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Aggrieved foreign firms threaten Nigeria telecoms

A fresh crisis is looming in Nigeria's telecommunications sector, as foreign service providers and equipment suppliers have threatened to disconnect their West African counterparts over an alleged breach of agreement. The Guardian reports that foreign firms are lamenting the inability of some Nigerian telecommunications operators to honour their financial obligations in foreign exchange. If the issue is not resolved, the 150m active subscribers may have difficulty making calls. Gbenga Adebayo, chair of the Association of Licensed Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria, said some of the foreign vendors had issued a notice of disconnection of service to their Nigerian counterparts. The National Association of Telecommunications Subscribers of Nigeria said a collapse of the telecoms sector would affect all other sectors of the economy, including banking.