



Consumer protection, ability to build alternative networks and enhancement of international connectivity are among the top priorities for TRA in its final 2007-2009 Work Plan

Manama, 21 May 2007 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) issued today its final Three-Year Work Plan for 2007 – 2009, which sets out TRA's priorities for the coming three years.

The final plan has been prepared taking into consideration the feedback that TRA has received in a number of forums during recent months, including from 12 organisations (covering operators, the Business Users Group and the Consumer Advisory Group) concerning their priorities among the projects outlined in the draft plan issued in March 2007. The work plan will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis in order to reflect achieved targets as well as the Government's vision for the sector.

The majority of respondents identified the following top priorities for the development of competition in the telecoms sector: ability to build alternative networks, enhancement of international connectivity, the radio spectrum framework, additional mobile service licences, the Strategic Review, wholesale tariffs. Of particular important was the issue of consumer protection and awareness campaigns which were of great concern to consumers.

In forming the plan, TRA has set the sector's priorities taking into account its own resources. TRA has already made progress in certain areas identified as priorities, namely the strategic market review and retail market reviews, the review of duct (and other infrastructure) construction and sharing policies, and the formulation of proposals for improving them.

The General Director of TRA, Mr. Alan Horne, commented as follows on the publication of the final Three-Year Work Plan: "I am pleased that we have formally set out the sector's issues and priorities in a three year work plan. This will give the industry visibility of the regulatory actions we are taking to meet the priorities of consumers and the industry. Our objective is to achieve the maximum long term benefit for the Kingdom as a whole, achieving the Governments objective of a healthy competitive telecommunications environment giving consumers' choice at efficient prices.. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders who provided valuable input to the formulation of the TRA three year Work Plan".

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 effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh