



OPENING STATEMENT BY

MS. FRIEDA KISHI,

CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Delivered by Anne Doris Hans-Kaumbi,

COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5TH CRASA AGM

SEASIDE HOTEL & SPA, SWAKOMUND

07 APRIL 2016

- Director of Ceremonies, Katrina Siken
- Honourable, Tjekero Tweya, Minister of Information and Communication Technology,
- Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of the Erongo Region,
- Her Worship Pauline Nashilundo, the Mayor of Swakopmund,
- Fellow Directors of CRAN, Beverley Gawanas-Vugs and Mpasi Haingura who are present here today,
- Festus K. Mbandeka, Chief Executive Officer, CRAN,
- Américo Muchanga, Chairperson of CRASA,
- Executive Committee, CRASA,
- Chief Executive Officers of CRASA Member States,
- Tony Chigaazira, Executive Secretary, CRASA,
- Jochen Traut, Chief Operations Officer, CRAN,
- Representatives of ITU, UPU, PAPU,
- Representatives of SADC Secretariat,
- SADC Implementing Agencies,
- Representatives of SABA, GSMA, Cooperating Partners,
- Members of CRASA,
- Special invited guests,
- Distinguished delegates,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning ladies and gentlemen; and a warm welcome to Namibia and more specifically to the beautiful town of Swakopmund.

Allow me in opening to reaffirm the continued commitment of the Board of Directors of CRAN and its entire team towards building strategic relations with our fellow regulators in SADC under the umbrella of CRASA for the benefit of the citizens of this great region.

CRAN remains a critical partner and it is therefore our esteemed honour to host this 5th Annual General Meeting as but one gesture in testimony of the drive to further develop this association with CRASA and its members.

Director of Ceremonies, CRAN's fundamental objective pertaining to Information and Communication Technology and its markets in Namibia is to provide a regulatory framework that will lead to the development and expansion of this sector, in order to ensure that ICT goods and services benefit, reach and offer greater choices for Namibians and our regional citizens.

As a regulator that operates in a sector that has a global footprint, we cannot operate in a vacuum therefore, we must continue to benchmark and harmonise our laws and enforcement for the sake of regional integration.

Our role as regulators and how we do business in this industry is vital for socio-economic development, not just for us as a member state but for SADC so as to expand ICT that will lead to trade, promote economic growth and social growth that will become visible for our citizens and member states alike.

Director of Ceremonies, allow me in conclusion, to remind our distinguished delegates, that as regulators we have the right to grant, renew, amend, suspend and revoke licences, develop legislation and regulations and ensure enforcement and compliance. However, we as regulators have the responsibility to remain impartial and just so that we implement transparent and fair pricing regimes, respond to consumer complaints and protect consumers in respect of pricing, quality of service and promote competition for the advantage of consumers.

Therefore as we deliberate over the next two days, let us build on the foundations that have been laid at previous AGMs so that CRASA can accomplish its Mission and realise its Vision.

I thank you!