

CRAN AWARDS DESIGNATED POSTAL OPERATOR LICENCE TO NAMBIA POST LIMITED (NAMPOST)

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

Chapter VII of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009) mandates CRAN to regulate the provision of postal services in Namibia. In September 2015, CRAN embarked on a systematic process of studying and understanding the shape and form of the postal industry, and most importantly, consulted the postal industry players through public consultative meetings. CRAN's aim was to formulate a regulatory framework that seeks to purposely regulate the vibrant postal sector and to ensure universal provision of postal products and services in the Namibia.

“CRAN awarded a Designated Postal Operator Licence to Namibia Post Limited (NAMPOST) subject to the provisions of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009), and Regulations Prescribing Licence Categories and Licensing Procedures for Postal Service Licensees, effective from 19 August 2020”, stated Jochen Traut, Acting Chief Executive Officer, CRAN.

The Designated Postal Operator Licence will require NAMPOST to distribute letters and post items not exceeding one hundred grams and parcel post not exceeding 30 kilograms to post boxes, private bags or home letterboxes. Equally, NAMPOST will render postal services in respect of registered and insured postal articles, including summons and judicial notifications by post, within the same weight limitations as outlined in the license conditions. Another reserved service for NAMPOST is the production and issuance of post boxes, private bags, home letterboxes, postage stamps, pre-stamped envelopes, money orders, aerogrammes and international reply coupons.

“NAMPOST will design, commission and publish definitive, commemorative or special stamps (including electronic stamps) on behalf of the Namibian Government, and accept, handle, convey and deliver international postal articles entering Namibia through the Universal Postal Union network”, added Traut.

The reserved services for NAMPOST do not prevent any other operator from providing door-to-door deliveries in Namibia or providing parcel lockers, which are allocated on an item-by-item basis. CRAN understands the benefits that an improved competitive environment can have on the Namibian postal sector, hence the need to formulate these regulatory measures aimed at creating a levelled playing field for both current and new players in the postal sector, in order to maximise benefits for consumers.

“NAMPOST applied to the Authority for a Designated Postal Operator Licence after the Minister of Information Communication and Technology issued a notice in the *Government Gazette* commencing part Chapter VII of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009), and the licence issued to NAMPOST will be valid for 20 years”, concluded Traut.

“Ends”

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