

Unregistered SIM cards to be switched off next week

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PARLIAMENT. All unregistered SIM cards will be deactivated on the set deadline of August 31st, Security minister, Lt Gen Henry Tumukunde, has said.

Lt Gen Tumukunde was yesterday appearing before a joint parliamentary committee meeting, comprised of officials from the Information and Communications Technology, Defence and Internal Affairs and Equal Opportunities committee to explain the government's position.

The minister said there are ongoing consultations with different stakeholders but this would not change the set deadline.

Lt Gen Tumukunde said they are acting in accordance with the law and the presidential directive on the matter and failure to meet the set deadline would put the credibility of government at stake since it has

so far been postponed twice.

"The laxity in this exercise reflects public trust in government's ability to conduct its business but it will have vast negative effects on the security of Ugandans enhancing our inability to successfully investigate cases of crime and even terrorism perpetuated using mobile devices," he said.

Securing mobile money

The minister told the committee chaired by Tororo County North MP Annet Nyakecho that mechanisms have been put in place to secure users' mobile money, airtime and data at the point of deactivation.

According to statistics tabled by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Gen Jeje Odong, a total of 31 million SIM cards have been forwarded for verification to National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA) out of which 25 million has been corroborated.