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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CRAN PREPARES TO REGULATE POSTAL SERVICES**

The Communications Authority of Namibia (CRAN), with the assistance of Analysis Mason, recently hosted stakeholders to discuss the study aimed at assessing whether the current postal legal mandate is adequate, effective and responsive in dealing with delivering of postal products and services in Namibia.

“CRAN is mandated by Chapter 7 of the Communications Act (Act No. 8 of 2009) to regulate the provision of postal services in Namibia. Although we have the legal mandate to regulate this sector, we have not yet commenced with doing so. This is due to CRAN first having to embark on a systematic process of studying and understanding the current shape and form of the industry, and most importantly, consult the postal industry players”, said Jochen Traut Acting CEO of CRAN.

Traut added that it is CRAN’s mission statement is “to purposefully regulate telecommunications services and networks, broadcasting, and postal services and the assignment and efficient use of radio spectrum, so that all Namibians derive the full socio-economic benefits of ICTs.” He further stated that it is CRAN’s aim, therefore, to formulate regulations that seek to purposely regulate this vibrant sector and to ensure universal provision of postal products in the Country.

CRAN understands the benefits that an improved competitive environment can have on the Namibian ICT sector, hence undertaking a range of activities including, but not limited to this hearing, and creating a better level playing field for both current and new players in the postal sector and maximize benefits for consumers.

The next public hearing on postal regulations is set for 14 October 2015.

**“Ends”**

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**Responsibilities of the Authority:**

1. Ensure compliance with legislation and regulations
2. Grant, renew, amend, transfer, suspend and revoke license
3. Implement a transparent and fair pricing regime
4. Respond to consumer complaints
5. Protect consumers in respect of prices, quality, variety of services and user equipment supplied
6. Promote competition amongst service providers
7. Manage spectrum planning and allocation
8. Ensure telecommunications services are operated in a manner best suited to the economic and social development of Namibia
9. Establish procedures for ensuring safety and quality of services
10. Regulate interconnection
11. Facilitate the negotiation of rights of way
12. Manage numbering planning and allocation
13. Facilitate universal services, and attract foreign direct investment