



CAG

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

January 14, 2020

Comments to the Consultation Paper on Tariff issues of telecom services

Please find here-below our consolidated comments to the Consultation Paper:

We have gone through the consultation paper and agree that fixing of floor price is anti – consumer and anti-competitive. We are of the opinion that fixing of floor price cannot be the solution to the issues faced by telecom service providers. Fair play in the market place is the basis for a healthy competition and it is important for all telecom service providers to recognize this and act accordingly. In the absence of it, and situations of predatory pricing, it is crucial for the Competition Commission and the Regulator to step in and take necessary measures to curtail it and ensure stability in the market place. Unfortunately, we didn't see this happen in recent times.

Considering the ever increasing database of telecom and data subscribers in the country and the emerging need to provide quality service, it is probably best for the telecom service providers to mutually discuss (as was done now with an uniform increase) to arrive at base prices that will help in “tariff correction” in order to improve infrastructure and provide quality service and also ensure sustainability. At the same time, affordability is an important point to be considered. Regulator may continue to play the role of the watch dog and intervene if and when consumers' interests are violated.

Thank you.

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