



Government of Pakistan
PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY
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No. 15-113/2015/Enf/PTA

17 March, 2015


Subject:- **Biometric Verification of Cell Phone SIMs**

Reference: Ministry of Foreign Affairs' u.o. No. SAU-4/9/2015-GR-I dated 10th March, 2015.

1. It is apprised that following alternate viable/workable solution for re-verification of SIMs of overseas Pakistanis has been worked out by PTA along-with Cellular Mobile Operators and NADRA:

- a. An SMS shall be sent to all overseas Pakistanis (on international roaming) asking them to get their SIMs re-verified through BVS upon their visit to Pakistan or as per scenarios laid down in subsequent paras.
- b. For those SIMs which are present in Pakistan and their owners residing/visiting abroad, subscribers shall be advised to carry out Change of Ownership to the names of family members as per the procedure in vogue. One additional proof of relationship with the owner shall be seen and recorded by CMOs for reference.
- c. In case the SIM is neither in Pakistan nor on international roaming, it shall be blocked as per deadline, if not verified by due date. The same shall be unblocked, once subscriber carries out verification through BVS. However, CMOs shall make arrangements to ensure that the SIM is not issued to any other subscriber for a period of one year from the date of blocking.
- d. For SIMs that are operating overseas on international roaming, except Afghanistan, following process shall be adopted:
 - (1) CMOs shall carry-out preliminary verification of the subscriber through USSD code or any other technique (like SMS) to assess genuineness of the subscriber. The verification shall include taking information such as CNIC, mother's name, place of birth, etc. and verifying the same by taking data from NADRA.
 - (2) If verification is successful, CNIC # and MSISDNs registered against it shall be tagged as "Temporarily Verified" for BVS Verification till return of CNIC holder to Pakistan.
 - (3) A deadline of 31st March 2016 has been fixed for blocking of temporary verified SIMs, if not verified through BVS by that time.
 - (4) CMOs shall make sure that this facility is only applicable for subscribers operating on international roaming.
- e. SIMs operating in Afghanistan shall be verified as per procedure given at Para 1(b) or 1(c), above.

2. The above mentioned process is at final stage of implementation and subscribers shall be notified accordingly upon launching of same, please.


Yawar Yasin
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To:

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Director (Gulf Region)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad