

OUTCOME - APPLICATION FOR RECONSIDERATION - CITY OF WINDHOEK TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE LICENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 JULY 2020

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) hosted a public hearing on 15 July 2020 on the application for reconsideration submitted by Paratus Telecommunications (Pty) Ltd on 22 May 2020, in respect of CRAN's decision to award a Class Comprehensive Telecommunications Service Licence (ECNS and ECS) to the Municipal Council of the City of Windhoek (CoW). The licence was awarded on 29 April 2020 in terms of Section 38 of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009) (herein after referred to as the Communications Act).

The application for reconsideration was submitted in terms of Section 31 of the Communications Act and Regulations 11 and 20 of the Regulations Regarding Licensing Procedures for Telecommunications and Broadcasting Service Licenses.

Speaking at a media conference to announce the outcome of the application for reconsideration, Mr. Heinrich Mihe Gaomab II, Chairperson, CRAN Board of Directors said "CRAN convened the public hearing in line with Regulation 14 of the Regulations regarding Licensing Procedures, which makes provision for CRAN to host a public consultative meeting to present the reasons for its decision to grant the licence, and to provide interested stakeholders an opportunity to comment, pose questions and receive clarity from CRAN on its decision to award a Telecommunications Service License to CoW, and on the application for reconsideration". The public consultative meeting which was streamed live on various social media platforms was attended by a total of 82 stakeholders, and received approximately 2,000 views on various social media platforms.

Gaomab II said that "various grounds for reconsideration were considered. The first ground of reconsideration raised is that a *wrong person lodged the application on*

behalf of Council, an unauthorised person made the purported application, whereas the second ground of reconsideration relates to the incompleteness of the application form submitted by the City of Windhoek, the third ground for reconsideration pertains to the Change of License Category, where the Petitioner submitted that the public was not informed that CRAN intends to award a Class Comprehensive Telecommunications Service License to the Applicant”.

Gaomab II, added that the fourth ground of reconsideration regards the powers of the Council to apply for a Telecommunications Service License, and to provide telecommunications services to the public.

“After careful consideration of the comments raised by various stakeholders, CRAN upholds its decision of 29 April 2020, and awards the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Windhoek with a Class Comprehensive Telecommunications Service Licence (with additional licence conditions imposed) effective 24 July 2020” said Gaomab II.

The Chairperson added that further hereto, CRAN shall impose additional licence conditions to address stakeholder comments to ensure fair competition, infrastructure sharing, as this will result in overall lower costs of infrastructure development by other licensees and thus translate into lower prices for the telecommunications end-consumer. Ultimately the award of a license to the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Windhoek will increase access to telecommunications and advanced information services at just reasonable and affordable prices.

“Ends”

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