



PUBLIC NOTICE

Comments on the Draft Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) Licence

The Communications Regulatory Authority Act, 2012 (CRA Act) mandates Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) or (The Authority) to protect and promote the interests of consumers in the regulated sectors including broadcasting. BOCRA is also mandated to monitor the performance of the regulated sectors in relation to levels of investment, availability, variety, quantity, quality and standards of services, competition, pricing and the costs of services. In addition, BOCRA facilitates and encourages private sector investment and innovation in the regulated sectors. The Act prohibits broadcasting or re-broadcasting without a valid licence issued by BOCRA.

Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) is defined as the provision of multimedia content (for example, live or delayed live television channels, video-on-demand (VOD) or pay-per-view) through an IP platform. IPTV gives dynamic and interactive features to the consumer to improve the consumer experience compared to a traditional one-way television. IPTV content is delivered over the internet through a private access system. The service could be delivered over a managed network such as Telecommunications Service provider networks or over open internet. This distinguishes IPTV from any other Internet video where content is publicly available through any internet connection, e.g. Youtube.

IPTV is classified as broadcasting under the Act. Broadcasting plays a critical role in nation building due to the great impact of the platform compared to other forms of media. For example, broadcasting provides news, information and entertainment but can also set the agenda, influence public opinion, incite people audiences and harm minors. It is the role of the Authority that these platforms are used lawfully. In view thereof, it is necessary to apply statutory regulation on broadcasting.

The significant growth of broadband connectivity in Botswana has stimulated interest from service providers to offer IPTV services. Therefore, there is a need to consider fundamental regulatory issues such as Quality of Service, Protection of the public from harmful content, Protection of minors, Tariff regulation, Competition issues, innovation

and market growth. In order to respond to the new regulatory imperatives brought about by the IPTV service, BOCRA has drafted a Content Service Provider (CSP) License for IP Television. The license will allow the licensee to provide subscription based broadcast content over IP Network as either a single program, single channel or a bouquet of channels. The program or channel(s) could be produced inhouse or sourced from other broadcasting entities. The services could be provided through open network or a managed network.

The Draft License can be downloaded from this www.bocra.org.bw. The public is hereby requested to make comments to the proposed licence and/or any other issues concerning the regulation of IPTV. The comments should be submitted by **7th December 2017**. The comments could be submitted by email, fax, post or hand to;

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