



Digital Weather Services

A Regulatory Perspective

Patrick Mwesigwa,
Director Technology, Networks & Services
Uganda Communications Commission

Mandate



UCC is a converged regulator of ALL communications services in Uganda

Established by the Uganda Communications Act 2013.

The Act replaced the Uganda Communications Act of 1997 and The Electronic Media Act of 1996



**UGANDA
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

Relevance to VAS



It is the role of the UCC to promote the access to a variety of communication services as a key driver of the economy



Lately these have grown from basic voice services at the start of the last decade to a range of mobile telephone VAS services



The UCC role in VAS is most prominent in two forms; the liberalisation of the MNO and whole sale VAS markets

MNO Liberalisation



Probably the biggest enabler to the development of VAS services was the liberalisation of the voice service in 2007



This put in place a technology neutral licensing regime characterised by two license categories



Number of Players		
NTOs	2	MTN, UTL
PIPs	24	
PSPs	36	
Active Mobile Network Operators	6	MTN, UTL, Africell, Vodafone, Airtel, Smart
MVNOs	1	K2

VAS Regulation

1

The UCC has maintained a light handed VAS regulation regime with minimal regulatory overheads for USSD and Bulk SMS services

2

This was aimed keeping regulatory barriers for VAS like Climate Weather Services low

3

Standard Application short code application forms have been adopted. Guidelines in place.



14 Day turn around for short code application



Fees

Management of Numbering Resources

PROS

In line with international best practice, UCC adopted a new numbering range that increased the short code from 3 to 4 digit range. This further enables the entry of new services



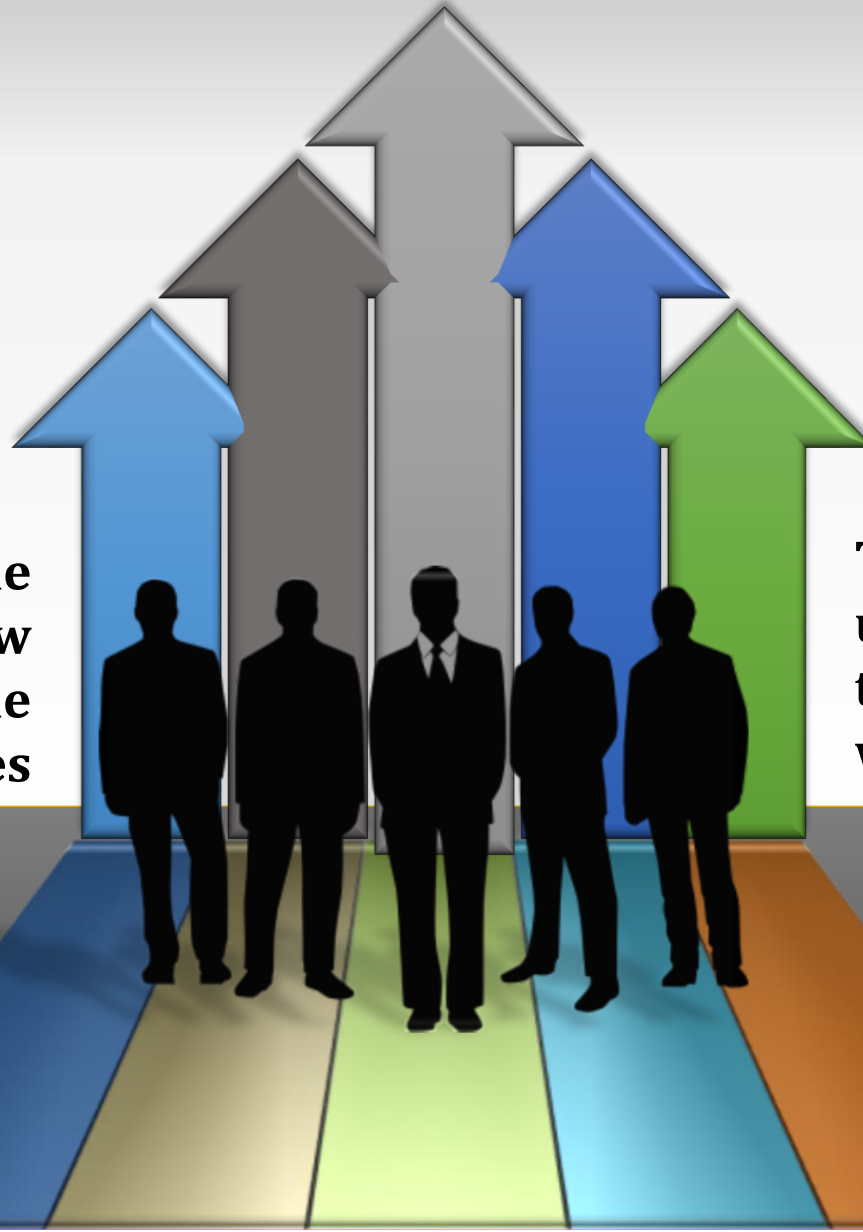
PROS

In addition special 0800 numbers have been put in place for emergency communication that may include extreme weather notifications



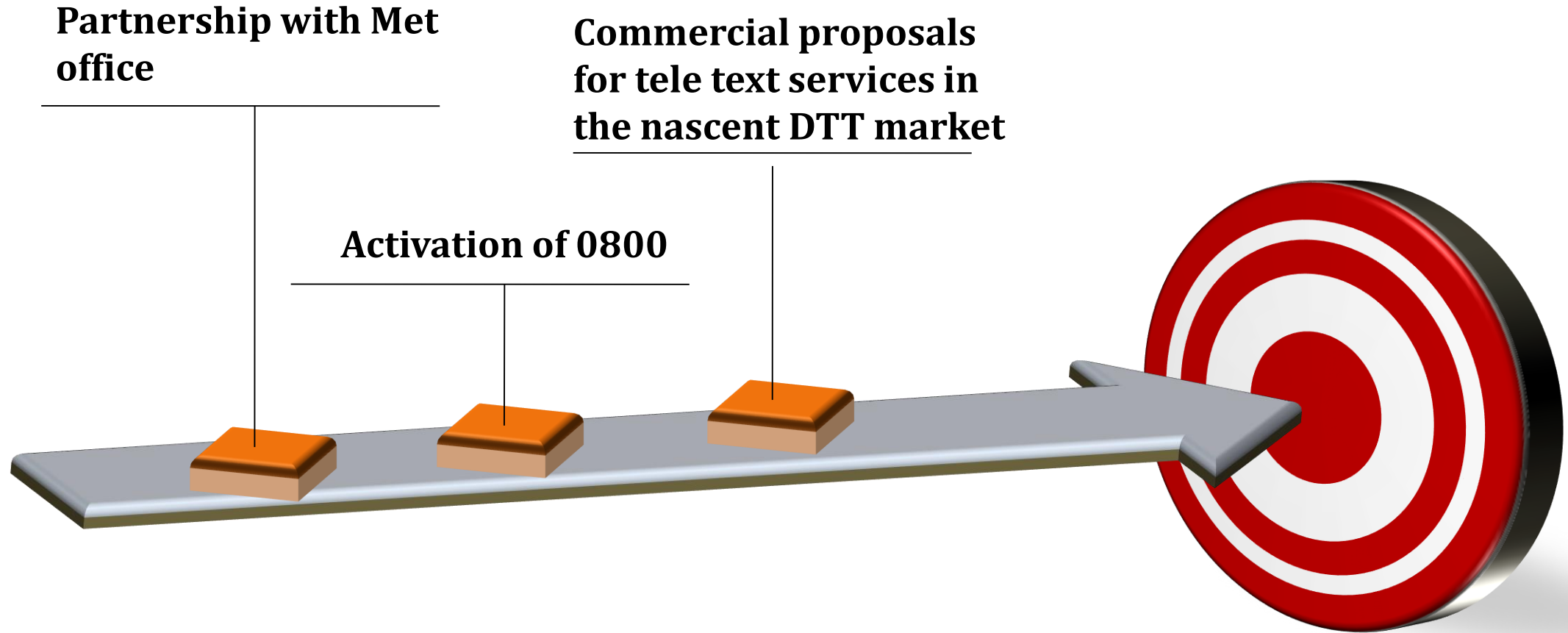
Opportunities in Broadcasting

**The migration from Analogue
to DTT TV offers new
opportunities for VAS in the
form of Tele- text services**



**This new medium for VAS offers
unprecedented opportunity for
the commercialisation of
weather information**

Way forward





Contact Details

Patrick Mwesigwa

Director for Technology Networks and Services

pmwesigwa@ucc.co.ug

Tel: +256-414-339092

Fax: +256-414-348832

Website: www.ucc.co.ug

