

FREQUENCY SPECTRUM ALLOCATION AND ASSIGNMENT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY 2021 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Radio frequency spectrum is a national resource that should be managed and utilized effectively and efficiently. In the exercise of its mandate, the Authority plans, allocates and assigns frequency resources to support a host of wireless services. The Authority also conducts monitoring and undertakes surveillance and coordination of the usage of the radio frequency spectrum resource to ensure optimal and efficient utilization.

2. RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM ASSIGNMENTS

To facilitate uptake of radio-communication services, the Authority assigned frequencies to licensees for various services during the 1st quarter of 2021/2022 as highlighted hereunder:

2.1. FIXED SERVICE

To facilitate backhaul for network traffic, the Authority assigned frequencies in the 5, 7/8, 13, 15, 18, 23, 38, 71/80 GHz bands to various operators for deployment of 240 microwave links and processed the decommissioning of 364 fixed links. This compares to 570 assignments in the previous quarter.

2.2. FM SOUND BROADCASTING SERVICE

The Authority assigned 12 additional FM sound broadcasting frequencies to broadcasters to serve in Isiolo, Lamu, Garsen, Eldama Ravine, Webuye, Eldoret, Meru, Kajiado, Kitui, Kibwezi, and Voi. This compares to 16 assignments in the previous quarter.

2.3. DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION BROADCASTING SERVICE

No frequency assignments for digital terrestrial television service were issued during the Quarter. This is similar to the previous quarter where no assignments were issued.

2.4. MOBILE SERVICE

No frequency assignments were authorised during the Quarter. This is similar to the previous quarter where no assignments were issued.

2.5. PRIVATE MOBILE RADIO SERVICE

The Authority received 17 applications for licenses in the Private Mobile Radio service, compared to 15 during the previous quarter.

2.6. RADIO ALARM SERVICE

The Authority assigned frequencies for 5 VHF radio alarm networks, compared to 3 during the previous Quarter.

2.7. AERONAUTICAL RADIO SERVICE

Aeronautical radio stations are radio installations aboard aircraft that provide ground to ground and air to ground communication services to aviation operators. The authority manages access to the HF and VHF aeronautical bands by licensing Aircraft stations and other aeronautical radio installations. As per ICAO rules, all aircraft radio stations must be licensed before they are permitted to fly.

During the quarter, 161 renewal authorisations for the Aeronautical radio stations were issued, compared to 284 during the previous quarter.

2.8. AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

Amateur radio service uses radio frequency spectrum for purposes of non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, private recreation, contesting, and emergency communication.

The Authority licenses radio amateurs categorised as Novice, Temporary and Permanent. A novice license is given to beginners and students who take up this service. Temporary licenses are issued to visiting Hams who have amateur radio operator certificates from countries that reciprocate with Kenya. The full/permanent license is issued to those who have attained qualifications as administered by the Radio Society of Kenya, RSK. The Authority collaborates with the radio society in the issuance of certificates which is the global best practice approach.

During the quarter, 11 renewal authorisations for the Amateur radio service were issued, compared to 5 during the previous quarter.

2.9. CITIZEN BAND SERVICE

Citizens band radio is a land mobile radio service that allows short-distance person-to-person bidirectional voice communication between individuals. Citizens band is distinct from the Amateur Radio Service. No authorisation of the Citizen Band radio service was issued during the quarter.

2.10. MARITIME SERVICE

Maritime Mobile Service Identity numbers define a series of nine digits transmitted over a radio frequency channel to uniquely identify ship stations, ship earth stations, coast stations and coast earth stations. During the Quarter, no authorisation of the Maritime mobile identity numbers was issued, this is similar to the previous quarter where no authorisation was given.

2.11. SATELLITE SERVICE

No frequency assignments for satellite earth stations were issued during the Quarter, this is similar to the previous quarter where no assignment was issued.

