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NEWS RELEASE

**BTA to host a Commonwealth Telecommunications
Organisation (CTO) Workshop**

The Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA) is planning to hold a Telecommunications Simulation Workshop next week, from the 20 – 24 January 2003, at the Grand Palm Hotel. The workshop is being held in Gaborone on behalf of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO).

At the 1999 Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) Council meeting, the CTO was given the remit to change the mindset of monopoly telecommunications staff in the CTO member countries as the incumbents move into the new state of liberalization and competition. As the environment is new, the CTO saw it fit to commission the writing of a new Telecommunications Business Simulation (TBS) which is a model that reflects the current operating environment” It is against this background that the CTO started holding simulation workshops in its member states. Similar

workshops have been held Zambia, Malta, Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago and St. Lucia.

The Botswana workshop is intended to help telecommunication operators assimilate into the changing telecommunications atmosphere, which is characterised by liberalisation and competition. The workshop is expected to show how various constituent parts of a telecommunications business interact, and therefore different business strategies are going to be tested.

The five-day workshop is expected to attract at least twenty-four participants from all telecommunications sectors covering mobile telephony, fixed line telephony, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and telecommunication regulatory bodies in the Eastern and Southern Africa regions.

The Executive Chairman of the BTA, Mr C. M. Lekaukau, who is also the Chairman of the CTO, will officially open the workshop.

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