

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(IT & TELECOM DIVISION)

No.5-4/2013-DT

Islamabad 07 April, 2015

SUBJECT: POLICY DIRECTIVE ON VERIFICATION AND RE-VERIFICATION OF EXISTING SIMs THROUGH BIOMETRIC VERIFICATION SYSTEM (BVS)

The current security situation and concerns of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) relating to authenticity and verification of mobile subscriber records and unverified SIMs has led to strengthening of the existing process of new SIMs' activation after online verification from NADRA and was implemented subsequent to MoIT's policy directive dated 24th January 2008. The process has been further intensified and the NADRA assisted process of new SIMs issuance is being implemented through Biometric Verification System (BVS).

2. The dissatisfaction, however, continued with respect to authenticity of existing SIMs (issued without BVS) and remained under discussion at the Joint Working Group (JWG) of stakeholders established by the Ministry of Interior and various other forums, including the National Action Plan meeting held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance on 6th January 2015.

4. Foregoing in view, Ministry of IT is pleased to issue following directives to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority under Section 8 of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1996 (the Act) for compliance:

- a) All new SIMs shall be issued/activated only after prior verification through BVS.
- b) All existing SIMs that have already been issued by any CMO (without BVS) shall be re-verified/verified through Biometric Verification System (BVS) within the timelines issued by the Authority. After

expiry of the relevant timelines, SIMs that have not been verified through BVS shall not be allowed on the network of any CMO.

- c) The Authority shall set a mechanism along with timelines for re-verification of existing SIMs and formulate regulations to ensure strict implementation of the instant policy directive.
- d) CMOs shall fully abide by the directions/regulations of the Authority, ensuring strict compliance by the sales channels, report violations of any directions of the Authority and take prompt punitive actions against any violation or malpractices in sales channels affecting the efficacy of BVS based exercise.
- e) Obligations of CMOs emerging out of the directions/regulations issued by the Authority in pursuance of National Action Plan and this policy directive shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in their agreements with the subscribers.

5. Minister Incharge for IT has approved the issuance of this policy directive for immediate compliance by the Authority.

Chairman
Pakistan Telecommunication Authority,
PTA Headquarters, F-5/1, Islamabad.

Mux
Section Officer
(DT)
Chairman
DT
