

# Number Portability in Trinidad and Tobago

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# OVERVIEW

- **What is Number Portability**
- **Regulatory Framework**
- **What has TATT Achieved to Date**
- **Challenges**
- **The Way Forward**

# What is Number Portability

- **Number portability (NP)** is a regulated facility which enables subscribers of public telephone services to change their service provider, geographic location or telephone service whilst *keeping their existing telephone number*.
- **Number Portability** is used to *foster consumer choice* and promote *effective competition* by enabling subscribers to switch between providers without the costs and inconvenience of changing telephone number.

# Regulatory Framework

**The following clauses provide regulatory direction for number portability to be implemented:**

- **Section 25 (2) (j) of the Act provides that in respect of a concessionaire's obligations, the Authority shall require a concessionaire to "...provide, to the extent technically feasible, number portability when required to do so and in accordance with the requirements prescribed, by the Authority."**

# Regulatory Framework

- **Condition A42 of each concession for the provision of public telecommunications services provides that the concessionaire shall, in accordance with any regulations relating to number portability, facilitate the portability of numbers assigned to any customer of any operator of public telecommunications networks or provider of public telecommunications services.**

# Regulatory Framework

➤ Regulation 9 of the Telecommunications (Interconnection) Regulations 2006 (“the Interconnection Regulations”) mandates a concessionaire “...*to configure its network to facilitate number portability between similar networks as and when directed by the Authority*”.

# Regulatory Framework

- **Regulation 2 of the Interconnection Regulations states “...number portability means the ability of a customer to retain the same telephone number on changing telephone service providers”.**

# What has TATT achieved to date

- **1<sup>st</sup> Draft Implementation Plan for Number Portability published 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 for public comment. The Authority is recommending the All Calls Query (ACQ) method of implementation. Operators will interface with a centralized Database/Clearinghouse facility.**
- **Substantive comments received from 2 mobile and 2 fixed concessionaires and these are being reviewed.**

# What has TATT Achieved to date

- Substantial amount of additional research carried out. TATT visited the Dominican Republic (Indotel) to gather relevant information on implementing number portability in the fixed and mobile markets.

# Challenges

- **The cost to implement Number Portability can vary greatly between countries, depending on such factors as the technical state of the network, the customer base and the capability of Operational Support Systems.**
- **Such costs are difficult to obtain from operators.**

# Challenges

- **The Dominican Republic stated that the overall cost to implement was in the region of US \$20M and the time to implement was 18 months.**
- **If implemented, how are concessionaires to recoup the substantial cost to implement service provider number portability?**
- **A cost recovery methodology needs to be developed by the Authority and the concessionaires.**

# The Way Forward

- TATT aims to publish 2<sup>nd</sup> round consultation document together with comments received from stakeholders beginning 2nd Quarter 2011.
- Target date to publish the final paper (subject to Board Approval) on number portability together with comments received from stakeholders is end November 2011.

# The Way Forward

- **Once substantive issues are resolved, the Authority will work with concessionaires to implement the service.**



The End