



MINUTES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN MACRA AND MISPA HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012  
AT MACRA OFFICES, BLANTYRE

Present

MACRA

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MISPA

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**1 Opening Remarks**

**1.1** In his opening remarks, the Chairman welcomed MISPA to the Authority and allowed for self-introduction of all members present.

**1.2** The Chairman indicated that MACRA was notified of the members meeting which MISPA held with regard to the issue of levy the previous week but thought it sensible not to send a representative to allow the ISPs deliberate the issues freely and later present the issues to MACRA.

**1.3** MACRA indicated that it appreciates the efforts being made by the ISP Association as it allows MACRA deal with all ISPs issues from a common front. The Chairman then requested MISPA to present their issues to MACRA.

**2 MISPA PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1** MISPA expressed grave concern that some ISPs had received letters from MACRA requesting them to be submitting 5% levy from their net operating revenues starting from a backdated date of 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2012.

**2.2** MISPA further indicated that the issue of levy goes back to the year 2000 when an understanding was reached with MACRA to exempt ISPs from submitting the 5% levy in order to allow the sector to grow before implementing the 5% levy on ISPs.

**2.3** MISPA further indicated that it appreciates that MACRA had an understanding on exempting ISPs from the levy but is concerned that although the industry has grown since then, Malawi still has among lowest Internet penetration rates, among the highest Internet access prices, still does not have any noticeable information society and has virtually no government online services.

**2.4** MISPA further appreciated the fact that the sector is continuing to evolve as there is a review of the Communications Act, formulation of e-legislation, an e-government department in place, among other developments.

**2.5** MISPA further noted with appreciation that Government has made these and other initiatives and announcements so as to see that the sector grows with increased Internet and broadband penetration and use at affordable prices.



