

Nigeria hits record number of active mobile lines

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8 Oct 2012

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) says the country's active mobile telephone lines as of August 2012 is sitting on 105.2 million.

The data, released by NCC, revealed that mobile network operators in the country added over 1.8 million new lines in August, increasing the subscriber base from 103.4 million active telephone lines in July to over 105.2 million at the end of August 2012.

The development may not be unconnected to the promotions currently being run by telecoms companies in the country.

While the total connected lines increased to 141.2 million in the month, the data showed that GSM companies such as MTN, Globacom, Airtel and Etisalat attracted most of the new subscriptions between January and August, while the Code Division Multiple Access operators such as Visafone, Multi-Links, Starcomms and ZoomMobile continued to witness month-on-month decline in combined subscriber base.

What the data revealed

According to the data, while active mobile subscriptions on the GSM networks increased from 91 million in January to 101.4 million at the end of August; the CDMA operators' subscriber base dropped from 4.4 million to 3.3 million during the eight month period.

The GSM active subscriptions, which stood at 91 million in January, 2012, increased to 92 million in February and 94.5 million at the end of March. Subscriptions continued the upward growth trend, reaching 96.6 million in April and 97.5 million in May.

In June, July and August, the combined active GSM subscriber base increased to 98.3 million; 99.4 million and 101.4 million respectively.

CDMA's numbers fall

However, the active subscriber base on CDMA networks continued to decline from 4 031 820 lines in February to 3 904 846 in April.

It further plunged to 3 718, 153 in May; 3, 541 355 in June; and fell in July to 3 452, 368 and finally to 3 347 716 at the end

of August.

The number of fixed lines, which stood at 688 333 as at January, declined to 488 088 at the end of August.

The former executive vice-chairman of NCC, Ernest Ndukwe predicted that the country's mobile subscriber base would hit 105 million in December 2012.

However, the latest NCC data revealed that the target was achieved much earlier, as active subscriptions had crossed the 105 million projections, reaching over 105.2 million at end of August.

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