

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

NOTICE

**AMENDMENT TO
THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR POLICY, 2001**

WHEREAS section 5(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act, 1999 requires the Minister responsible for Telecommunications to determine, after consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, the sector policy, which policy shall be published in the Official Gazette;

AND WHEREAS the Sector Policy dated July, 2001 was published in the Extraordinary Official Gazette dated the 23rd day of July, 2001 and except where exceptional circumstances arise, that Sector Policy applies until 31st December, 2003 after which it will be reviewed;

AND WHEREAS the Government, although recognizing that great gains in efficiency, cost reduction and quality of services are achieved from competition, not merely privatizing a monopoly, appreciates that it must be pragmatic and that a short delay in introducing full competition in certain limited areas, inclusive of competition in the provision of cellular mobile services, and international, inter-island and local public voice services over fixed networks and leasing of circuits for voice services, is necessary:

NOW THEREFORE the Minister responsible for Telecommunications, after consultation with the Public Utilities

Commission, has determined that —

- (a) the monopoly on the provision of cellular mobile services, currently enjoyed by The Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation, and due to come to an end on 31st March, 2002, is extended until further notice; and
- (b) the expiry date of the exclusivity period, 31st December, 2003, delaying competition in the provision of international, inter-island and local public voice services over fixed networks and the leasing of circuits for voice services, is vacated until further notice.

Dated this 1st day of May, 2002.

Signed
WILLIAM C. ALLEN
Minister responsible for Telecommunications