

Welcome remarks by Mr. C. M. Lekaukau, Botswana Telecommunications Authority Chief Executive Officer, at the occasion of the official opening of the 8th TRASA AGM, 10-11 March 2005, Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC), Grand Palm.

It is always a happy moment for me to welcome to Botswana, on behalf of the BTA Board, staff and Government of Botswana, familiar faces of colleagues from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and specifically from the TRASA family. We in the Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA), similarly feel honoured to welcome to our country invited guests from the global telecommunications community such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Central Telecommunications Organisation (CTO). By the same token, I extend a special welcome to TRASA's long-time cooperating partner; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

It is especially pleasing to note that from its humble beginnings in 1997, TRASA has been consistently active.

Today's meeting of the 8th annual general meeting of the Association bears testimony to its resolution for taking this region forward.

Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA) will always have a special relationship with TRASA, not only because BTA is one of its founder members but also because BTA manned and played host to the Association's Secretariat since its inception. Even as the Secretariat moves to its new office not long after this meeting, it will always hold a special place in our hearts. It is our hope and wish that this Association will continue to grow for the benefit of our region.

As BTA we will continue to play our part in an effort to develop the Botswana telecommunications sector. Coupled with the installation of the Automated Spectrum Management and Monitoring System (ASMMS), the BTA has commissioned a study **On Telecommunications**

Technical Standards And Type Approval Procedures

with the intention to carry out a complete technical audit of the telecommunications equipment in use in Botswana, and to establish whether the equipment complies with the relevant ITU and other international technical specifications or not.

It is our hope that this exercise will help get rid of the equipment that does not comply with the relevant international standards as this has the potential of causing damage to the public network. We also hope that it will help to ensure that consumers are not sold sub-standard equipment.

Completion of the technical audit will be followed by drawing up of type approval procedures, which will help in preventing the importation of equipment, including terminal equipment, which do not comply with the relevant

standards of Internationally recognized standardization bodies.

BTA is also at an advanced stage with preparations for the introduction of performance management system. To this end, we presented our strategic plan to the stakeholders who attended the Forum on Further Liberalisation of the Telecommunications Market in Botswana 1 February 2005. The intention is to implement performance management system this coming financial year.

Mine was to give you a word of welcome. I wish to stop thus far and express my sincere hope that you find the arrangements my staff put together for the successful hosting of this workshop adequate for your needs. Once again, welcome and enjoy your stay.

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