

CRAN HOSTS PUBLIC HEARINGS

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The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) recently hosted two public consultative meetings on 25 July 2017 pertaining to the amendment of the Regulations prescribing the National Numbering Plan for the implementation of fixed and mobile number portability and the Code of Conduct for Broadcasting Service Licensees.

“The purpose of the Amendment to the Numbering Regulations is to make provision for the implementation of fixed and mobile number portability, and to ensure that all services and technology neutral licensees provide number portability and to set out additional requirements in the numbering plan for fixed mobile number portability. The Regulations will apply to service and technology neutral telecommunications licensees' issued with one or more number licences for the provision of electronic services. The implementation of fixed and mobile number portability, which will commence within 12 months from the final publication of the proposed regulation”, said Festus K. Mbandeka, Chief Executive Officer.

The transition period for adherence to the National Numbering Plan as published on 1 April 2016 ended on 31 March 2017. This numbering plan laid the foundation for number portability, which allows the porting of numbers between mobile, fixed and voice over internet protocol. “CRAN’s role and legal obligation is to ensure that all holders of number licences adhere to this numbering plan and implement number portability in accordance thereto and within the prescribed 12 months”, Mbandeka added.

The Communications Act No. 8 of 2009 requires CRAN to regulate only if it finds that the current self-regulation efforts by industry associations do not meet the requirements as set out in Section 89 of the Act. Through research on various related aspects of the Code, CRAN found that the current self-regulation efforts are not sufficient and applicable in scope to satisfy the objectives of Section 89 and deemed it prudent to formulate a broadcasting code.

“The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to ensure the independent regulation of broadcasting services, access to broadcasting services, and broadcasting content is in the public interest. The provisions of the Code are aimed at attaining the availability of local content, commitment to public debate and discussion, as well as transparency and accountability”. “We are also pleased to announce that we have teamed up with UNESCO to assist in providing some background on the principles of self-versus statutory regulation”, concluded Festus K. Mbandeka.

“Ends”

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