**Remarks by Mr Martin Mokgware, Chief Executive of Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority on the occasion of the BOCRA Staff Long Service Awards, Botswana Craft Centre, Gaborone**

Director of Ceremonies

Chairman and Members of the Board

Distinguished Guests

Recipients of Long Service Awards

BOCRA staff

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening to you all!

It is a great honour for me to welcome you this historic and significant day for BOCRA staff, LONG SERVICE AWARDS. This evening’s event is about recognising the most important resource in BOCRA, the people that make this brand what it is. BOCRA started from humble beginnings in 1996 and grew to a recognised regulatory body locally, regionally and internationally thanks to the dedication, commitment and intellect of its human resources.

It on this occasion that I want to recall the pioneers of this brand led by Mr Cuthbert Moshe Lekaukau, may his soul rest in eternal peace. It was him and his first Board comprising Dick Eaton, Ntetlang Masisi, Myra Sekgororoane, Iponeng Sennanyana. These are the people who built the solid foundation on which we stand today as BOCRA. We remained shinning the torch through our recent past leader Mr Thari G. Pheko to this day. We equally recognise his contribution as the leader of BOCRA. An event such has the one we are hosting today, has long been overdue. The people I have just mentioned and many others I could not list for fear of keeping you here all night, deserved recognition in their respective rights. I therefore, want to pay tribute to all of them without exception for their immense contribution.

Director of Ceremonies, I want all of us here tonight as BOCRA family to count ourselves a privileged to be part of this occasion. Privileged because we witness the first official Long Service Staff Awards. As management we had to make the difficult decision of determining the cut-off point of where to start and who to recognise this year. I must hasten to point out that there are many people deserving of the Long Service Awards today. However, logistically we could not take every one of the deserving candidates. I am grateful to all of you for understanding that we had to start somewhere. You are all recognised for your individual contribution. Those who will not specifically receive any material gifts tonight should not feel like their contribution is considered less than that of their colleagues who will be singled out. It is just that we had to start somewhere.

The awards are BOCRA’s way of looking down the passage of time and counting its blessings for the privilege of having the type of staff that you are. Over the past twenty-two years of our existence, we have had challenges like any other organisation, but I am proud to say that our contribution towards the national agenda far outweigh our failures. I know that blowing one’s own trumpet is always taken with trepidation, but I sincerely feel that you deserve a round of applause. Botswana communications services are favourably comparable to what exist elsewhere in the world baring existing challenges around tariffs and quality of service. It is for this reason that as the leadership we want to take time to say a VERY BIG THANK and request you to recommit yourself and continue to do your best for BOCRA to deliver on its mandate.

Ladies and Gentlemen, all men are equal but tonight some men will be more equal than others. I wish to take this time on behalf of all of you to say a SPECIAL THANK you to our colleagues who will be receiving awards tonight. Twenty years, fifteen years and even five years of dedicated continuous service means a lot for this organisation. We would not be what we are without your efforts, intellect and more importantly your commitment. You should celebrate your individual awards with pride because you deserve them. More importantly, you should take your individual awards as some form of energy booster/motivation for you to re-dedicate more of yourselves to BOCRA service.

Allow me to single out Mr Gotshelamang Baloseng who is the oldest of the recipients and perhaps the longest serving individual. Mr Baloseng is the epitome of dedication and service excellence. He has served BOCRA with distinction that is parallel to none. Both internal and external customers testify with regular consistency. He has been an exceptional example of all of us. To you Mr Baloseng enjoy your deserved rest. We will forever be grateful for your contribution.

Director of Ceremonies, words cannot summarise the mood for this occasion better than fanfare. I therefore, wish to conclude my remarks and give way for the celebration to begin. Once again I salute all the Awards recipients and call on the rest of the team to continue giving our all for BOCRA.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a great LONG SERVICE AWARDS.