



### **TRA's Approach to Publication of Information**

We have noticed articles appearing in two of our daily papers today (11/5/2005) concerning a case affecting one of the licensed operators in Bahrain.

So that there is no misunderstandings, now or in the future, concerning our stance in terms of not responding to such incidents, we are taking this opportunity to explain TRA's policy on dealing with such incidents, as we believe that it is vital for the public and the press to know TRA's approach to dissemination of information.

The TRA as the regulator of the industry is required by law to protect consumers and operators. It works strictly within the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and in particular the Telecommunications Law, which imposes on the TRA strict requirements on confidentiality and transparency at the same time.

The TRA has in the past two years proven its commitment to transparency through its actions. For example when we take our decisions we always provide reasons and the decisions are made available to everyone by issuing a press release to all the papers containing the facts based on the official documents, since TRA believes that every member of the public is entitled to know the full facts. At the TRA we strongly believe that this basic right, of access to the full set of information, is the only way to form an opinion on any matter. Hence, the TRA does not respond to or deal with half stories or leaks of any kind. Having said that, it is important to reiterate that once a final decision is made by the TRA, on any matter, the decision will be communicated to all the press without excluding anyone, with the full explanation on how this decision was reached. The TRA has been and will continue to answer any requests for information on its final decisions when these requests are directly sent to the TRA by any member of the public.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that in this era of open dialogue in the Kingdom, the full facts are the only way to a well informed opinion; one sided stories, leaks and speculations never have and never will present the full picture of any situation.

In the interest of transparency, we would like to request that this letter is published for your valued readers to have a clearer understanding about the way TRA deals with such issues and its commitment to transparency.

TRA is here to serve the interests of the Kingdom of Bahrain and its people.