



NEW TRA OFFICES INAUGURATED

MANAMA – 20 January, 2004 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) today inaugurated its newly established offices.

Chairman of the Board of the TRA, Dr Mohammed Alghatam, formally opened the new premises in a ceremony attended by the members of the Authority's Board as well as other TRA staff.

The TRA offices, located on the 7th floor of the Taib Tower, will house the Authority's growing organisation, which currently includes such departments as market operations, economic regulations, legal and regulatory affairs, communications and consumer affairs and finance, administration and human resources.

Extending his congratulations to the TRA on the establishment of its new offices, Chairman Alghatam said, "The TRA has accomplished a great deal over the past year in its efforts to liberalise the telecommunications sector in Bahrain and introduce competition into the market, for the benefit of consumers and the economy as a whole, in a fair and efficient manner. These new facilities will provide the Authority and its staff the necessary flexibility and resources to continue to grow the organisation and effectively meet its obligations to the industry and subscribers of telecommunications services in Bahrain."

General Director of the TRA, Mr. A. Andreas Avgousti, added, " We thank Chairman Alghatam and the Board for their ongoing support and their presence at this important occasion. The TRA is committed to the creation of a competitive and dynamic telecommunications market in Bahrain and sees the establishment of its new office as a key step in the further development of the Authority and the services it hopes to offer to the industry and to consumers throughout the Kingdom."

To mark the occasion, the TRA, under the patronage of Chairman Alghatam, also hosted an evening reception at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain. The event was attended by high-ranking dignitaries and government officials, members of the telecommunications industry – both from within Bahrain and internationally, local business leaders, members of the investment community and the press.

About the TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. The 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 the TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh