

CRAN DONATES N\$25 000 TOWARDS NUST TECHNOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

06 APRIL 2020

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) is mandated to regulate telecommunication services and networks, broadcasting services, postal services and the use and allocation of radio spectrum.

“As a responsible corporate citizen and in response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic outbreak, CRAN on 01 April 2020 made a donation in kind (airtime and data) to the tune of N\$25 000, to its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement tertiary institution partner, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST),” said Jochen Traut, CRAN’s Acting Chief Executive Officer.

“Through this donation, the Authority is ensuring that CRAN contributes positively to the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, in curbing the further spread of this pandemic and will further assist the government by ploughing much needed resources from stakeholders to alleviate the negative impact this pandemic has on government resources,” Traut said.

CRAN is aware of the important role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) during these challenging times and understands the negative impact this global pandemic has on Namibia and the globe.

NUST’s Acting Vice Chancellor, Morné du Toit, said that “the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at NUST, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), and the World Health Organisation Africa Office (WHO AFRO) are developing technological applications, solutions and conducting research that would assist the Government of the Republic of Namibia in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic”. Du Toit added that CRAN’s generous donation would enable NUST through their dedicated lecturers and students to contribute to the Government of the Republic of Namibia’s plight to offer technological solutions to the challenges presented by this pandemic.

"The self-report application that is being developed will allow Namibians in urban and rural areas to report their symptoms and indicate their locations for health workers to reach them faster. The application will be applicable to smartphones and basic phones through the use of SMS, and it will be offered in different languages," Du Toit said.

The MoU signed by CRAN and NUST in August 2017 outlines the commitment between the two entities to explore research and development initiatives and the establishment of an internship programme for suitable NUST students from various faculties. The MoU further (where possible) enables and ensures CRAN's participation in NUST Career Fairs and synergies concerning exchanges between CRAN and NUST's advisory boards on academic related matters.

NUST and its partners in this project launched the Namibia Covid-19 website www.covid19namibia.com, and a mobile application for Android on Friday, 20 March 2020.

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