



## **Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Consults the Public on its Planned Activities for 2005/2006**

***-- Interested parties urged to provide their comments by 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 --***

Manama 22 March 2005 – In line with the TRA’s transparent approach and in its efforts to meet industry and consumer demands, the TRA has decided to commence a public consultation on the TRA’s planned activities and priority projects scheduled for the period 2005-2006.

The draft plan sets out the projects that the TRA is considering dealing with during the next twelve months. These projects are grouped under three main categories: Consumer Protection, Regulatory Framework and Regulatory Policy. The draft plan also provides a brief on each project, and identifies where possible the impact it has on the regulatory environment, industry and consumers.

Among the projects listed in the Plan is the Third Mobile License project that will initiate a public consultation to get the feedback of industry and public on the issue of the introduction of the third mobile operator in Bahrain. Another project will be dealing with the sending of Bulk SMS to consumers and what needs to be done to ensure protection of consumer rights in this matter. All projects listed in the plan will go through the usual public consultation process the TRA undertakes before making its decisions. For each project the TRA will decide the way forward after comments are received and whether, if any, regulatory action is required.

The General Director of the TRA, Mr. A. Andreas Avgousti stated that: “Today we have started the public consultation on the TRA’s first forward plan that covers the next twelve months in the 2005-2006 period. We have listed the projects that we consider that are required to be undertaken by us during the next twelve months, however we are asking what the public and industry think about our plans. Are these the correct projects, what should be their priority, or if there are other projects that are more important to them. This will enable the TRA to better serve the community of telecommunications subscribers and operators in Bahrain keeping in mind the restrictions, in particular staffing levels, that the TRA has. ”

Mr. Avgousti added: “We will be consulting the public on our plan on annual basis, and during next year’s plan we will be including the

objectives specified in the new National Telecommunications Plan as issued by the Ministry of Transportation, to ensure that our plans and priorities are in line with the overall policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain. I strongly urge all interested parties to comment on the draft plan, as their input will be invaluable to us while preparing the final plan, which will affect the consumers and telecommunications industry in the Kingdom.”

**The deadline for comments is 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005** and the full contents of the draft plan can be viewed on the TRA’s website at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh).

Based on the comments that are received, the TRA expects to issue the final plan which will also take into account the recommendations of the TRA Development Review Panel, which provided input to the TRA on areas requiring improvements as per its study of the market and feedback from industry and consumers.

### **About the TRA**

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 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](http://www.tra.org.bh)

- The TRA will be happy to provide hard copies of the draft plan for those interested parties who do not have access to the Internet. In addition the TRA is happy to provide copies in Braille or large print for this document upon request and free of charge. The TRA can be contacted on telephone number 17 52 0044.