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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR**

CRAN REVIEWS SPECTRUM FEES

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) recently hosted a public hearing in Windhoek to introduce the new regulations on spectrum fees. Stakeholders such as telecommunication service providers, broadcasters, maritime, aeronautical and amateur licensees were afforded an opportunity to provide their input.

Speaking at the public hearing, CRAN Chief Executive Officer, Festus K. Mbandeka said, *"It is important to mention that the current spectrum fees have not been reviewed since 2007"*. He added that for this reason, there is a strong justification to do so due to *inter alia*, an inflationary impact cost recovery in respect of operational activities and capital investment pertaining to spectrum management. Furthermore, he added that CRAN would like to achieve simplicity by ensuring that charges are easy to understand, are practical and minimise collection cost. Upon finalisation, the proposed fees will come into force on 01 January 2018.

CRAN is mandated in terms of section 99 of the Communications Act, 2009 to regulate the full scope of activities related to spectrum management. There are various spectrum licence types, which include the following: amateur services, maritime services, aeronautical services, various types of satellite services, mobile services, fixed services, land mobile services, broadcasting services, and radio communications systems.

Spectrum pricing, through frequency-user fees, is one of the tools through which CRAN aims to efficiently manage and maximise the economic benefit from the use of spectrum in Namibia. The main aim is to achieve both optimum spectrum occupancy and effective frequency utilisation.

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Responsibilities of the Authority:

- *Ensure compliance with legislation and regulations*
- *Grant, renew, amend, transfer, suspend and revoke licenses*
- *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*