

MEDIA STATEMENT

CRAN HOSTS PUBLIC HEARING ON INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING REGULATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 January 2016

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) is in the final stages of stakeholder consultations as it is sets to publish the regulations on infrastructure sharing. CRAN therefore today hosted a public hearing affording a final opportunity to stakeholders from industries, local authorities, utilities and other concerned parties to make oral submission on the contents of the draft regulations.

“Although various forms of sharing of infrastructure already exist within the sector, CRAN, as the regulator, has the responsibility to set the rules for licensees and other stakeholders to engage one another on the optimal sharing of their respective network facilities in a more transparent and sustainable basis for the benefit of the industry and the end users” said Festus K. Mbandeka, Chief Executive Officer, CRAN.

The Communications Act No. 8 of 2009 (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Communications Act’) requires telecommunications and broadcasting service licensees and utilities to share infrastructure in order to promote competition and other objects of the Act. According to the Communications Act all carriers must share infrastructure with other carriers or allow the latter to install and or utilise telecommunications equipment and infrastructure.

Mbandeka added that section 50(9) of the Communications Act sets out that conditions and charges pertaining to the sharing of infrastructure must be reasonable, non-discriminatory and fairly apportioned among licensees and utilities.

“Infrastructure Sharing offers a myriad of advantages such as the reduction in capital and operational investment requirements, lowering of environmental impact and energy requirements and the creation of new revenue streams for the licensee and or utilities”, Mbandeka further said that infrastructure sharing helps to minimize duplication of

facilities and frees up capital for strategic investments and provides for new services offerings and decreases barriers to market entry for new players.

All verbal and written stakeholder submissions will be carefully considered in the drafting of the proposed regulations and members of the public and all interested parties will be notified upon publication of the final regulations in the Government Gazette.

“Ends”

Issued by CRAN:

Katrina Siken

Head: Communications and External Relations

Tel: +264 61 222 666

communications@cran.na