

**WELCOME SPEECH BY THE VICE CHAIRPERSON OF  
BOTSWANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MS M.T.  
SEKGOROROANE, AT THE OCCASION OF THE SEMINAR ON  
FURTHER LIBERALISATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION  
MARKET IN BOTSWANA.**

**GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

**31 JANUARY 2005 – 2 FEBRUARY 2005.**

Director of Ceremonies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome you on behalf of the Botswana Telecommunications Authority to this important forum on further liberalisation of the telecommunications market in Botswana. Let me start by thanking the BTA staff who have been working hard around the clock organizing this stakeholder's forum. This forum is a product

of a study which was commissioned in July 2004 with the main objective of looking at options for further opening the telecommunications market in Botswana. I must mention that key stakeholders were taken on board from inception of the study and our consultants, Ovum, who were selected after an international tender, have produced a thought provoking report which forms the basis for this gathering.

The forum marks the last leg of the consultative process as the study is coming to an end and we expect to get as much input as possible from all delegates attending this forum. The BTA has pulled a versatile team of delegates so as to get a balanced input into the study. Also amongst us, is a reasonable pool of international specialists and professionals in the telecommunications industry whose contributions, I trust, will be an integral part of the outcome of this forum. I wish to encourage you to make your opinions and views heard at this forum so that the experts here present have a clear perspective and understanding of what the people on the ground think about the development of the

telecommunications industry in Botswana. Your valuable input will form a basis for carving the telecommunication liberalisation plan for the country. You should appreciate that such a plan has to be in line with national development strategies whilst at the same time helping Botswana to assume her rightful position in the global telecom fraternity.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As most of you may know, the telecommunication industry is characterised by fast evolving technological innovations, ever changing consumer behaviour and other countless factors, which we cannot elaborate here. On that note, the liberalisation plan that will result from this consultative forum and other interventions must be viewed as a living plan and therefore subject to review and update as and when the influencing factors mentioned above set in.

Ladies and Gentlemen

For those of you who are in Botswana for the first time, particularly from overseas, I do encourage you to walk around and enjoy the

warm weather and also visit tourism attractions after the forum, some around Gaborone and its surrounding areas including the small Gaborone Game Reserve and the Mokolodi Nature Reserve, where you can see a good number of different species of wild animals. There is also the Mannyelanong Hill in Otse village only some 50 kilometres south of here, which is graced with beautiful vultures. I am actually the best person to advise you on this matter since I am involved in the tourism and entertainment sector.

We have the BTA support team in the conference to assist you with whatever you need. May you feel free to seek assistance at any time of the day if the need arises, we will be very happy to help you. Once again welcome, enjoy your stay and make these three days memorable in future. In our tradition, visitors on a good cause are normally deemed to bring rain. Therefore, I expect more rain during your stay here or when you leave. May you enjoy your stay in Gaborone.

**PULA!!**

**PULA!!**

**PULA!!**

