

21 January 2016

**CRAN HOSTS DOMINANCE STUDY PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) today hosted stakeholders from the telecommunications industry to ensure the implementation of the provisions set out in the Communications Act (Act No.8 of 2009), Section 78, dealing with licensees who hold a dominant position in the market.

“It is prescribed by law that in order to identify dominant licensees a public hearing must be hosted by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia” said Festus Mbandeka, Chief Executive Officer of CRAN. He further stated that the platform provided stakeholders an opportunity to argue their case and raise their views, facts and opinions on whether a certain licensee should or should not be categorised as a dominant player.

As the initiator of this process, CRAN commissioned its first dominance study in 2012 where the dominant players in the telecommunications market were identified. In 2015, as required by the Act, CRAN carried out an updated study which forms the basis of today’s public hearing. This study differed significantly from the one conducted in 2012 indicating that Namibia has a vibrant and changing telecommunications market and CRAN therefore had to relook markets within the ambient of the Act.

Mbandeka added that Regulators name dominant players in the market so as to better safeguard fair competition for all players, especially the smaller industry participants. It is through the heightened regulation of licensees that hold a dominant position in the market that consumers and industry can equally benefit. Consumers can benefit through the direct result of affordable user prices, better products, and services. This effort also creates efficient market investment.

The Public Hearing, which was hosted at the Windhoek Country Club Resort and Casino, is a statutory requirement and must be hosted every three years. In preparation for the hearing, CRAN undertook a market study (which formed the basis of the hearing) where predetermined criteria was followed with the aim of proposing the dominant licensees in the telecommunications market.

**“Ends”**

**Issued by: Katrina Sikeni**

Head: Communications and External Relations

Tel: +264 61 222 666

[KSikeni@cran.na](mailto:KSikeni@cran.na)