

Contractors cautioned to deliver on time



By Olekantse Sennamose

TUTUME - The Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Board Chairman, Mr Leonard Makwinja has cautioned contractors that have been engaged to construct the Nteletsa II transmitter at Nswazwi to deliver the project on time and on budget as the government cannot afford any cost overruns.

Speaking at the official launching of the Nteletsa II project in Nswazwi on Friday, Mr Makwinja said government has neither resources nor time to accommodate any delays in projects delivery, hence the need to deliver quality work within the agreed budget and time.

He also implored the consultants to ensure that the contractor does not sleep on the job, and that as the client, BTC will make constant site visits to make sure that the project does not fall behind schedule.

“As we are officially launching the project today, we hope that we will be here soon and on the agreed time for the official opening,” he said.

The transmitter, which will be constructed by Huawei, is expected to be completed by March 31 next year, and the Consultants are Business Online.

Officiating at the launch, the Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr Frank Ramsden said it is the intention of the government to bridge the digital gap between rural and urban areas by bringing technology to the rural areas.

He said currently people in rural areas have to travel long distances to urban centres to access even basic technological services such as photocopying and faxing.

He also promised that Nteletsa II will be better delivered than its predecessor as they have learnt and improved on the shortfalls of the first project.

Mr Ramsden cited the introduction of the Kitsong Centres in some of the villages that will be covered as one of the improvements.

The centre will act as a one-stop centre for photocopying, typing and internet services among others.

He said telecommunications companies such as Mascom, Orange and Be Mobile should be complementary to one another rather than being competitors and that such a relationship would be beneficial to Batswana as it will give them a variety.

Mr Ramsden also cautioned against the use of computer technology to commit crime. Nteletsa II project will cover 35 villages. BOPA



Mr Ramsden