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Information & Communications Technology Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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**Information & Communications Technology Authority
Public Consultation on the
Locking of Mobile Handsets**

The ICT Authority has initiated a Public Consultation Process to obtain the views of the general public and the ICT sector on whether there is a need to establish a regulatory policy on the "locking" of mobile handsets by service providers and, if so, what that policy should be. Currently, service providers may choose to "lock" some or all of their handsets and so prevent their use on a competitor's network. Of course, depending upon the handset, it may nonetheless be technically impossible to re-use it on another network.

On the one hand, the locking of handsets may inhibit competition as it makes it more costly for subscribers to change providers. On the other hand, it may be argued that if the Authority were to mandate that all handsets be unlocked, the initial cost of handsets might rise as service providers might lose their incentive to provide handset subsidies and other special offers. Before making any decision on this issue, the Authority is keen to hear the views of the general public as well as those of service providers.

Copies of the posted consultation document may be obtained by accessing the ICTA web site at www.icta.ky or by calling the ICTA offices at 946-ICTA (4282).

Comments on the Public Consultation are to be submitted to the ICTA by 13th January 2005.

Submissions are to be delivered to the ICTA at Alissta Tower, 3rd Floor, OR mailed to P.O. Box 2502 GT, Grand Cayman, OR sent by e-mail to: consultations@icta.ky; OR sent by fax to (345) 945-8284.

Note to Editors:

The Information and Communications Technology Authority (ICTA) is responsible for the regulation and licensing of telecommunications, broadcasting, and all forms of radio including ship, aircraft, mobile and amateur radio.