**Remarks by Mr. Martin Mokgware, Chief Executive, Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) on the occasion of the official opening of Diploma in Telecommunications Management Studies (DTMS) held in Gaborone, Botswana 14 May to 22 June 2018**

Director of Ceremonies

CTO Programme Facilitators

BOCRA Management & Staff

Dear Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to convey warm greetings to all of you this morning and extend a special welcome to our visitors - the CTO facilitators and participants from outside Botswana. Let me from the onset, thank the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) for agreeing to conduct this training in Botswana. On the same token, let me thank all the participants from outside Botswana for enrolling for this programme. I wish to assure you that your stay in Botswana during the duration of this training be a worthy experience.

The speed with which the communications landscape change and the rate at which complex technologies continue to drive our lives, require us to constantly enhance our knowledge and understanding. I am therefore, delighted that today we are launching another edition of training to enhance our appreciation of the concepts and the issues involved in the communications architecture.

I had the opportunity to peruse the course outline and observed that the course will provide you participants with a broad and holistic view of the industry. It will also equip you with the ability to adopt end-to-end approaches in tackling the key issues that drive value creation and performance in a highly competitive market place. Further, you will be provided with an in-depth knowledge of the essential principles, theories and frameworks that underpin technology deployment, regulation /competition and the challenge of value creation through enterprise and applied management.

Based on these elaborate course objectives, I am comforted that you will emerge out of this training as knowledgeable people better prepared to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. Speaking to my BOCRA colleagues and all those from the regulatory environment, you will appreciate how complex our job can be. With the Internet of Things (IoT) and envisaged IP-led Fourth Industrial Revolution, our job is poised to become even more complex but exciting. We are already experiencing challenges with Over The Top services such as Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram and the like. We all know how we have embraced them was consumers but as regulators we also know how they have changed the ball game affecting revenue streams of network operators who have obligations to keep their networks up to standard. Quality of Service versus price of services is often an area of debate, particularly for us the developing nations. We often have to strike a balance between rural communities that require basic services and urban communities that require advanced services such as Long Term Evolution (4G).

You should consider yourselves privileged to have this opportunity as you will be better prepared for what lies ahead. I will therefore, urge you to seize the opportunity to learn as much as your metal abilities can allow but more importantly I will urge you to leave this programme better prepared and challenged to make a difference in your respective work areas.

Director of Ceremonies, development of human resources is one objective that all organisations value and wish to achieve. The limitation is always with financial resources. To us as BOCRA, a training programme such as this one is cause for celebration. We are therefore happy that we could offer our staff this opportunity and are equally grateful to CTO for the partnership.

Let me thank you for your attention and wish you a fruitful six weeks of training.