



Press Release

TRA fines Batelco BD 100,000 for not providing wholesale leased line services to 2Connect

Sunday 30 March 2008,

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) today issued an order against Batelco for its failure to provide wholesale leased line services to 2Connect.

Commenting on the issuance of this order TRA's General Director Mr. Alan Horne said: "Today TRA is ordering Batelco to fulfill a number of outstanding orders placed by 2Connect for certain leased line services. Since issuing our Draft Order; Batelco has committed to take appropriate steps in order to fulfill its obligations in a relatively short timeframe. In recognition of this, TRA has reduced the fine from the originally proposed value of BD 500,000, to BD 100,000." He went on to say "Batelco must change its approach in meeting its legal obligations and wholeheartedly treat their wholesale customers in exactly the same manner they treat their retail customers. I am convinced that if Batelco works in a constructive manner with other operators it will not only pay dividends for Batelco but for the nation as a whole".

The order issued today requires Batelco to pay a fine of BD 100,000 by no later than 30 calendar days from the date of issuing this order, and to ensure fulfilment of specific outstanding orders for provision of wholesale leased line services to 2Connect by 1 May 2008.

TRA will continue to monitor Batelco to ensure compliance with the provisions outlined in this order and reserves the right to issue further fines or take other legal actions for continued or repeated breaches.

TRA's Director of Legal Affairs Mr. Eamon Holley said: "TRA has determined that in this instance Batelco's failure to provide specific wholesale leased line service orders to 2Connect is a breach of Batelco's Reference Offer of services to other licensed operators and therefore also a breach of section 57 of the Telecommunications Law, the Access Regulation and the conditions of Batelco's National Fixed Licence. As such, TRA has ordered Batelco to comply with its obligations to provide these orders to 2Connect.

Underpinning this is the TRA's duty to promote competition and thereby provide customers with opportunities to purchase diverse products from a number of operators. Although this order is specific to Batelco's failure to provide 2Connect with its requested orders, Batelco's obligations apply for the benefit of all operators and consumers. We will continue to watch this situation".

Full details and legal basis of this order 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. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh