

Section A

Title of Project

Number Portability, Local Roaming & Co-Sharing

Summary of Project

Section B

1.0 Objective and Outcomes of Proposed Project

- Facilitate Number Portability within different networks or operators
- Enable Local Roaming within different networks or operators.
- Push legislation for Co-sharing of Network Infrastructure (Passive first then Active)

2.0 Benefits of Proposed Project

Benefits include:

- Full utilization and optimization of the existing network coverage in the country by allowing Local Roaming without investing huge amount of money. For example, Digicel has a wider coverage than Telikom and bMobile put together. Instead of seeking investment, which neither Telikom nor bMobile have been successful in securing to build new infrastructure, this will be a relief to Telikom and bMobile as they are both state owned thus investment remains in the country.
- Ownership of the number for business making it easy to hop on different networks or carriers with Number Portability and to retain their number when roaming from one operator to another. This would encourage competition and keep the charges low as operators would want to keep the customers loyalty.
- Co-Sharing (or Sharing) of network infrastructure can be passive where only the tower or site is used by other operators or active sharing where BTS and other switching equipment both RAN and Core networks can be shared. Active sharing can follow later after the implementation of passive sharing. This is where Local Roaming and Number Portability come into play . The advantage of co-sharing far outweighs the negative impacts as this would benefit the customer more than the operators.

3.0 Technical Aspects

Depending on the requirements, each one of them has to be investigated differently as they have to be looked at individually. The setting up of this up would be easy as only few equipment would be installed at various exchanges keeping the installations costs low. This would mostly need software installations and upgrades of existing infrastructure. A proposal can be done at the request of NICTA and each of the aspects can be investigated separately.

4.0 Cost

Costs have not been looked at yet at this stage but if NICTA requests, this can be calculated and an estimate cost be provided.

5.0 Sustainability

Each operator/network/carrier can have full ownership of their own Switching, Billing, Value-Added- Services (VAS) and Intelligent Network (IN) platforms.

To encourage Co-Sharing, NICTA may look at reducing the levy from 2% down to 1.5% (or 1.75%) for the company that has done major investment on towers and infrastructure to compensate for so that Co-Sharing can be implemented. In this case, it would be Digicel has it had invested a lot compared to Telikom and bMobile on the mobile network coverage infrastructure.

6.0 Cross cutting Issues

Once this is implemented it will have less towers and therefore effects to environment by fuel spillage, waste disposal would be minimised and more environment friendly.

7.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

NICTA can request raw data collected on each of the operators/carriers for independent assessment.