



## **TRA publishes the non-confidential version of its order to Batelco on Access Services**

**-- Charges for wholesale DSL residential port, international private leased circuits and fixed and mobile transit have gone down --**

**Manama, 12 June 2007-** The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) published today the non-confidential version of the order issued on 23 May 2007 to Batelco on their Reference Access Offer (RAO), outlining wholesale services to be provided to other licensed operators.

Batelco is required by the law and regulations to offer other licensed operators access services on its network through the Reference Access Offer (RAO), which should be approved by TRA every six months. Accordingly, Batelco submitted its second Reference Access Offer on 4 December 2006 for TRA approval.

Since then, TRA and Batelco have held detailed discussions on the content of the Reference Access Offer, particularly in relation to the charges and cost information.

As a result the Authority issued Batelco with an Order concerning the Reference Access Offer. This Order gives a detailed explanation of the decision of the Authority with regard to the Reference Access Offer submitted on 4 December 2006.

A number of services charges have gone down including: per-minute dial-up internet termination, per-minute fixed and mobile transit, international private leased circuits, wholesale DSL residential port, and Bitstream business and residential.

The General Director of TRA, Mr. Alan Horne, commented as follows on the issuance of the non-confidential version of the order on Batelco's Reference Access Offer: "The availability of access services is a key issue for operators other than Batelco in order for them to be able to function competitively in a liberalized market. We have issued this order to Batelco after a healthy debate. We compliment Batelco on their pragmatic approach and we are satisfied that the latest decision will push forward government policy of introducing more competition into the market so as to support economic development and provide more choices for consumers".

## **Notes to Editors:**

### 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](http://www.tra.org.bh)