**Speech by Martin Mokgware Chief Executive, BOCRA, at the 2018 BOCRA Staff Xmas Party, Bojanala Waterfront, Saturday 08 December 2018**

Director of Ceremonies;

Members of the BOCRA Board of Directors; and UASF Board of Trustees;

BOCRA Management;

Invited Guests; and

Colleagues,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the Bojanala Waterfront where we will spend this afternoon and evening celebrating the year gone by in the form of BOCRA 2018 Christmas Party.

All of us, with the exception of graduate trainees, are accustomed to coming together as one during this time of the year to celebrate the Christmas season. The older members of the BOCRA family may remember a time when we celebrated our Christmas party at the poolside at Mr Rosvall’s house in Extension 9, or at the BOCRA office basement, or at the Spectrum House, etc.

Colleagues, the 2018 Christmas celebration is held on a weekend, on this beautiful breezy spot, and with a fancy theme **Beach party**! all in an effort to allow us to let loose after a hectic year schedule. This is a welcome development. As I look across and see you decked out in your best beach wear, I realize everyone has made a lot of effort to look the part, which is commendable. I must add that am impressed to see that a lot of you have the ‘beach bodies’ to match the theme and dress code(LOL)!!!!!!. It shows that indeed the wellness interventions we held during the year were not in vain. It is a challenge to those of us who feel a bit on the plus size, to commit to shedding off the excess kilos next year, atleast 5-10kgs to get this right! …..We don’t want to be left behind…(LOL)

There is a saying that time flies when you are having fun. The saying equally holds true for when things get busy. I vividly remember when in January, I stood in front of you welcoming you to 2018, as I practically started my tenure as BOCRA Chief Executive. It seems like yesterday yet it was 12 months ago, and the year is already coming to an end. This is my first Christmas party as Chief Executive and I would like to sincerely appreciate all of you for I could not have survived the year without your support. I trust that we will continue to work as a team, as we strive to fulfil our mandate as BOCRA in keeping with our slogan ‘Mmogo Re ka Kgona Bo Kamoso’.

Many things happened during this year. Some of the happenings were exciting while some were sombre. On one hand we bid farewell to our friends and colleagues who retired from service. On the other hand, we welcomed many more who joined our ranks! We undertook projects, some of which were completed and while others are still ongoing. BOCRA was also been busy before the courts of law defending its right to regulate the industry - a mandate that the country has placed on us.

Dear colleagues, I don’t want to make a speech even though I am addressing you. I promise not to keep you long. However, allow me, as I still have your audience, to highlight a few things as we wind down the year 2018. As we celebrate Christmas, let me remind you that this is a season of giving and sharing love and happiness. On behalf of BOCRA the leadership, I would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ for your dedication, hard work and impressive performance that have made this organisation what it is today.

Director of ceremonies**,** as we end the year 2018, we should be mindful that we are starting another year, 2019. We don’t know what the year holds for us, but we should commit to surpass our performance of the previous years.

Finally, Director of Ceremonies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Enjoy your holidays, come refreshed and strengthened to run yet another perfect race of the year 2019. Let us go home and ponder on how we can continue to raise the standard of performance of our organisation. Lastly let us not forget to drive safely on the roads and let us be exemplary by not avoiding all temptations to use our mobile phones while we drive. Let us be merry and have fun.

Merry Christmas!