

PUBLIC HEARING - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BROADCASTING SERVICE LICENSEES

21 April 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) will host a public consultative meeting in respect of the proposed Code of Conduct for Broadcasting Service Licensees in terms section 89 (1) Communications Act (No 8 of 2009) on Wednesday, 22 April 2015.

The purpose of the Broadcasting Code of Conduct for Broadcasting Services Licensees is to ensure the independent regulation and access to broadcasting services and ensure availability of local and other content that is in the public's interest.

Mr. Jochen Traut, Acting Chief Executive Officer, says "the Broadcasting Code would ensure that Namibians can freely and openly debate and discuss matters of public interest on various broadcast platforms available in the country". He further added that the Broadcasting Code prescribes special duties for broadcasters during national, regional and local elections campaigns in Namibia.

Traut added "the proposed code will also contain provisions relating to freedom of expression, protection of privacy, hate speech, equality and discrimination, which are all essential for the provision of broadcasting services in a democratic society."

"The Broadcasting Code prescribes duties relating to the coverage of news and current affairs in order to ensure that the news coverage by broadcasters is fair, objective and impartial", Traut says.

Members of the public are invited to attend the Hearing of the Broadcasting Code, which will ensure (amongst other), the protection of children in order not to be exposed to harmful broadcast content, ensure that broadcast material does not glamorize violence or unlawful conduct, and consider matters involving the privacy, dignity and reputation of individuals.

The Hearing will commence at 09h00 and will be hosted at the GZ Function Centre, Corner of Bismarck and Dr. W. Kulz Street in Windhoek.

The draft Broadcasting Code is available on the CRAN website, www.cran.na

“Ends”

Issued by: Katrina Siken

Head: Communications and External Relations

Tel: +264 61 222 666

KSiken@cran.na

Responsibilities of the Authority:

- *Ensure compliance with legislation and regulations*
- *Grant, renew, amend, transfer, suspend and revoke licences*
- *Implement a transparent and fair pricing regime*
- *Respond to consumer complaints*
- *Protect consumers in respect of prices, quality, variety of services and user equipment supplied*
- *Promote competition amongst service providers*
- *Manage spectrum planning and allocation*
- *Ensure telecommunications services are operated in a manner best suited to the economic and social development of Namibia*
- *Establish procedures for ensuring safety and quality of services*
- *Regulate interconnection*
- *Facilitate the negotiation of rights of way*
- *Manage numbering planning and allocation*
- *Facilitate universal service, and Attract foreign direct investment*