



NATIONAL PAYMENT SWITCH DIRECTIVES 2024

The Bank of Sierra Leone issued the National Switch Directives in February 2023.

In May 2023 the Bank of Sierra Leone launched the National Switch also known as “Salone Pement Swich” (SaPS), which allowed for Card and Point of Sale (POS) switching.

Section 5 of the National Switch Directives 2023 states as follows:

All financial institutions licensed by the Bank and operating in Sierra Leone shall ensure that they become and remain participants in the National Switch.

Further, Section 9(4) of the National Switch Directives 2023 provides that:

A payment service provider shall, from a date to be determined by the Bank, process all domestic transactions such as Automated Teller Machines, Point of Sale, internet, mobile and other payment transactions conducted with other payment service providers through the National Switch.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 15(7) of the National Payment Systems Act 2022, the National Switch Directives 2023, and following **the successful pilot run** of the “Salone Pement Swich” (SaPS) Instant Payment Service (IPS), the Bank of Sierra Leone hereby directs that **effective 1 April 2025:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "JAB".

1. **ALL** Commercial Banks and Mobile Money Operators in Sierra Leone shall process all domestic instant payment, Card, and Point of Sales (POS) transactions through the “Salone Pement Swich” (SaPS) only.
2. **ALL** Commercial Banks shall be required to direct **ALL** domestic card transactions with other banks through the “Salone Pement Swich” (SaPS) card switch only.
3. **ALL** Commercial Banks as well as Mobile Money Operators shall be required to direct **ALL** domestic instant payments with any other Fintech Organisation through the “Salone Pement Swich” (SaPS) Instant Payment Service (IPS) only.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THE ABOVE DIRECTIVES IS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 37 OF THE NATIONAL PAYMENT SYSTEMS ACT 2022. FAILURE TO COMPLY SHALL ATTRACT FINANCIAL AND OTHER PENALTIES UNDER THE ACT.

BANK OF SIERRA LEONE

17 DECEMBER 2024

