



CRANicles

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

"The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic seems to be accelerating the new way of doing things technologically with the Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructure."



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Editorial

WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of “the CRANicles” newsletter for 2020. This publication aims to inform stakeholders about CRAN’s new policies, events, regulations and other ICT related activities.

The place to begin this newsletter is, of course; the Coronavirus (Covid-19). Covid-19 is a global health pandemic that has threatened the lives of the Namibian people and the public health system. It also bears negative economic impacts that have threatened the survival of many businesses, jobs and livelihoods. As a responsible corporate citizen, CRAN’s key priority is to curb the spread of the virus while abiding by the regulations set by the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

In an effort to fight this pandemic, CRAN in consultation with Telecommunications Service Licensees, approved two (2) toll free emergency numbers for the reporting of Covid-19 related incidences. The numbers are 0800 100 100 and 911. CRAN urges members of the public not to abuse the numbers as they serve as a national emergency communication tool for the effective monitoring and management of Covid-19.

CRAN is doing what we can in the fight against Covid-19, but there is so much more that the Authority is achieving in this unusual time. I trust that you will find this edition of the CRANicles informative and I encourage you to send us your views, comments and/or queries by sending an email for the attention of the Editor to communications@cran.na.

Wash your hands regularly, maintain social distancing, stay home and be safe.

Yours in ICT

Jairus Kapenda

Senior Corporate Communication Practitioner



01

Welcome to the 2nd edition
of “the CRANicles.”





As the 2019/2020 financial year drew to a close at the end March 2020, we bid farewell to our Chief Executive Officer as Mr. Mbandeka embarked on a new journey as the Attorney General of the Republic of Namibia. We wish him all the best in this well-deserved promotion. In his absence, I, Jochen Traut, will act as CEO in the interim. Our vision and strategy continue to guide our activities at the Authority.

March 2020 also saw Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga appointed as the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, and Honourable Emma Theofelus appointed as the Deputy Minister. On behalf of CRAN I would like to congratulate each of them on their appointment, and we look forward to advancing the reach and use of ICT in Namibia, together.

1 April 2020 marked the beginning of a new financial year for 2020/2021 and the commencement of the first year of CRAN's new Strategic Plan for the period 2020 to 2023. The new Strategic Plan focuses on implementing a Balanced Scorecard performance management tool to; execute CRAN's strategic intent for the period, create a culture of continuous learning, implement evidence based decision-making and align the organisation to strategy and results.

Consumer advocacy and stakeholder engagement remains a key strategic objective that enables CRAN to strengthen stakeholder relationships. The aim is to collectively shape, facilitate, position and steer the industry in the right direction, and in the right manner, for a high performing and accelerating sector for the benefit of all Namibians.

In support of the 5th National Development Plan (NDP 5) goal of building a knowledge-based economy, CRAN's corporate social investment drive is focused on the

value created by technology. Integrating ICT into all sectors of the mainstream economy is a critical success factor for accomplishing the transformation of Namibia into a knowledge economy. In this vein, CRAN donated stationery to Dr. Fischer Primary School in the Aminuis Constituency, Oshapapa Combined School and Ontana Combined School in the Oshikoto Regions, respectively.

I urge our stakeholders to remember that we are experiencing unprecedented times not just in Namibia, but all over the world. Let's not be discouraged, but rather use this opportunity to learn new ways of doing things, new ways of interacting and to value what we have, most importantly; each other. Equally, it is important that we understand the science behind the national lockdown and adhere to the regulations of social distancing and that way do our part in containing the further spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Namibia.

In conclusion, accessible, high quality and affordable technology for all Namibians remains CRAN's mantra. We will pursue this goal with passion and purpose, building an ICT sector that is fully responsive in delivering the societal benefits associated with improved connectivity.

Jochen Traut
Acting Chief Executive Officer

SAFER INTERNET DAY CELEBRATION



Honourable Lucia Witbooi, Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare; Honourable Lucia Basson, Governor of //Karas Region; Safer Internet Day Committee Members; and school learners in attendance during the Safer Internet Day celebrations

02

On 11 February 2020, CRAN joined the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and other stakeholders for the Safer Internet Day themed "Together for a better Internet." The celebrations were held at the Moth Community Hall in Keetmanshoop, //Kharas Region. The aim was to create both a safer and a better Internet where children, parents and educators are empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

The event reached out to children and young people, parents and caregivers, teachers, educators and social workers, as well as the ICT industry and decision makers, and politicians in order to encourage all to do their part for the creation of a better and safer Internet. CRAN donated stationery to the value of N\$5 000 towards this event.

Ester Embanga, CRAN's Legal Advisor, also served on a panel discussion which focused on Cyberbullying in Namibia. Embanga provided information about the role of CRAN in combating Cybercrime in the country and the Authority's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement signed with the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) in the collective's strategy for combating Cybercrime.

Embanga elaborated on the topic of the circulation of indecent material in Namibia. She emphasised the processes to be taken by individuals who are aggrieved by such circulation, whilst also highlighting the consequences for those found guilty of the circulation of indecent material. She further advised young people to refrain from creating and circulating material of an obscene and/ or offensive nature.



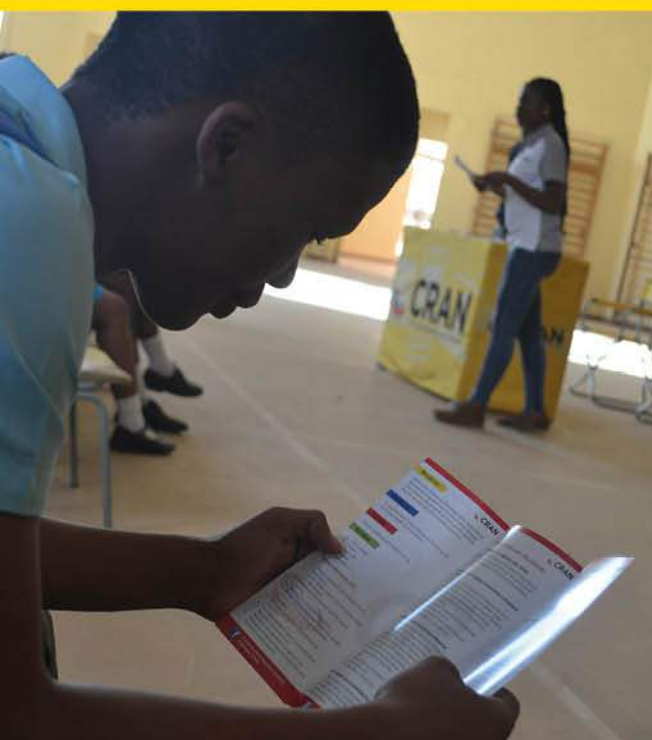
CRAN VISITS SUIDELIG HIGH SCHOOL

03



Charmaine Louw, Lifeline/Childline Representative; Anna Amoomo, President of the Internet Society Namibia; and Ester Embanga, Legal Advisor: Adjudication, Enforcement & Litigation with learners from Suidelig High School

CRAN hosted a complimentary event at the Suidelig High School in Keetmanshoop on 12 February 2020 to raise awareness on the role of CRAN in emerging online issues such as cyberbullying, circulation of indecent material and combating child sexual exploitation and abuse. The team engaged Grade 8 to 12 learners in the quest to combat Cybercrime by providing information on the consequences of the circulation of indecent material.



Mr. Tangeni Abed, Principal at Suiderlig High School, was delighted that CRAN selected the Suiderlig High School for this initiative. He expressed his concern about the fact that young people create and share indecent material via telecommunications devices without taking into consideration the consequences attached.

Mr. Abed thanked CRAN for reaching out to the Keetmanshoop community and educating and informing the young people on the dangers of circulating inappropriate or indecent content through social media platforms.

WORLD RADIO DAY CELEBRATION



Albertus Aochamub, Namibian Ambassador to France; Djaffar Moussa-Elkadhum, UNESCO Representative to Namibia; and Jochen Traut, Chief Operations Officer engaging stakeholders during the World Radio Day celebrations



CRAN, in partnership with the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other stakeholders, celebrated the 9th Annual World Radio Day at the Katutura College of the Arts on 13 February 2020 in Windhoek. This year's theme was Radio and Diversity. Radio is described as a powerful medium for celebrating humanity in all its diversity as it remains the most widely consumed medium at global level.



During a panel discussion themed Radio and Diversity, Jochen Traut, Chief Operations Officer (COO), said; "Analogue radio will stay for many years." Traut further explained that radio has 98% population coverage in Namibia and is the only medium that can close the gap between rural and urban areas, giving access to information to people in rural areas.

UNESCO representative to Namibia, Mr. Djaffar Moussa-Elkadhum, emphasised that radio is the only unique medium that unites communities while also promoting cultural diversity. Moussa-Elkadhum added that the functions of radio in a community enables listeners to express ideas in different languages and invites listeners to broaden their horizons.

CRAN sponsored N\$5 000 towards the printing costs for the branding and promotional material for the event.

MICT LAUNCHES BROADBAND POLICY



Honourable Stanley Simaata, Former Minister of ICT flanked by the Founding Members of the National Broadband Steering Committee

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) launched the National Broadband Policy and its Implementation Action Plan (IAP) on 13 February 2020 at the Labour Commissioner's Office in Khomasdal. The comprehensive policy aims to provide broadband to the Namibian citizens in solving development problems with innovative solutions and approaches that are effective, scalable and replicable.

The policy is in line with the country's national development goals as outlined in the National Development Plans (NDP) and Vision 2030. Honourable Stanley Simaata, then Minister of Information and Communication Technology, officially launched both initiatives, which were first outlined in October 2019.

Speaking at the launch event, Hon. Simaata stated that the policy ambitiously intends to provide broadband speeds of at least 2Mbps to 95% of the population by the year 2024, to promote the development of content and applications, to reduce the digital divide and provide incentives for further investment in broadband deployment. The implementation plan is to be executed over five (5) years and is designed to ensure effective delivery from the outset.

Presenting the policy to the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on ICT and Innovation, Honourable Simaata described broadband as a technology that can fundamentally restructure an economy, boost GDP and growth, create jobs, increase trade, drive service delivery and social development.

Honourable Simaata used the opportunity to introduce the Founding Members of the National Broadband Steering Committee as listed below:

- Mr. Jorn Schnoor – Chairperson
- Ms. Monica Nehemia – Vice Chairperson
- Mr. Girma Tadesse
- Mr. Collin Mwatile Hangula
- Mr. Fillemon Johannes
- Ms. Ronel Le Grange
- Mr. Milton Louw
- Mr. Daniel Zaire
- Mr. Lukas Shuuya
- Mr. Johan Van Wyk
- Mr. Edward Gwathetwapo Nepolo

Honourable Simaata concluded the official launch by stating that; "With a well-developed and integrated broadband infrastructure, Namibia's path to prosperity in all facets is well illuminated! Let's not dim our nation's bright future."

06

CRASA MEETINGS



CRASA Legal and Policy Committee Meeting participants

The Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) renewed its commitment to CRAN. CRASA is an important stakeholder as ICT Policy and Regulation has international ripple effects. CRAN is committed to building strategic relations with fellow regulators in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for the socio-economic benefit of all Namibians.

CRAN attended the second CRASA Consumer Committee (CC) meeting from 13 to 14 February 2020 in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting analysed the responses received from CRASA members regarding consumer protection related specifically to accessibility by persons with

disability in SADC. The meeting also developed the CC Operational Plan 2020, where the focus was to bring greater understanding to consumer protection issues regarding emerging technologies (such as 5G) and services (such as OTT).

2ND LEGAL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING



07

**2ND LEGAL
AND POLICY
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

CRAN hosted the CRASA Legal and Policy Committee (LPC) meeting from 18 to 20 February 2020 at AM Weinberg Boutique Hotel in Windhoek. The meeting was historic in the sense that it was the first time Namibia hosted an LPC meeting.

The meeting was tasked to provide legal and policy advice to the CRASA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and various CRASA Committees on ICT related legal matters for the furtherance of CRASA's objectives towards the harmonisation of ICT policies and guidelines.

Festus K. Mbandeka, then Chief Executive Officer, stated in his opening remarks that, "ICT regulators that operate in a sector with a global footprint cannot operate in isolation. Therefore, we must continue to benchmark and harmonise laws and enforcement for the sake of regional integration."

TECHNOLOGICAL INCLUSION: EXCITING DRIVER OF THE POST COVID19 PHASE

When my mother insisted on buying a cellphone from my niece in 2014, I was silently wondering why she would need it. After all, my parents spend more time on their farm, the birthplace of our family roots, than in the urban Omaruru. By that time, Telecom Namibia had allowed satellite telecommunications to be connected on fixed lines on farms in the area.



She just said flatly; “I need it to call my people”, presumably her friends and family. My father, on the other hand, has always been a business minded man, even when it came to friends and family. He was, and is still is, using a trusty Nokia.

Fast forward a couple of years and my mother has surpassed my father’s cellphone by requesting a new one from my niece again. That was in 2016, shortly before I moved my career back to the African continent. She told my niece that everyone has a smartphone. She liked the way she could press on the screen and was wondering why her cellphone does not react the way other cellphones do.

“Get an iPhone or Samsung or another brand that offers a smartphone,” my niece was dumbstruck by the information she was receiving from her Grandmother. Such has the cellphone revolution taken root in the urban and

rural areas that almost “everyone has [one] ...” as declared by my mother.

Worldwide, people have been bitten by the bug called “cellphone.” The ubiquitous ownership of cellphones is visible, relevant, and obvious. Nowadays, no one even asks the price; having a cellphone has become an absolute necessity. In fact, it has become a basic need rather than a must have. The cellphone is always at hand; an extension of the body, mind, and spirit. Statistics show that almost two thirds of the global population insist on having a cellphone. The current trend shows that it could even be higher and increasing. Cellphones are becoming a necessary tool that no one can live without; the trend is even becoming entrenched among the poor of the global population. According to the International Telecommunications Union; the chances that a child born today will not have a cellphone as a teenager are already slim. Also, those teenagers

who do not have a cellphone in 2020 may lose out on what the world offers today in terms of global inter-connectivity, consumption habits, careers, buying trends and e-learning.

The physical distancing required to protect oneself from the COVID-19 pandemic means the need to have a cellphone is now more critical. While a young person may be socially connected, they can use their cellphones to push for business ideas and relevant projects as the world enters a “New Normal” of virtual learning through applications, such as; Zoom, Microsoft Teams and “Meet to Greet” online interactions.

The cellphone revolution has given a voice to all people and economic rights to the youngsters of today to voice issues that concern them. For example; speaking another language as a necessity to have a job will become the thing of the past as digital media will be online instantaneously

Article Continues on next page >>

as translation; it's happening already.

Cellphone access is reaching all people, no matter one's status, income or consumption preferences. People demand services that they could not have envisaged ten years ago. Mobile users demand messaging, video recording, data saving, Uber inspired taxis, and a lot more. I often find my family on WhatsApp, talking nonstop about what's happened in their lives and updating each other on common issues of interests,

such as; weddings, funerals, religion, and values. In fact, when I was out of the country, it really helped me to find out promptly what was going on within my family and how I can reach out to assist or provide moral support.

When our President, Dr Hage Geingob, was Minister of Trade and Industry, he told me the importance of the cellphone. He said a cellphone is not only a social tool but a business tool. This reality is becoming increasingly evident for all the people, including the low income and the rural and urban poor. One thing is abundantly clear, the cellphone is here to stay. This will ensure and promote what I will call the technological inclusion of the broader masses, articulating needs they have not known before. The language of development has caught up with our incessant need of connecting all people to the world through the Internet as we get on the bandwagon of the "Future of Work" and the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" (4IR).

Farmers are connected to get instant updates on agricultural prices, crop production and weather patterns with the aim to enhance their precision farming. Women are seeking information on how best to take care of their basic health needs in rural areas. Students are signing up for courses online and even submit assignments without the need to go to centers of schooling or campuses.

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic seems to be accelerating the new way of doing things technologically with the Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructure. Namibia is certainly confronted with the new reality of technological inclusion, and the impetus of the global order on the new wave of globalisation through

technology. The cellphones have also brought unsurpassable opportunity for turning otherwise empty time into something enjoyable. Facebook even famously declared "the more we connect, the better it gets". The next disruptive world shows that people are buying more smartphones, not only to communicate but also as a device where they would play instead of work, for leisure instead of labour, especially now with social distancing and health imperatives considered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I believe that the current cultural behavior pattern shows that with the advent of cellphones and with the threat of the corona virus, less emphasis will be placed on the structure of life and more on the quality of life.

Cellphone users want to chat more, have less face-to-face meetings; want more applications and games, less documents, movies and computer games rather than documentaries, social and economic mobility rather than space confinement, a form of career choice, rather than social connection, lifestyle guide rather than instruction module, entertainment rather than infotainment, and information hotspot rather than a disruptive technological tool. However, with our new way of doing things, there is a need for connecting via various applications for social, business and economic needs. This interconnected, diverse, exciting, innovative and dynamic global world will become more pronounced where no one will be left out even for the high, middle and low income earners and those voluntarily unemployed and unemployed people.

The world has changed that even things that were not important before will become more important. Passing time by being on the Internet can create new careers, services, products, and lifestyle preferences. This can range from sharing a recipe on preparing a Kaapana meat from the Single Quarters in Katutura to Sushi from Japan, without the need of a recipe book but through the cellphone and global inter-connectivity.

One thing is clear, the price of cellphones and smartphones, and the associated services and products, will actually be forced to come down as technological inclusion will mean a broader reach of benefits with wider

choice of goods and services.

This would hold pro-competitive benefits not only for the consumer but for the distributor and the producer too. Due to Covid19 restrictions, new online products and services are going to be so transformed that some business as we knew it will completely change. Companies who take advantage of the technological developments will survive and become employers of choice. This would also have revenue implications for the Government and Central Banks worldwide as digital money is increasingly coming to the fore.

One notable revolutionary development would be that TV-streaming will become a household feature. Coupled with that would also be the need to ensure developments on cyber-security, digital privacy rules and rights of freedom of information sharing.

There is great concern over tech giants, such as; Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter, hoarding private data. However, technological inclusion shows that the young and old, people are simply thrilled to have a way to communicate, freedom to express themselves and an instant connection to the world. The cellphone may have brought more than it or we bargained for. It has ensured economic democracy to those left on the periphery of mainstreamed socio-economic life. For the first time, rich and poor have equal access to sharing experiences, events, breaking news, and relevant information. They will be spending their time sharing the same information, doing the same things and expressing on the same things. In short, technological inclusion will leave no one out. It will contribute to an Equal Society with Equal Voice and Equal Access to Information.

Post COVID-19 will be an exciting time; an accelerated world driven by cellphones and global inter-connectivity. Industries and sectors will transform, and we hope make our world a safer, better, qualitatively more humane place.

END

HEINRICH MIHE GAOMAB II
CHAIRPERSON
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY
AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA (CRAN)

Congratulations

on your new appointments



Honourable
Dr. Peya Mushelenga



Honourable
Emma Theofelus

It is with great pleasure that we learnt of your recent appointments. It is for this reason that we seize this opportunity to congratulate **Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga** on his appointment as the Minister of Information and Communication Technology as well as **Honourable Emma Theofelus** on her appointment as the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

We wish you only the best with your call of duty and new appointments.

May your successes be endless. You are guaranteed of our full and unwavering support.



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Communication Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN)



CRAN AIDS DR. FISCHER PRIMARY SCHOOL





Ismael Kazondanga, Principal of Dr. Fischer Primary School and learners during the stationary donation handover ceremony.

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After a fire destroyed four classrooms and a library at Dr. Fischer Primary School in the Aminuis Constituency in January, CRAN donated stationery worth N\$ 5 000 on 2 March 2020. The Authority responded to the needs of the school by purchasing stationery, which includes exercise books, rulers, pencils, scissors, crayons, and erasers among many other items, which are to be used during the learning process.





Asser Petrus, Principal of Ontana Combined School flanked by Heads of Departments and teachers during the stationary donation handover ceremony



CRAN DONATES STATIONERY TO NORTHERN SCHOOLS

Namibia is currently going through an economic struggle and the Government is finding it hard to provide enough stationery to schools across the country. It is, therefore, up to corporate organisations and citizens to meet the Government halfway by assisting in different sectors through CSI initiatives.

Members of the Ontana Combined School Board Committee raised a concern about the poor operations of their schools, along with many other public schools, due to the limited stationery government schools receive as a result of the economic crisis in the country. In response, CRAN donated stationery worth N\$ 5 000 respectively to Oshapapa Combined School and Ontana Combined School in the Oshikoto Region on

04 March 2020. Both school's managements expressed their gratitude towards the donations.

The donations are in line with CRAN's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) policy, which is focused on the value created by technology to support the 5th National Development Plan (NDP 5) goal of building a knowledge-based economy.

CRAN & NAPWU SIGN WAGE NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT



Gideon Thomas, NAPWU Head of Operations; Festus K. Mbandeka, Chief Executive Officer; and CRAN employees during the signing Ceremony of the Wage Increase Agreement.

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CRAN signed a Wage Increase Agreement with the Namibia Public Workers Union (NAPWU) on 06 March 2020 at the Moth Centre, Unit 1 in Windhoek. The agreement demonstrates CRAN's commitment to its employees. Both parties agreed to the salary increment and alignments of CRAN employees in the Bargaining unit A1 – D2 effective from 1 April 2020.

CEO, Mr Mbandeka, urged CRAN employees to join forces in the spirit of camaraderie to execute CRAN's operational objectives to ensure that the Authority regulates the ICT industry effectively and proactively.

In 2019, CRAN and NAPWU signed a Recognition and Procedural Agreement with the purpose of managing industrial relations between the two parties in order to develop and foster a fair and equitable relationship.

3RD STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT BREAKFAST

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CRAN hosted its 3rd Stakeholder Engagement Breakfast on 13 March 2020 at the AM Weinberg Boutique Hotel in order to provide stakeholders with an overview of CRAN's strategic plan from the period April 2020 to March 2023.



Festus K. Mbandeka and Heinrich M. Gaomab II during the 3rd Stakeholder Engagement breakfast

Helene Vosloo, Head: Economics and Sector Research, presented the latest Telecommunication Sector Performance Review, also known as the Market Report, on the financial health and performance of Namibian operators, consumer price developments in the telecommunications sector, changes in the competitive landscape and general trends for 2017 and 2018. The event acquainted stakeholders with the Authority's internal regulatory processes, priorities and challenges and engaged them

to have a common and mutual understanding of matters pertaining to the ICT industry. CRAN used the platform to strengthen stakeholder relationships, in order to collectively shape, facilitate, position and steer the industry in the right direction and in the right manner, for a high performing and accelerating sector for the benefit of all Namibians.



CRAN ENABLES EMERGENCY **TOLL FREE NUMBERS FOR REPORTING COVID-19**

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In consultation with Telecommunications Service Licensees, CRAN approved two toll free emergency numbers for the reporting of Coronavirus (Covid-19) related incidences. These numbers are (0800 100 100) and (911).

- The number 0800 100 100 is linked to the Telecom Namibia Limited network and is managed at the premises of the Ministry of Health and Social Services.
- The number 911 is linked to the Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) network and will be routed to any emergency facility in the country.

These emergency toll free numbers are active on all cell phone networks in Namibia and are free of charge for the responsible use of ICT consumers within the borders of the Republic of Namibia.

The Authority directed Telecommunications Service Licensees to route these emergency numbers to their terminating points without a charge to the consumers. In the instances that calls are routed via a second or subsequent network, no interconnection charges may be payable between Telecommunications Service Licensees.

The Authority urges members of the public not to abuse the numbers as they serve as a national emergency communication tool for the effective monitoring and management of COVID-19.



CRAN DONATES TOWARDS NUST TECHNOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Morné du Toit, Former NUST Acting Vice Chancellor

In response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic outbreak, on 1 April 2020 CRAN made a donation in kind (airtime and data) to the value of N\$25 000 to its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement tertiary institution partner; the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST).

CRAN is aware of the important role of ICT during these challenging times and understands the negative impact this global pandemic has on Namibia and the world. 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. CRAN will further assist the Government by directing much needed resources from stakeholders to alleviate the negative impact this pandemic has on Government resources.

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 and solutions, and conducting research that would assist the Government of Namibia in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. CRAN's generous donation would enable NUST, through their dedicated lecturers and students, to contribute to the Government's efforts by offering 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 available on smartphones and basic phones using SMS, and it will be offered in different languages.

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.



CRAN SETS RECORD STRAIGHT ON MISCONCEPTIONS PERTAINING TO 5G IN NAMIBIA



Jochen Traut, Acting CEO, stated, “CRAN has noted with concern the circulation of baseless and unfounded misconceptions on social media linking the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) to the deployment of Fifth Generation (5G). The information further alleges that 5G towers have been erected in Namibia. In light of the above, CRAN deemed it necessary to set the record straight on this matter.”

CRAN has to date, not awarded any Spectrum Licences for the deployment of 5G to any of the four (4) operators providing mobile services (IMT) in Namibia and there are consequently no 5G sites in Namibia. The four (4) operators licensed to provide mobile services are Telecom Namibia Limited, Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC), MTN Business Solutions Namibia (Pty) Ltd (MTN) and Paratus Telecommunications (Pty) Ltd and are currently only providing 2G, 3G and 4G. Although the 3500 MHz spectrum band is allocated for IMT, it is not yet been utilised for 5G as Telecom Namibia Limited is still using this band for fixed services (Wimax) and MTN is using this band for TDD-LTE (4G).

To date, CRAN is not aware of any proven correlation between 5G and the Covid-19 pandemic. As an independent and responsible regulator, the nature and operations of CRAN will always be to ensure the public health and safety of all consumers of ICT products and services.

In November 2019, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), (of which Namibia is a member), discussed the allocation of radio spectrum for 5G during the World Radio Conference (WRC-19). The discussions were based on intensive technical studies conducted by the ITU and looked at various aspects including power limits, emission standards and other considerations. The discussions were further based on factual information and studies conducted by international bodies, including health organisations, which are concerned with the implementation of new technologies.

The WRC-19 resolved to allocate some frequency bands

for the utilisation of 5G and member countries, including Namibia, must review their Frequency Band Plans to assign these frequencies on a national level. As with all other technologies, the future deployment of 5G will be considered with stringent adherence to international standards and regulations to find a balance between the roll-out of new and reliable communications services, public health and the protection of the environment.

The Namibian policy and regulatory framework is thus prepared for the deployment of 5G. The only change required is for spectrum bands allocated for 5G at the ITU WRC-19 to be incorporated in Namibia’s Frequency Band plan. Upon finalisation of the review of the Band Plan, new Spectrum Licenses will be issued for the provision of 5G services in Namibia and consumers will be informed accordingly.

The 5G technology provides for the development of a vast array of new applications and machine-to-machine telecommunications that will benefit, specifically; the agricultural, health, education and financial sectors and will also support the 4th Industrial Revolution. However, as is the case with the introduction of any new technologies into any market, the decision to deploy 5G will be dependent on consumer needs for new services and applications, and the response from the Telecommunications Service Licensees to such needs.

The Authority thus urges consumers to use the Internet responsibly and avoid the circulation of unverified and unfounded information to avoid public hysteria which will undermine the Government’s efforts in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

CRAN CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY

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International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated across the world on the fourth Thursday of April each year. CRAN and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) celebrated Girls in ICT Day on 23 April 2020 under the theme “Expand horizons, Change attitudes.”



The day aimed to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICT, enabling both girls and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in the ICT sector.

The sector has a pressing need for a wide-range of ICT talents, as there is a growing gap between the digital skills needed by employers and the number of jobseekers with the required technical expertise. This means that highly qualified women in technical fields will have a significant number of opportunities available to them.



Celebrating International Girls in ICT Day

23 April 2020



“Expand horizons, change attitudes”

#GirlsInICT



International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated across the world on the fourth Thursday of April each year, thus the day is celebrated today Thursday, 23 April 2020. This Day is initiated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and, aims to contribute to the empowerment of girls and young women in terms of education and careers in the field of information and communications technology.

The sector has a pressing need for a wide-range of ICT talents as there is a growing gap between the digital skills needed by employers and the number of jobseekers with the required technical know-how.



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Congratulations & Farewell

We at CRAN wish **Mr. Festus K. Mbandeka**, our outgoing CEO, our most sincere Congratulations on his new appointment as the Attorney General of the Republic of Namibia.

We are sure that under your great leadership, wisdom and guidance, the Office of the Attorney General will strive to greater heights and attain numerous achievements.

We wish you all the best and thank you for having served us.



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CRAN
Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

Thank You



Honourable Stanley Simataa
Former Minister of Information and
Communication Technology



Honourable Engel Nawatiseb
Former Deputy Minister of
Information and Communication
Technology

Accept our thanks and appreciation for all the support and guidance you provided CRAN during your tenure. Your visionary leadership enabled CRAN to attain numerous achievements and played a vital role in transforming the Information and Communication Technology sector for the socio-economic benefit of all Namibians.

We wish you only the best. Thank you for having served our vibrant industry.

From the CRAN Board of Directors, Management and Team.

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CRAN Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 08h00 - 13h00 | 14h00 - 17h00



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