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evel in ministry's legal threat to unlicensed telcos

May Kunmakara | Publication date 08 March 2021 | 21:21 ICT

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Fixed broadband internet subscriptions across the Kingdom's 37 providers rose 33.07 per cent year-onyear to 249,132 in May. 🖸 Hong Menea

The private sector welcomed the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications newest warning to unlicensed or otherwise non-legally-compliant telecoms operators as a necessary building block for sustainable growth in the industry.

Endorsed by minister Chea Vandeth, the March 4 announcement warned of legal action if telecoms operators collude with or sell wholesale internet access services to unlicensed providers to offer end-users in retail packages.

"The public must stop using the internet services provided by unlicensed firms," the ministry stressed, adding that to date, 49 telecoms operators hold valid licences.

Sok Channda, president and CEO of Angkor Data Communication Group Co Ltd (MekongNet), lauded the move as a proactive leveller in the business playing field for the industry.

"It's truly a brilliant move on part of the ministry to take action against unlicensed companies," she said.

Licensed internet service providers (ISP) are feeling the pinch from their unlicensed counterparts that undercut sales, she fumed, pointing out that MekongNet's customer base gravitates more toward intermediary network providers rather than end-users.

Channda hopes that the ministerial announcement will lead to positive changes in the

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industry and offer a pathway out of the grey market. "I wish to see those who are unlicensed to apply for one and comply with existing laws.

"And the customers who decide to splash out on [internet] from licensed [ISPs] will get high-quality services," she said.

The ministry encouraged the public to double-check the legitimacy of telecoms operators with the up-to-date list of licensed firms posted on the Telecommunications Regulator of Cambodia's (TRC) website at trc.gov.kh.

The number of active mobile phone subscriptions across the Kingdom's six operators was 20,481,051 as of the end of May, inching down 0.08 per cent from the end of May 2019, the latest data from the TRC show.

This figure is the equivalent of 124.09 per cent of the total population.

The number of mobile internet subscriptions across Cambodia's seven providers also recorded a 2.36 per cent drop to 14,863,435, whereas fixed broadband internet subscriptions across the Kingdom's 37 providers logged a 33.07 per cent climb to 249,132.

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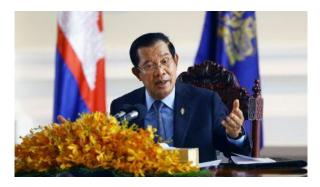


Cambodia's telecom regulator will strip the operating permits of more than 30 private companies licensed to provide internet and Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) services unless they can

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Phnom Penh placed in two-week lockdown

The government has decided to place Phnom Penh in lockdown for two weeks, effective April 14 midnight through April 28, as Cambodia continues to grapple with the ongoing community outbreak of Covid-19, which has seen no sign of subsiding. According to a directive signed by Prime Minister



Cambodia on the verge of national tragedy, WHO warns

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in Cambodia

warned that the country had reached another critical point amid a sudden, huge surge in community transmission cases and deaths. "We stand on the brink of a national tragedy because of Covid-19. Despite our best efforts, we are



Hun Sen: Stay where you are, or else

Prime Minister Hun Sen warned that the two-week lockdown of Phnom Penh and adjacent Kandal provincial town Takmao could be extended if people are not cooperative by staying home. "Now let me make this clear: stay in your home, village, and district and remain where



Businesses in capital told to get travel permit amid lockdown through One Window Service

The Phnom Penh Municipal Administration has issued guidelines on how to get travel permission for priority groups during the lockdown of Phnom Penh, directing private institutions to apply through the municipality's One Window Service and limit their staff to a mere two per cent. In



Vaccination open to foreigners in Cambodia

The Ministry of Health on April 8 issued an

announcement on Covid-19 vaccination for foreigners residing and working in Cambodia, directing the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and local authorities to register them. Health minister Mam Bun Heng, who is also head of the inter-ministerial



Ministry names types of business permitted amid lockdown

The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training singled out 11 types of business that are permitted to operate during the lockdown of Phnom Penh and Takmao town, which run through April 28. Those include (1) foodprocessing enterprises and slaughterhouses; (2) providers of public services such as firefighting, utility and

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