

ZAMLINK WILL REACH ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY - DR ROY- *By Kelvin Chambwa, Zambia - Friday October 14, 2005*

LOITA Transaction Services (LTS) chairman Dr Delwin Roy yesterday said the Zamlink electronic switch for connecting commercial banks' automated teller machines (ATMs) would be rolled out to all parts of the country.

Dr Roy said the switch was available for all commercial banks and that four more banks have lined up to join the connection. "Zamlink will continue to roll-out ATMs thereafter seeking the optimum number of between 50 and 60," he said. The switch that was launched on Wednesday has been implemented by LTS, which also owns 50 per cent shares in Zamlink.

Zamlink has so far linked up the banking systems of Finance Bank, Investrust and First Alliance. The facility enables customers of any of these banks to access cash and any other ATM services from any Zamlink ATM in the country.

"This switch has been designed to meet Zambian needs at much lower costs. It will lead to more customer service capability because it will be easy for people to access cash," he said. Dr Roy said there were now a total of 10 ATMs that have linked up through Zamlink with seven at Finance Bank sites while Investrust has two and First Alliance one.

Fintech International managing director Barry Ryan said all the new servers at the switch office have been installed with the latest version of postilion software, which he said ensured efficient compliant support for the service. Fintech International has been subcontracted to physically set up the switch.

Ryan hoped that following the launch of the switch by the three initial banks, several other banks would actively pursue their expressions of interest in participating in Zamlink.