

TRA chief resigned for 'personal reasons'

BEIRUT: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) issued a statement Thursday, in which it clarified its role in the technical fields of telecommunications, stressing that reasons behind its head's resignation were personal.

The TRA statement said upon the request of Telecommunications Minister Charbel Nahhas – its board of directors agreed on March 29 to include three of its members – Imad Hobballah, Patrick Eid and Daniel

Hamadeh – in the committee investigating the US information request on Lebanon's communication networks.

According to the statement, TRA has its legal duties of presenting its organizational and technical opinion to the Lebanese government and its representatives based on solid scientific foundations and on its experience and qualifications.

The statement noted that TRA's head Kamal Shehadeh's resignation had nothing to do

with the recent media uproar about the committee, attributing it to personal reasons.

The resignation of Shehadi fueled the controversy over a report prepared by a committee within the Telecommunications Ministry and upon the recommendation of the Parliament's Telecommunications and Media committee.

It aimed at studying information related to the Lebanese mobile-phone network. – *The Daily Star*