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PROGRAMME
2ND NATIONAL ICT SUMMIT MEDIA CONFERENCE

MESSAGE BY HON. TJEKERO TWEYA, MINISTER OF
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AT THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2ND NATIONAL ICT SUMMIT
IN WINDHOEK.

DATE: Tuesday, 6th October 2016

VENUE: Windhoek Country Club Resort & Casino

TIME: 09:00

- Thank you, Director of Ceremonies
 - Hon. Stanley Simaata, Deputy Minister of Information Communication Technology,
 - Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers in attendance,
 - Hon members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT
 - Permanent Secretaries present
 - His Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Community,
 - Esteemed sponsors and exhibitors
 - Employees of the Ministry of Information Communication Technology,
 - The Organising Committee of the 2nd National ICT Summit
 - Members of the Media
 - All Protocol Observed!
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Good morning!

I am delighted for this opportunity to address ICT players for the first time in my capacity as the Minister and political head of the Ministry of Information Communication Technology at this auspicious 2nd National ICT Summit 2015 in Windhoek.

The Summit is hosted under the theme: "***Bridging the digital gap***" and this is without doubt, a laudable theme that speaks directly to my personal commitment, key performance indicators and declaration of intent, which I committed to the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob. The ICT Ministry will strive to ensure that Namibia enjoys 100% coverage of ICT services over the next 14 to 18 months. This will, without a doubt, require a robust approach of infrastructure development and a deliberate spirit of infrastructure sharing among industry players for the benefit of all Namibians.

My approach will be to focus and optimise the dark spots in the current 70% coverage, which the existing infrastructure guarantees and upon satisfaction, ensure that the existing 70% is increased to 100% coverage. By so doing, the achievement of this milestone will produce positive results for both consumers and industry and ultimately lead to inclusivity.

Director of Ceremonies,

We further commit to oversee the effective implementation of the communications legislation, addressing the accessibility, affordability and quality of information communication technology. The aim of which is to create a knowledge-based society that remains informed on Government and private sector activities.

It is further expected to promote unfettered access by the media to public information in order to strengthen democracy and good governance; consolidating Government information systems to ensure cohesive and integrated media communications from all Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

It is our ultimate objective to spearhead an inclusive approach where no Namibian will or MUST feel excluded. We all agree that ICT plays a pivotal role in any society, this sector can educate or have the opposite disastrous impact, if not managed accordingly and may have detrimental impacts for a Nation.

The correct and optimal utilisation and application of ICT efforts such as this 2nd National ICT Summit will lead towards bridging the digital gap, as we attest in our theme. We must, therefore, as key players reach out to all corners of Namibia, bringing the nomadic Himba communities and others such as the San into the mainstream of ICT, be it through media such as mobile phones, internet access, radio and television connectivity.

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentleman,

The children and Namibian students and learner population are today in a fortunate position that they too are now connected to ICT through libraries, curriculum, laboratories and services. However, we need to increase this footprint so that all learners even in remote villages can enjoy these benefits. There must be concerted efforts to produce demand for e-learning for all Namibian children.

I am pleased to inform you that the various entities in our Government structures have implemented e-governance programmes. In the near future, we will see a modern, electronic system for the validation of real-time border

controls, speedy approval and issuing of passports and visa applications.

The Namibian Police, through e-policing with support from InterPol, will easily and effectively trace stolen vehicles, deal with criminals and arrest cross border crimes in an proficient manner.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has made impressive breakthroughs in medicine today through the rapid growth, advancement and application of ICT equipment in theatres where medical practitioners apply high tech equipment for heart surgery, caesareans, with minimal scarring for patients compared to the pre-independence era, thanks to the correct and aggressive use of ICT.

The efforts of the Namibian Government to implement e-government and decentralisation has led to the improvement of service delivery and bringing services closer to the people.

Director of ceremonies,

The Economic Commission for Africa initiated and launched in Namibia in collaboration, with the Ministry of ICT, the SCAN-ICT Project in Namibia. The Project aims at undertaking a survey to collect and analyse ICT data and statistics and to compare core ICT indicators in order to measure the status of ICT development in the country with the output of the Namibia Scan-ICT Database Website.

In addition, the launch of the West Africa Cable System (WACS) in 2012, our countries network was redesigned and is being upgraded to carry the increased bandwidth and capacity from WACS. Regional Government network service hubs were

established in all political regions to ensure seamless Government service delivery in all the regions. These infrastructure will make it possible for the implementation of the e-government and decentralisation.

It is important to note that security in this ICT era is crucial both locally and globally and regulation of this industry is critical to curb cybercrime and provide for safe electronic banking transactions, safe flow of personal data and the protection of children online. Our Government is at an advanced stage of finalising the Electronic Transactions and Cybercrime Bill to protect our citizens.

Director of Ceremonies,

The Government and private sector injected millions of Namibia dollars for capital projects. These astronomic capital injections were misappropriated through theft, poor planning and under utilisation. ICT in todays age, provides excellent software to determine the cost of capital projects which can easily determine the amount of building material, such as bricks, sement and sand needed for the construction of a particular building. Likewise, ICT can deliver a three-dimensional sketch that provides stakeholders an excellent opportunity to visualise how the architecture will look upon completion.

The commercial sector, especially the banking industry matured over the years with the directive of the Central Bank of Namibia for all banks to develop banking systems for Namibia through localisation systems as dictated by the Banking Charter. It was enforced upon the banking sector to developed products targeting the unbanked population of Namibia to make the sector inclusive for all Namibians.

We recently saw the successful launch of the e-wallet banking service; and I am a living testimony of this. While I am a politician, I am also a farmer, living in Windhoek with a team on the farm in the Kavango region. It is no longer required of me to travel for salary payments to Kavango, as e-wallet is at the click of a button. In addition, other banking products such as Online Banking, cellphone banking and the purchase of pre-paid commodities such as airtime and electricity are classic examples of how ICT has advanced to date.

Due to the rapid progression of this sector, media too derive great benefits. We have seen and heard live TV and radio broadcasts of the Rugby World 2015, the FIFA World Cup, the Olympic Games and other international sporting events by merely picking up a remote control.

The convergence of technologies with new technologies such as Over the Top technologies (OTT) enable viewers to access television programmes on their smart phones and therefore viewers are not limited to watching TV only from television sets.

Considering all these innovations and the milestones, it is indeed possible to say the sky is the limit and it is up to us, the Government, the Communication Regulatory Authority of Namibia, Telecom, TN Mobile, Paratus, MTC, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation and all others including the private sector to continue doing the right things and build a great industry.

Director of Ceremonies,

My political elder, our former High Commissioner of Namibia to Botswana, Hon. Joshua //Hoebeb once made an interesting statement, and I quote, "I believe in the power of raindrops".

He continued by saying that, "Many of us don't understand when we walk through the rain, the power that each raindrop possesses in itself. When that raindrop is channeled in the right direction, it becomes a mighty stream that no one can stop."

Director of Ceremonies,

By the same token, borrowing from the great and late Myles Munroe, who once said, and I quote: "One of the greatest tragedies in life is to watch potential die untapped" unquote. Let us join hands and live up to the vision for ICT for all Namibians, led and managed by empowered ICT professionals able to unlock the full potential of technology and human capital and deliver value to our citizens, visitors and investors, so that Namibia becomes a leader in ICT development.

Allow me to conclude by saying that I sincerely appreciate your presence at this 2nd National ICT Summit and, by the same token, express my sincere appreciation to all sponsors, exhibitors and participants who initiated and spearheaded the organisation of the 2nd National ICT Summit. Thank you for bringing us together to bridge the digital gab through concerted ICT efforts.

This having said, I now have the distinct, singular honour and pleasure to declare the 2nd National ICT Summit officially open!

I thank you for your kind attention!