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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR**

ITU ADVANCE LEVEL TRAINING ON COST MODELING AND PRICING FOR QUAD PLAY/NEXT GENERATION ACCESS

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) have jointly organised the Advanced Level Training on Cost Modelling and Pricing Next Generation Access (NGA) workshop for English Speaking countries in Africa taking place from 6 to 10 October 2014 at the Hilton Hotel in Windhoek. Thirty seven delegates from Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Telecom Namibia, Paratus Telecom and Mwireless t/a Africa Online are attending the workshop.

At the opening ceremony of the workshop held on the 6th October 2014 and attended by Ms Anne Rita Sseboga the ITU Regional Officer and Ms Hilma Hitula the Acting CEO of CRAN, the Deputy Minister of ICT, Honorable Stanley Simataa stated that “The development of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Africa is central to national and regional development and integration. ICT is an enabling and empowering technology that creates new opportunities for promoting sustainable development, alleviating poverty, achieving universal service and access, deepening democracy and good governance”.

“The training opportunity has been driven by the increasing prominence of a quad play and New Generation Access business environment, which requires key strategic decision reviews at policy, regulation and operational levels. The rising synergy as well as competition amongst the fixed; mobile; Internet and broadcasting players; bundled services offered by both Broadcast Cable TV operators and Telecom service providers; the eminence of cloud based and content delivery networks; and over-the-top (OTT) content players, create opportunities as well as challenges in respect to costing, pricing and competition”, said Helene Vosloo, Head: Economics and Research Sector at CRAN.

One of the biggest challenges that Namibia and many other African countries are facing today is the ability to provide services at sustainable and affordable prices. Telecom Namibia and MTC Namibia, as dominant players in the Namibian telecommunications market, have

deployed Next Generation Networks and both are looking at Next Generation Access networks solutions as well as Fibre-To-The-Home. MTC was the second operator to launch 4LTE or 4G in the SADC region and both MTC and Telecom Namibia now offer 4G or LTE services in the 1800 spectrum band.

“With the change from analogue broadcasting to digital broadcasting, a new world of services is emerging that should be embraced by broadcasters and should lead to closer cooperation and integration between broadcasting and telecommunication services. Hence, the importance of the training workshop,” concluded Mrs Vosloo.

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