



Press Release

TRA Proposes to Mandate Mobile Operators to Register Subscribers' Personal Details for Prepaid Mobile Services

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In a step to support public safety and discourage attempts to exploit telecommunications networks for illicit purposes, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) issued today, for public consultation, a Draft Decision that mandates mobile operators to register details of existing and new subscribers of prepaid mobile services.

Commenting on publishing the draft decision, TRA's Deputy General Director Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas said: "The draft decision is in line with international best practice and was prepared with the public and operators interest in mind. This decision was drafted in collaboration with the affected licensees, to ensure that the necessary practical processes are duly prepared".

The decision requires operators to submit their plans and processes for registering all existing and new subscribers of mobile prepaid services by 1st August 2008, in order to start registering subscribers on 1st September 2008.

TRA's Technical Advisor Mr. Ahmed Aldoseri said: "This decision is issued for the safety and protection of consumers, we encourage the general public to actively participate in the registration process, which will start in September".

The existing unregistered subscribers will have until 31st December 2008 to register, with a view to having a database of all registered and unregistered pre-paid mobile subscribers by 1st of January 2009.

The operators are expected to start registering their subscribers manually, however the decision allows for operators to implement self registration electronically if the system is approved by TRA, for example by sending their information through SMS.

Interested parties can submit their comments on the draft decision by 5:00 pm on 24 July 2008. Draft decision can be viewed on TRA's website www.tra.org.bh

About TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. TRA is an independent body and its duties and powers include, among other things, protecting the interests of subscribers and users and promoting operators effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

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