



PUBLIC ADVISORY
Unlicensed Operators

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (“URCA”) issues this Notice in accordance with section 8(1)(e) of the Communications Act, 2009 (“Comms Act”).

URCA has observed public advertisements regarding the provision of electronic communications services, particularly voice services, in The Bahamas by persons not licensed by URCA under the Communications Act, 2009 to provide such services. The advertisements purport to offer certain electronic communications devices and equipment as a means to deliver voice services at a cost to consumers.

URCA advises that consumers should be aware of the risks of using services by unlicensed operators as URCA is unable to intervene on behalf of consumers in the event they experience poor service quality or do not receive the service for which they have paid. A public register of all licensed operators is available on URCA’s website, www.urbahamas.bs, under the “Publication” menu option.

Consumers are advised to proceed cautiously and if in doubt, contact URCA either by:

- Telephone: 393-0234; or
- Email: info@urbahamas.bs; or
- Fax: 393-0237

URCA further advises that it is an offence under section 16 of the Comms Act for any person to establish, maintain and operate a network or provide a carriage service in The Bahamas, including by use of radio spectrum, without a licence, punishable under section 107 of the Comms Act by a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) upon summary conviction.

URCA strongly advises consumers to obtain electronic communications services from operators licensed by URCA and subject to its regulatory jurisdiction.

January 5, 2012