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New Crystal COMMUNICATIONS

ALTON seeks FG's intervention in NCC-NASREA face-off

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Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos Telecommunications companies operating in Nigeria have called on the Presidency to quickly intervene into the lingering crisis between the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Nigerian Environment Standards Regulatory and Enforcement Agency (NESREA) over base stations regulations in the country. The National Chairman of the Association of Licensed Telecoms Operators of Nigeria, Mr. Gbenga Adebayo, said FG has to wade into the matter in view of the disruptions in communications service caused by the increasing spate of telecoms site closure by NESREA in different parts of the country.

According to him, "NASREA has unlawfully sealed the base stations sites of our members in Abuja, Enugu, Owerri and Ibadan causing serious network outages and congestion. When the NCC caused the site in Abuja to be unsealed in lawful exercise of its statutory powers, NESREA again unlawfully invaded the site with armed policemen, demobilized the site and caused loss of service to millions of individuals, businesses, law enforcement and security agents."

He pointed out that it had been noted that some of the sites collocate over six separate operators, adding that the activities of NESREA have severely impacted the quality of service delivery to esteemed subscribers who are affected on the respective networks.

“ALTON wishes to point out that such impulsive disruption of communications service is extremely dangerous to national security particularly at this trying time in our national history when the interrupted availability of telecoms service is critical to the ability of law enforcement and security agencies to respond to the resurgent cases of bombings, armed robbery and other condemnable activities which threaten national security and economy,” he said.

He called on the Federal government and all stakeholders to call NESREA to order and insist on the observation of due process in its interventions, saying that with the further intervention of respective ministers, “such wanton disregard of the rule of law will no longer recur in the national interest.”