



UGANDA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION

## **CONSULTATION PAPER**

### **THE PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE LICENSING FRAMEWORK FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR IN UGANDA**

**5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This Consultation Paper aims to seek views from relevant stakeholders on the proposed review of the Telecommunications Licensing Framework to be adopted by the Uganda Communications Commission (“**UCC**”). This is intended to give effect to the Uganda Communications Act 2013, the policy recommendations contained in the National Broadband Policy 2018, technological advancements, emerging industry trends and international best practices.

1.2 Against this background and in line with the objective of developing a modern communications sector, the UCC intends to migrate the existing telecommunications license holders into a new licensing framework.

1.3 This Consultative Paper, therefore, provides an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the review process by submitting comments and views on the proposed license categories and fees.

#### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

##### **2.1 The specific objectives of the review are as follows:**

- (a) To ease market entry and increase competition and consumer choice in the telecommunication sector;
- (b) To enhance Quality of service provision in the sector;

- (c) To promote innovation and investment in the telecommunication sector;
- (d) To increase broadband rollout;
- (e) To increase local ownership in the telecommunication sector and hence reduce capital flight;
- (f) To reduce the cost of investment in ICT infrastructure by creating efficiencies in the use of scarce resources;
- (g) To promote a seamless transition from the existing framework into the new framework.

**2.1 This Consultation paper covers the following areas:**

- (a) The Background to the licensing framework;
- (b) The legal framework surrounding licensing (including UCC mandate, the current licensing framework);
- (c) Emerging industry trends and the national broadband policy;
- (d) Proposed license framework
- (e) Transition process to the new regime.
- (f) Call for comments.

**3.0 THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING LICENSING MANDATE**

3.1 UCC was established under section 4 of the Uganda Communications Act, 2013(the Act) with a mandate to among others monitor, inspect, licence, supervise, control and regulate Communications services.

3.2. The Licensing Framework is further developed in tandem with the Objectives of the Act contained under section 3 of the Act. The Objectives of the Act include, to establish one regulatory body for the communications sector in accordance with international best practice; to enhance national coverage of communications services; to expand the variety of communications services to include modern and innovative communications services; to encourage the participation of the private sector in the development of the

communications sector; and to introduce, encourage and enable competition in the communications sector through regulation and licensing of competitive operators;

- 3.2 Section 6(1) (e) of the Act, empowers the UCC to classify communication services and licenses. Sections 21-24 of the Act further provide for telecommunications licenses generally including the sale, manufacture, leasing of telecommunications equipment, and available necessary exemptions to this requirement.
- 3.3 Under Section 40 (1) of the Act, the UCC may, upon reasonable grounds, modify the conditions of any licence if the Commission considers it necessary to achieve the objectives of the Act, or is in the public interest, taking into account the justified interests of operators and the principles of fair competition and equality of treatment.
- 3.4 The UCC is further mandated to allocate, license, standardise and manage the use of radio frequency spectrum, promote competition among communications operators, and regulate the telecommunications industry.
- 3.5 Under Section 7 of the Act, the Minister is empowered to give policy guidelines to the UCC regarding the performance of its functions. Section 93 (3) of the Act, further empowers the Minister, in consultation with the UCC, by statutory instrument, to make regulations for better carrying into effect the provisions of the Act.
- 3.6 This mandate enables UCC to effectively conduct and implement a periodic review of the licensing instrument to facilitate inclusion of any new developments to the communications industry, changes in policies and regulations as well as emerging good international practice.

## 4.0 CURRENT FRAMEWORK

4.1 The Uganda Communications Act provides for licences for the following telecommunication services:

- (a) Radio communications under section 21.
- (b) Telecommunications under section 22.
- (c) Licence to use the frequency spectrum under section 24.
- (d) Authorisation to Manufacture and install radio communications apparatus under section 21.
- (e) Sale, hiring, disposal of radio communications apparatus section 21

4.2 In line with the above, the licensing regime is currently categorised as follows:

### 4.2.1 Telecommunications Infrastructure

**(a) The Public Infrastructure Provider (PIP) Licence:** This license category was introduced in 2006 in line with the Communications (Telecommunications Policy) Guidelines gazetted on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006, and the Communications (Telecommunications Infrastructure) Ministerial Policy Gazette No. 241 of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006. This license is granted to entities that establish commercial communication infrastructure facilities in Uganda (regardless of the form of technology) and permits holders to install facilities associated with transmission, reception and switching of electronic signals. This PIP license is for a period of fifteen (15) years.

Infrastructure is defined in the 2006 Ministerial guidelines as plant, equipment and systems associated with transmission, reception and switching of telecommunications (electronic signals).

This category of license applies to both passive and active infrastructure providers.

#### 4.2.2 **Telecommunication's services**

(a) **The Public Services Provider (PSP) Licence.** This license category was also introduced in 2006. A Public Services Provider (PSP) license is granted to entities that deliver, voice, data, audiovisual content and other services through the infrastructure facilities. The license is valid for a period five (5) years.

This license category is further classified into the following sub-categories:

- (i) **PSP-Voice and Data services.** This license is granted to cellular operators, mobile virtual network operators ("MVNO"), fixed voice service operators, global mobile personal communications by satellite ("GMPCS"), Internet telephony networks, Internet exchange services ("IXPSs") and Virtual Private Networks ("VPNs).
- (ii) **PSP- Capacity Resale Services.** This license is granted to operators who engage in the resale of leased telecommunications services. The licence permits the holder to buy wholesale capacity from the local or foreign operator and retail the same to PSPs.

#### 4.2.3 **General Authorization.**

Authorisations are granted to providers of non-core telecommunications services.

Authorised entities in this category are not required to pay licence fees, but UCC requires them to register and obtain a Certificate endorsing their provision of communication services to the public. The primary objective of this authorisation is to ensure consumer protection and

establish a mechanism for regulating the work and services provided by the authorised entity.

Under the current licensing framework, UCC divided general authorisations into two broad types:

- (i) **A general authorisation for Public Pay Communications Network services.** This applies to operators of phone bureaus, communications kiosks, cyber and Internet cafés as well as fax bureaus. With the increase in the use of mobile phones to offer services that were originally meant to be offered by holders of this authorisation, the UCC has in the recent past not been issuing these authorisations.
- (ii) **A 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.

#### 4.2.4 **Equipment vendors and installers providing Customer services and internal block wiring services**

This category of license targets vendors, installers and providers of block wiring services. Whereas operators in this space are not providers of core telecommunication services, their services have the potential to affect the quality of service of licensed communication services. By subjecting providers of these ancillary services to strict conditions, UCC seeks to ensure that the equipment installed or the services offered by the subject providers do not compromise the quality of the services provided by the mainstream telecommunication service providers.

#### 4.2.5 **National Telecommunications Operator (NTO) licence**

The NTO license was issued as a major license under the now repealed Communications Act, 1997 Cap 106, and the telecom policy of 1996. A

holder of an NTO license is allowed to provide all types of infrastructure and telecommunication services, under the same license.

This license was granted to MTN Uganda Limited in 1998 and Uganda Telecom Limited in 2000.

#### **4.2.6 Spectrum assignments**

UCC grants specific authorisation for the use of the radio frequency spectrum in Uganda fulfilment of the provisions of Sections 5(1)(c), 21, 24 and 25.

Where the installation of infrastructure and/or provision of communications services is subject to prior issuance of a license by the Commission, the spectrum authorisation for the use of the associated radio frequencies is granted separately after obtaining, but associated with, the respective telecommunications or broadcasting license. However, installations and operations that are based on the use of license-exempt radio frequency bands such as the Industrial Scientific and Medical (ISM) band obtain the respective operating license (telecommunications or broadcasting) and use the particular spectrum under a class spectrum authorisation issued by the Commission for the respective band.

Allocation and assignment of spectrum is dependent on a number of considerations including Government policies, the availability of spectrum, interference management, the spectrum resource needs of the operator/licensee, and harmonisation with international regulations.

UCC is currently undertaking a separate consultative process on spectrum assignment, and the outcome of the consultation shall inform the spectrum assignment model, which the UCC shall adopt going forward.

It should be noted that all the aforesaid license and authorisation categories were saved by section 90 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013.

## **5.0 WHY CONDUCT A LICENSE FRAMEWORK REVIEW**

The current license framework has been in effect since 2006. Given the dynamic nature of the ICT sector, a number of factors have necessitated a review of the licensing framework, to wit:

### **5.1 Industry Developments**

The current licensing framework has resulted in increased investment, entry of new players, innovative business models and services in the digital ecosystem<sup>1</sup>. The existing licensing framework has increased the total number of operators from three (3) in 2006, to 27 operators in 2019, and improved the teledensity from 0.26 in 1996 to 63.9 in 2016/2017.<sup>2</sup>

Despite these successes, the licensing framework has been in operation for over a decade, during which period, the telecommunications market has undergone significant changes with the emergence of new technologies and commercial practices. Developments and concerns such as overduplication in infrastructure rollout and the high cost of investment, emerging markets and services, high demand for spectrum resources and regulatory arbitrage, have necessitated this review.

Under the existing framework, a new and innovative entrant may be hindered from entry by national coverage and roll-out obligations, since the existing framework only provides for National licenses. A number of new players are now seeking to offer niche services and operate in a smaller defined geographical scope.

---

<sup>1</sup> Under this framework, some players progressively embraced infrastructure sharing on a commercial basis with new business models emerging of specific tower companies.

<sup>2</sup> Uganda Communications Commission, Annual Market Report 2016/2017

From a regulatory perspective, it is therefore prudent that we facilitate an environment that fosters competition and innovation while ensuring consumer protection.

**Question 1:** *What trends have impacted the telecommunication sector that have a bearing on the licensing framework? Please explain*

**Question 2:** *What regulatory initiative(s) would you recommend UCC to consider in order to improve entry into the telecommunication market in Uganda?*

## 5.2 **Regulatory Arbitrage**

Regulatory arbitrage occurs when entities exploit existing gaps in legislative and regulatory classifications to accrue tax, financial and competitive benefit by avoiding regulatory obligations.

The emergence of new technologies and business models that offer communication services as defined in the Communications Act 2013, but do not fit within existing classifications of licenses, pose an increasing challenge to the existing licensing framework. In many cases, these entities offer similar or substitutable services as the traditionally regulated entities but will take advantage of existing gaps to avoid regulatory obligations or in some cases move to other markets that provide a more predictable regulatory regime.

**Question 3:** *How best do you think UCC should address regulatory arbitrage under the new Licensing framework? Please explain*

### 5.3 Effective utilisation of spectrum Resources

Effective spectrum management and frequency planning is central to the aspirations of the telecommunications licensing framework and the attainment of the objectives of the National Broadband Policy 2018.

Spectrum is a finite resource that facilitates innovation and investment in ICTs. However, over the years, UCC has witnessed a surge in demand for spectrum due to an increase in the number of operators, customers and the nature of services offered. The existing licensing framework limits UCC's ability to address the demands for spectrum in the market adequately, hence the need for a review.

UCC recently issued a comprehensive consultative paper regarding a new spectrum assignment framework (*Please refer to the consultation paper available at <http://www.ucc.co.ug>*), which is complementary to the review of the licensing framework.

The proposed framework seeks to address new developments in the communications industry, taking into account the Spectrum Management Guidelines, changes in policies (such as those cited in the National Broadband Policy 2018), the draft Communications Regulations as well as emergent international good practice. The draft framework proposes a three-tier assignment model including a market-oriented approach, administrative approach and class authorisation (under exempt license arrangements).

**Question 4:** *What recommendations would you make to ensure effective and efficient utilization of spectrum assigned to a licensed operator?*

**Question 5:** *What gaps have you identified in the existing licensing framework in respect of spectrum assignment and utilization? How would you recommend UCC to address the identified gaps?*

## **5.4 Infrastructure rollout and the high cost of investment**

### **5.4.1 National Roaming**

The National Broadband Policy, 2018 advocates for seamless connectivity of telecom customers and, proposes national roaming as one of the avenues through which this can be achieved.

UCC believes that once the market fully adopts National Roaming, there will be no need for duplication of investment as roaming will enable connectivity without the need for each operator to necessarily deploy a network. This will make it possible for operators to share the resources (both active equipment and spectrum) and ultimately share costs and a seamless network across the country without major outages, ensuring optimum utilisation of resources.

To this end, UCC recently issued a separate comprehensive consultative paper regarding National Roaming, the findings of which will compliment this consultative process.

**Question 6:** *What proposals do you have in respect of the implementation of national roaming under the proposed license regime? Please explain*

### **5.4.2 Infrastructure Sharing**

Telecom infrastructure is one of the prime enablers for the expansion of the telecom services in the country and yet it is very capital intensive, requiring huge Investments over a long period.

Global trends in the telecommunications industry indicate a shift towards infrastructure sharing. Uganda is no exception, and in the recent past, the sector has moved towards infrastructure sharing models with many smaller operators opting to share infrastructure rather than build their own. This has been eased with the coming into the market of tower operators providing passive infrastructure sharing and companies laying optic fibre. The advent of infrastructure sharing in Uganda has thus far been driven more by the operators' commercial needs to lower the cost of operation than express Government policy.

Infrastructure sharing is also now a requirement under the Uganda Communications Act 2013 and the National Broadband Policy 2018.

Infrastructure sharing presents numerous benefits, including:

- Allowing telecom tower sites to host active network components of multiple telecom service providers;
- Tower infrastructure companies provide an Integrated Neutral Host Platform that is used by diverse and often competing operators helping build a unique, scalable and successful business model for Telecoms;
- A Win-Win Situation for infrastructure providing companies & customers;
- Reduced capital expenditure and operational expenditure, therefore, easing entry into the market,
- Faster time to roll-out services cost & energy efficiencies, therefore, easing entry into the market;
- Increased Connectivity Safety & Improved Aesthetics

Providing for mandatory infrastructure sharing as a licence obligation could potentially curb duplication in high demand areas and encourage parity of infrastructure building across the country.

**Question 8:** *Do you have any proposals on how infrastructure sharing can be implemented under the proposed licensing framework? If yes, please explain*

## **5.5 Policy and Legal Developments**

### **5.5.1 The National Broadband Policy**

In September 2018, Government passed the National Broadband Policy 2018, with a number of recommendations, including a proposal to reform the current licensing regime. The policy is a response to market developments and the growing need for fast speed broadband, crucial for the Government's plans to transition to a digital economy consistent with the e-government strategy and Vision 2040.

Specifically, the National Broadband Policy seeks to harmonise and regulate the planning and development of broadband infrastructure, enable efficient utilisation of resources, facilitate universal connectivity, affordability, and reform the licensing framework to meet the following overall national policy goals and aspirations:

- (i) Ensuring National coverage
- (ii) Efficient Spectrum Management- spectrum needs to be managed and utilised efficiently, optimally and rationally. Spectrum management should out-law hoarding of the spectrum and enable the realization of true economic value of the spectrum through spectrum re-farming.
- (iii) Optimum infrastructure utilisation through initiatives like National roaming which will allow the customer to automatically make and receive calls, send and receive data, or access other services, even when travelling outside the geographical coverage area of his or her service provider's network. Customers must have seamless access to coverage irrespective of their network.

- (iv) Enhanced consumer choice through Number Portability, which will empower the customers to choose their service provider without the challenge of changing their phone numbers.
- (v) Clear and simplified licensing practices, taking into consideration the roll-out obligations, quality of service and technological developments.
- (vi) Local participation through listing on the local stock market as a licensing condition which will help on mitigation of capital flight among other benefits.

To achieve the aforesaid objectives of the National Broadband Policy and align it with the existing licensing framework, the proposed Communications Licensing Regulations 2019 and the emerging realities in the telecommunication sector, UCC has deemed it necessary to review the existing licensing framework for telecommunication services in Uganda.

The proposed licensing framework is, therefore, a regulatory response to the changes in the industry and to promote parity amongst operators while reducing barriers to entry.

## **5.6 Number Portability**

The National Broadband Policy proposed number portability as an initiative to promote better consumer experience and choice. Number portability enables mobile phone users to retain their phone numbers when changing from one network carrier to another.

**Question 9(a)** *Do you have any comments on the introduction of Number Portability in Uganda? If yes, please explain*

**(b)** *Do you have any proposals on how number portability should be implemented in Uganda? If yes, please explain*

## 5.7 Listing of shares

The National Broadband Policy proposes that all national telecom operators should be listed on the stock exchange as a means of reducing the repatriation of capital and enabling the local populace to benefit from the profits emanating from national resources.

The public also raised this matter during the public hearing for the renewal of MTN's license. UCC believes that requiring national operators to list shares will facilitate operators to raise more revenue to fund critical infrastructure investments in the sector while at the same time deepen loyalty and accountability.

### Local content

Whereas the National Broadband Policy requires listing for National Operators, UCC proposes that all other operators that do not fall in the national operator category should be required to reserve at least 30% of their shareholding for local ownership.

In light of the above, UCC is reviewing the telecommunication licensing framework and seeks feedback on the proposals on listing and local content in the proposed telecommunications licensing framework.

**Question 10(a):** *How would you recommend UCC to implement the mandatory listing of shares?*

**Question 10(b):** *Please share best practices from other markets where listing has been implemented and the challenges met. How can the identified challenges be avoided in Uganda?*

## **6.0 PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION OF EXISTING TELECOM LICENSED OPERATORS**

6.1 To address the above issues, UCC is considering reviewing the current licensing framework. The review will entail extending the scope of some existing licenses and introducing new license categories to address the emerging policy and industry concerns. The following licenses are proposed:

- (1) **National Telecom Operator (NTO) license.** This will be a licence allowing the license holder to establish and provide both infrastructure and services across the entire geographical boundary of Uganda.
- (2) **National Public Service Provider (NPSP) License.** This license will allow the licensee to provide either Voice and Data services or Capacity Resale Services across Uganda. The licensee will not be allowed to install or otherwise provide infrastructure services, except if they obtain an appropriate PIP license as well. Customers of an NPSP licensee will access the services of an NPSP holder where the NPSP has a roaming agreement with a licensee in the respective region.
- (3) **Regional Public Service Provider (RPSP).** This license will allow the licensee to provide either Voice and Data services or Capacity Resale Services in a specific region. The licensee will not be allowed to provide service outside of their licensed region.
- (4) **National Public Infrastructure Provider (NPIP) License.** This will allow the license holder to establish and provide infrastructure services to licensed National Operators, Public Infrastructure providers, Public Service Providers and Private Networks in Uganda. Holders of this license will not be allowed to

provide services to final consumers, except where the operator also holds a PSP license.

- (5) **Regional Public Infrastructure Provider (RPIP) License.** This license will allow the holder to provide infrastructure services to licensed Public Service Providers in the authorised license area/region.

Where a licensed operator provides both infrastructure and services in three (3) regions, such operator shall become eligible for an NTO license.

The distinguishing features of the aforesaid licenses are summarised in the table below:

S/N	FEATURE	NTO	PSP	PIP
1.	Scope of License	(i) Licensed to provide infrastructure services within the boundaries of Uganda	<b>Regional License</b> Licensed to provide services to consumers in the specified licensed region(s)	<b>Regional License</b> Licensed to provide infrastructure services within the specified licensed zone(s)/ region(s)
		(ii) Establish and operate telecommunications services	<b>National</b> Establish and operate telecommunications services nationally (all defined geographic zones)	<b>National</b> Licensed to roll out and provide infrastructure services nationally (all defined geographic zones)
2.	Area of coverage	Entire geographical boundary of Uganda and must at a minimum cover and provide service in 95% of this geographical area.	<b>Regional</b> (i) Provision of services within the license zone (as per defined geographic zones).  (ii) Roaming agreements shall be limited to the licensed region.	<b>Regional</b> Infrastructure rollout and provision limited to license zone (as per defined geographic zones)
			<b>National</b>  Entire geographical boundary of Uganda	<b>National</b>  Roll out and provide infrastructure across the country
3.	Spectrum Allocation to be determined by technical plan and area of coverage	Will be eligible for national allocation based on expansion /development plan, legal and regulatory framework, public interest and availability of the respective resources.	N/A	Eligibility shall be based on licensed region (s), subject to availability, and upon consideration of expansion /development plan, legal and regulatory framework and public interest.
4.	National Roaming and Infrastructure sharing	(i) Obligatory to host and/or provide infrastructure services to PSP for regional and national rollout of services within their respective licensed zones  (ii) Obligatory to host and/or lease to or from National operator and or PIP for network	To obtain infrastructure services from NTOs and PIPs in licensed areas	To lease to and lease from NTOs and PIPs for the rollout of infrastructure in licensed zones

		rollout and provision of infrastructure within licensed zones.		
5.	Listing on Stock Exchange	Shall be required to list at least 20% per cent of its shares on the Uganda Stock Exchange within two (2) years from the date of grant/ issuance of license.	20% of local ownership	20% of local ownership
6.	License duration	15 years	5 years	15 years
7.	Compliance Certificates	Annual	Annual	Annual
8.	License Fee	License renewal/Grant fee of 2% of the Licensee' Projected Gross Annual Revenue for either 15 or 10 years depending on the choice of the applicant.	<b>National</b> 2% of the licensee's projected Gross Annual Revenue for 5 years.	<b>Regional</b> 2% of the licensee's projected Gross Annual Revenue for 15 years.
				<b>National</b> 2% of the licensee's projected Gross Annual Revenue for 15 years
9	Annual license fee	0.25% of the Gross Annual Revenue or USD 50,000 whichever is higher	<b>PSP Voice &amp; Data</b> 0.25% of the Gross Annual Revenue or USD 20,000 whichever is higher  <b>PSP Capacity Resale</b> 0.25% of the Gross Annual Revenue or USD 5,000 whichever is higher	<b>National:</b> 0.25% of the Gross Annual Revenue or USD 30,000 whichever is higher  <b>Regional:</b> 0.25% of the Gross Annual Revenue or USD 10,000 whichever is higher

**Question 11:** What are your comments on the proposed fee structure?  
Please explain.

## 6.2 AUTHORISATIONS

In addition to the above core licenses, the current licensing framework has three classes of authorisations for persons engaged in block wiring and equipment installation. However, the developments in the industry have blurred the previous features of the classes of authorisations. This has sometimes resulted in overlap in services provided by holders of the classes, sometimes extending beyond vending and installation to network management for licensed PIP and PSP holders.

Below are the categories for the authorisations:

- (a) Customer Premises block wiring and repair workshop
- (b) National Distributors of telecoms apparatus
- (c) Importers and wholesalers of telecoms apparatus

UCC is, therefore, considering creating four broad classes of authorisations for this business segment, to wit:

- (a) **Equipment Distribution Authorisation.** This will be granted to persons that deal strictly in the distribution and sale of telecommunications equipment, including network and customer terminals. Holders of this authorisation shall not be allowed to engage in equipment installation and maintenance. The Authorisation shall be for a period of one-year renewal subject to the holder's compliance with the terms and conditions.
- (b) **Equipment Vending and Installation Authorisation.** This will be granted to persons that intend to import, vend, install and maintain telecommunication equipment. This authorisation will be for a period of 5 years, but the holder will be required to obtain an Annual Compliance Certificate upon satisfaction of the compliance obligations.

(c) **Authorisation to Manufacture Telecom Equipment.** This will be granted to persons who intend to set up manufacturing/assembly plants for telecom equipment.

(d) **Authorisation for Disposal of communications equipment.** This will be granted to persons who intend to engage in the business of disposing of communication equipment.

**Question 12:** *What in your opinion are the most important considerations the proposed licensing framework should address?*

## **7.0 TRANSITION PROCESS**

7.1 UCC will review the current operations of every operator and determine the appropriate category of license they ought to obtain under the new framework. In determining the appropriate license category for each operator, the UCC will be guided by the following factors:

- (a) The extent of coverage. An operator that currently covers over 65% of the geographical boundary of Uganda and / or operating in three (3) regions shall be deemed to be eligible for a National license in the NTO or National PIP or PSP category. Operators who are covering less than 65% of the country or operating in less than three (3) regions, will be eligible for regional licenses.
- (b) Number of years in operation. All currently licensed operators will be eligible to be considered for an appropriate license category based on their current operations. Also, for the NTO license, UCC shall require the applicant to have experience of a minimum of ten (10) years.

- (c) Capital adequacy. Every operator will be required to demonstrate financial and technical capacity to meet the requisite license obligations.
  - (d) Resource utilisation. UCC will evaluate resource utilisation by the operators to determine the optimal usage and the eligibility by operators for resource assignment under their respective license.
- 7.2 UCC shall inform every operator of the license category for which they are eligible. The operator shall within thirty(30) days be required to respond and/or make representations regarding the license category determination by UCC.
- 7.3 Where the operator accepts the license category determined by UCC, UCC shall within fourteen (14 days) forward to the operator the specific requirements for the grant of the license.
- 7.4 Where an operator objects to the license category determined by UCC or seeks to apply for a license category other than the one determined by UCC, such operator shall make such representations or submissions as may be appropriate. UCC shall within thirty (30) days, respond to the specific submissions, objections and/or representations made by the operator. The operator shall submit the requirements for the appropriate license category within a period of thirty (30) days.

## **8.0 INVITATION TO COMMENT**

- 8.1 UCC hereby invites views and comments from the Industry and members of the public on this proposed licensing framework.

## **9.0 SUBMISSIONS**

- 9.1 All Respondents should include their personal/company particulars as well as a correspondence address and contact details in their submissions.
- 9.2 All views and comments should be submitted in writing in hard or soft copy.
- 9.3 Hard copy submissions should be addressed by mail or fax to the following address:

**The Executive Director  
Uganda Communications Commission  
UCC House, Plot 42-44, Spring Road, Bugolobi  
KAMPALA**

9.4 Softcopy submissions are to be sent by email to [ucc@ucc.co.ug](mailto:ucc@ucc.co.ug)

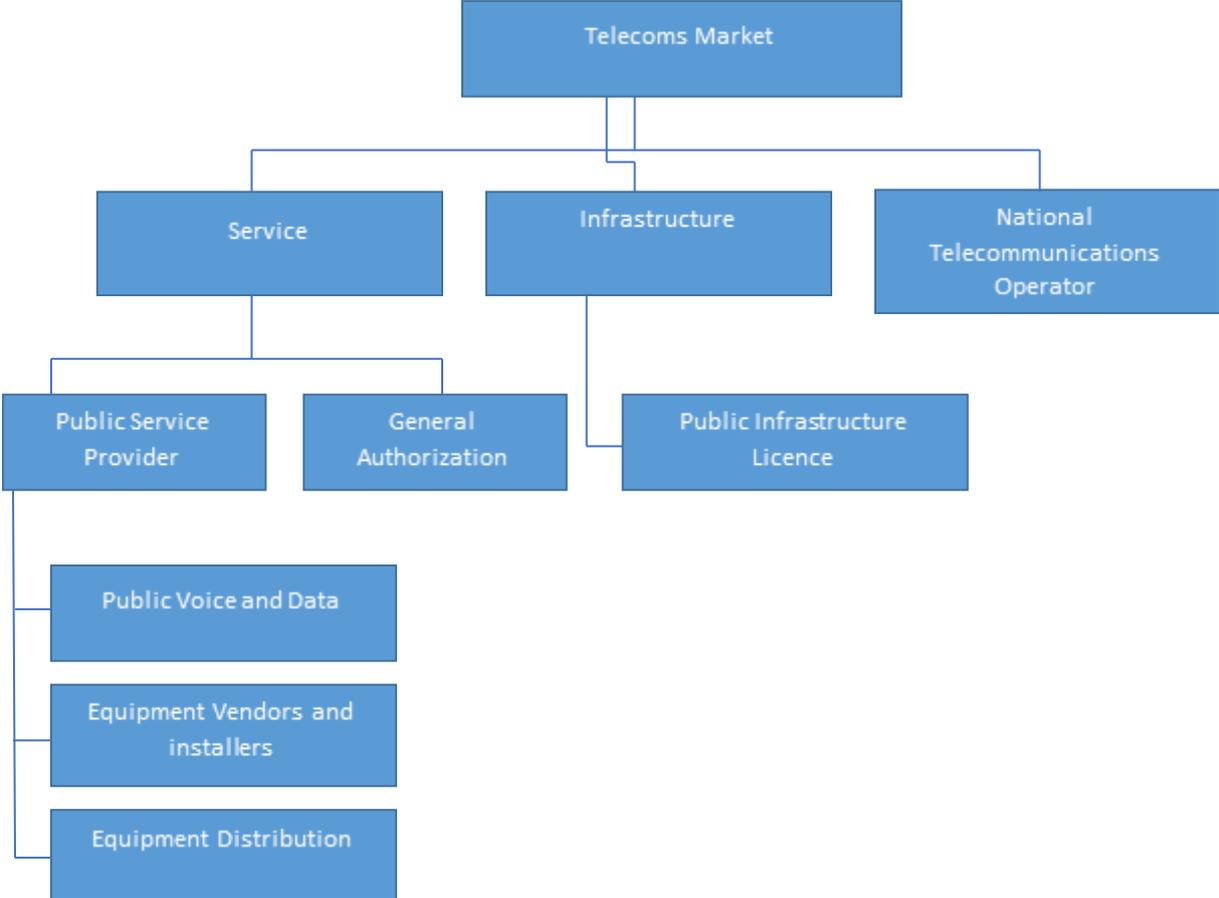
9.5 The closing date for this public consultation is **17:00 hours, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.**

## **10.0 ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

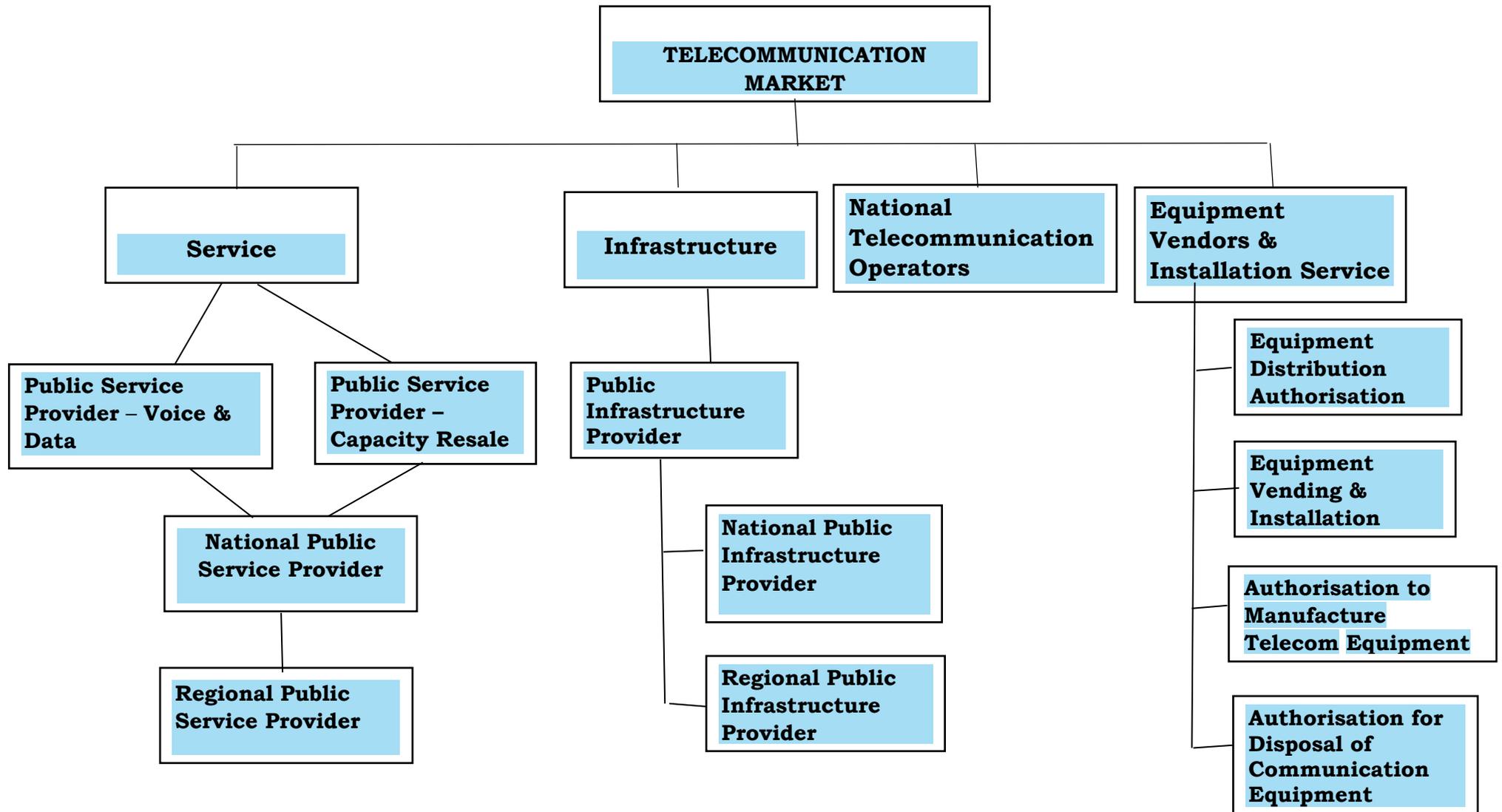
10.1 To achieve the desired outcome, the review process is planned to be undertaken according to the following schedule:

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1.	Development of licensing review consultation paper with proposed license categories.	Concluded
2.	Circulation on UCC website for comments solicitation of comments from Industry, Public and interested stakeholders	Between <b>5<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b> to <b>26<sup>th</sup> of April 2019</b>
3.	Incorporation of feedback	<b>10<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b>
4.	Adoption of final position by the Commission	<b>30<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b>
5.	The announcement of the transition period and effective dates for implementation of the new licensing regime	<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b>

**CURRENT LICENSING FRAMEWORK – Annex 1**



**PROPOSED LICENSING FRAMEWORK: Annex 2**



**UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

UCC House

Plot 42- 44 Spring Road, Bugolobi

P. O. Box 7376

KAMPALA

Phone: + 256 414 339000, +256 312 339000

Email: [ucc@ucc.co.ug](mailto:ucc@ucc.co.ug), Website: [www.ucc.co.ug](http://www.ucc.co.ug)