operator also holds a PSP license.</p> <p>(e) Depending on the licensee’s technical plan, a holder of RPIP license may be assigned spectrum. The license shall be for a period of 15 (fifteen) years, renewable in accordance with the Uganda Communications Act 2013.</p>
4.	National Public Service Provider (NPSP) License	<p>This license shall be granted to persons who intend to provide telecommunications services to the public. This license will allow the licensee to provide either Voice and Data services, or Capacity Resale Services across Uganda.</p> <p>The following are the key features of the NPSP license:</p> <p>(a) The licensee will be authorized to provide either Voice and Data services, or Capacity Resale Services across Uganda.</p> <p>(b) The licensee shall not be allowed to install or otherwise provide infrastructure services.</p> <p>(c) A holder of this license shall be required to provide its services through the network/infrastructure of a licensed NTO or any other licensed public infrastructure service provider.</p> <p>(d) A holder of this license shall not be eligible for spectrum assignment.</p> <p>(e) The license shall be for a period of 5 (five) years, renewable in accordance with the Uganda Communications Act 2013.</p>

5.	Regional Public Service Provider (RPSP) License	<p>This license will allow the licensee to provide either Voice and Data services, or Capacity Resale Services in a specific region within Uganda.</p> <p>The licensee shall not be allowed to provide services outside of their licensed region(s) and shall not be eligible for spectrum assignment.</p> <p>This license will allow the licensee to provide services in any one or two region(s) in Uganda.</p> <p>The following are the key features of the NPSP license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The licensee shall be authorized to provide either Voice and Data services or Capacity Resale services to the public in the region(s) covered by the license.</li> <li>(b) The licensee shall not be allowed to provide service(s) outside of their licensed region and shall not be eligible for spectrum assignment.</li> <li>(c) An operator can only hold up to 2 regional licenses. Once the licensee applies to provide services in a 3rd region, the Commission shall evaluate and assess such operator's eligibility for a National Public Service Provider license.</li> <li>(d) RPSP license holder shall provide service through the infrastructure of any licensed NTO, NPIP or RPIP.</li> <li>(e) This license shall be for a period of 5 years.</li> </ul>
6.	Communal Access License	<p>This license will be granted to persons who intend to provide communal access to telecommunications services in Uganda. This license targets persons that may wish to connect specifically defined communities to telecommunications services.</p> <p>A community shall, for this purpose, include a group of persons living in the same geographical location, having particular characteristics and interests in common.</p> <p>The following are some of the key features of the Communal Access license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) A holder of communal access license will be authorised to establish, operate and provide</li> </ul>

		<p>communal access to telecommunications services to a particular community.</p> <p>(b) An applicant for this license must provide evidence of finance and technical capacity to enter into contract with licensed provider(s) of telecommunications services in Uganda for purposes of providing communal access to the targeted community.</p> <p>(c) This license is typically suitable for community based, not-for-profit entities that may wish to provide subsidized telecommunications services to the unserved or underserved communities.</p> <p>(d) The license shall be for a period of five (5) years renewable in accordance with the Uganda Communications Act 2013.</p>
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**IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT:**

- (a) Where an operator obtains two licenses for different regional categories, e.g NPSP & RPIP, the operator shall pay the higher or the two values for respective regions or 1.23% of GAR whichever is higher.
- (b) Where two licenses are issued within the same region, e.g RPSP & RPIP, only one license fee shall be paid or 1.23% of GAR whichever is higher.
- (c) Where a party applies for two National operator licenses, e.g NPSP & NPIP, such a party shall be required to obtain an NTO License.
- (d) The Commission shall only assign spectrum to NTO, NPIP and RPIP license holders. Other licensees shall be required to roam on NTO, NPIP and RPIP infrastructures.
- (e) Transfer of license shall attract a fee equivalent to USD 30,000

## **B. Description of Authorisations**

In addition to the above core licenses, the following classes of authorisations were created for this business segment:

<b>SN</b>	<b>AUTHORISATION</b>	<b>AUTHORISATION DESCRIPTION</b>
1.	Equipment Distribution Authorisation	This authorisation is granted to persons who deal strictly in the distribution and sale of telecommunications equipment, including network and customer terminals.
2.	Equipment Vending and Installation Authorisation	This authorisation is granted to persons that intend to import, vend, install and maintain telecommunications equipment.
3.	Authorisation to Manufacture	This authorisation is granted to persons who intend to set up manufacturing/ assembly plants for telecommunications equipment. UCC's main objective will be to ensure that the equipment meet the set standards.
4.	Authorisation for Disposal of communications equipment	This authorisation is granted to persons who intend to engage in the business of disposing of communication equipment.
5.	General authorisation for Private networks	This is granted to persons who establish network facilities for the sole use of members of the owning body/entity in a private closed user group, not providing network services for commercial gain.

### **IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT:**

- All authorisations shall be for a period of five (5) years, but the holder will be required to obtain an Annual Compliance Certificate upon satisfaction of the compliance obligations.
- The fees for the respective authorisation are specified in the Uganda Communications (Fees & Fines) Regulations SI.94 of 2019.

### C. Map of Uganda showing the Four Regions

