

Remarks by C. M. Lakaukau at the National ICT Policy Workshop farewell reception held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC), 24 May 2005, 7 PM

Good evening and welcome to the Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA) farewell cocktail, at this occasion of the National ICT Policy (Maitlamo) workshop. Throughout the course of yesterday and today, it has been said and agreed that this policy is long overdue if Botswana is to compete in the global ICT arena. BTA, as one of those public agencies charged with the responsibility to ensure effective development of the ICTs (Telecommunications in particular) is encouraged by the positive approach with which you stakeholders want to see Botswana optimise the benefits ICTs. We have no doubt that the implementation of this policy will not only enhance the work of such organisations as BTA, but will also ensure planned and a coordinated approach that, as we learnt from the Singapore, is a recipe for success.

For those of you interested in the telecommunications statistics, subscriber figures for fixed line telephony stood at 136 463 (8% teledensity) as at end of March 2005 while mobile telephony subscriber figures stood at 563 782 (33% teledensity). Similarly, 21 Internet Service Providers had been registered by the same period.

A lot has been said already and I do wish to stretch for listening capacity beyond the limit. Enjoy the cocktail and farewell to you all especially those who will be leaving Gaborone.

A team of scholars from the University of Botswana have done a study on ICTs and wish to share their findings with you. I therefore request you to spare them a few minutes of your time so that they can give you their perspective on the subject.