CONFORMANCE AND INTEROPERABILITY TESTING FOR THE AFRICA REGION
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TINIS, TUNISIA

MALAWI TYPE APPROVAL EXPERIENCE

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

❖ Current Type Approval Regime

❖ Challenges

❖ Way Forward

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CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

❑ **Establishment**

❖Type Approval regime was established under S5(2)(j) and S5(2)(o) of the Communication Act (1998) Cap 68:01 of the laws of Malawi

❖It specifies three categories of equipment namely:

- ➢ Radio Equipment e.g. Transmitters, Transceivers, antennas.
- ➢ Telecommunications Terminal equipment e.g. mobile phones.
- ➢ Any Interference causing Equipment e.g. Short Range Devices

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CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

❑ **Type Approval Process**

❖type approval application is made through the office of the Director General.
❖ Valid documentation must accompany the application:
- ➢ Declaration of conformity
- ➢Manufacturers' technical documents and specifications.
- ➢ Type approval Certificates from renowned, verifiable and authentic type approving institutions (FCC and EU with CE mark)
❖ Upon Verification process and proof of payment certificate is given.

❖ If the application does not meet the requirements the equipment must be sent for type approval test with accredited test labs under FCC and EU

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CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

❑**Who can Apply for Type Approval?**

❖ local and international manufacturers

❖authorized dealers

❖licensed operators

❖Importers and distributors

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CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

❑**Why Type Approve?**

❖To ensure compliance with established standards, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and general safety

❖To ensure quality telecommunications products are available on the market

❖To ensuring interoperability of telecommunications equipment from different vendors.

❖To Prevent frequency interferences.

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CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

❑**Applicable Standards?**

❖ European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)

❖ Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

❖ European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC).

❖ International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

❖ International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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CHALLENGES

❖Lack of collaboration with other government institutions e.g. Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS), Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA)

❖ Using very old legal and regulatory framework – Communications ACT (1998) is very old.

❖Specific legislations (regulations) in draft form

❖ Availability of low cost counterfeit products

❖ No locally available test labs

❖ Lack of consumer awareness

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WAY FORWARD

❖ Lobby for the passing of a new communications ACT. Almost ready to be tabled in parliament

❖ Promulgate specific regulations on type approval. Drafted regulations at consultation level with stakeholders.

❖ collaborate with various government institutions – MBS and MRA

❖ Carry out consumer awareness campaigns on the importance of using type approved equipment.

❖ Explore possibilities of having own test lab

❖ Build the capacity of engineers involved in type approval through various training including this one

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END PIECE

Thank you all for your attention

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