



CRAN

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

REMARKS BY

EMILIA NGHIKEMBUA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AT THE

**COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA
(CRAN) CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT LAPTOPS
HANDOVER TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE**

Date: Friday, 31 March 2023

Venue: Ministry of Education Head Office, Government
Office Park, Luther St, Windhoek

Time: 11h00 to 13h00

- Honourable Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture,
- Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Executive Management and Representatives,
- CRAN Executive Management and team,
- Members of the Media,
- Distinguished delegates,
- Director of Ceremonies,

Good morning and thank you for joining us to witness the official handover of a donation by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture for the benefit of Namibian learners.

The donation is in the form of 28 laptops valued at N\$ 150,000.00, to be donated to eight (8) identified schools countrywide, to bridge the digital divide gap and for the expansion of universal access. The Schools identified are Kaitsi !Gubeb Combined School, !Karas Region; Otjiperongo Junior Primary School, Erongo Region; W.J.D Cloete Junior Secondary School, Hardap Region; Kangongo Primary School, Kavango East; Kandjimi Murangi Secondary School, Kavango West; Welwitchia Junior School, Kunene Region; Vergenoeg Primary School, Omaheke Region; and Okomakwiya Primary School, Omusati Region.

CRAN through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives aims to support the Government of the Republic of Namibia's objectives for universal access to information, affordable communication, deployment of digital infrastructure and postal services for economic benefits for all members of the Namibian society. Additionally, CRAN's mandate entails the development and expansion of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Namibia so that all Namibians have access to a variety of services, products at high quality and affordable rates. As an organisation that is geared at creating a knowledge-based society through the robust regulation of the ICT sector in our country, the Authority understands and promotes the importance of access to quality and affordable ICT products and services for all.

Director of Ceremonies,

In February 2023, CRAN commenced with the auctioning process for radio frequency spectrum bands 694-790 MHz and 790-862 MHz allocated to International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) services on a primary basis. These spectrum bands are commonly referred to as the 700 MHz and 800 MHz spectrum bands and utilised by Telecommunications Service Licensees to provide 4G and or 5G mobile services in Namibia and to fulfil rollout obligations aimed at ensuring communications services in all regions to 80% of the population.

CRAN issued radio frequency spectrum bands to Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) for the provision of broadband services with a minimum downlink data speed of not less than 2 Mbps, subject to the rollout obligations imposed as licence conditions. CRAN, in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, identified twenty-five (25) schools in remote/rural areas with either no services or only 2G mobile services to be provided with broadband services by MTC as part of the rollout obligations. The schools are situated in Kavango East, Kavango West, !Karas, Kunene, Hardap, Erongo and Omaheke Region.

This Spectrum Licence will be used to further governmental policy objectives set out in the National Broadband Policy which provides that 80% of schools are to be provided with broadband infrastructure and services and is also aligned with the objectives of the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, which calls for rollout of ICT infrastructure to improve national and population coverage.

Moreover, the expansion of broadband services by licensees will improve quality of telecommunications services and inclusivity for Namibians living in unserved and underserved areas at prescribed broadband speeds and quality of service minimum parameters. Additionally, the spectrum will be utilised to foster digital transformation beyond the delivery of broadband, through implementation of e-education, e-health, e-agriculture, e-

commerce, e-government, and other use cases to realise the true benefits of new technologies.

Furthermore, the spectrum to be assigned will be utilised for mobile services, providing broadband services with a download speed of not less than 20 Mbps to ensure meaningful connectivity. This will enable schools to have sufficient network connectivity, to provide online teaching lessons.

These rollout conditions were met by MTC, however, we were informed that there was no uptake of the services due to a lack of devices. It is therefore that CRAN intervened and purchased 15 new laptops to the amount of approximately N\$150,000. We refurbished 13 used laptops that are in excellent condition to donate to the schools for use. CRAN will at our own cost personally deliver the laptops to the identified schools and ensure that the rightful beneficiaries personally receive these laptops. We wish to encourage other corporates that have used laptops, desktops and other IT equipment for similar causes so that all Namibian schools have ICT products and services at their disposal.

Distinguished delegates,

In March 2021, CRAN donated disposable and reusable sanitary essentials for the benefit of 770 girls at identified schools across the country. Therefore, as a regulator in an industry that has a huge

impact on the economy, we deemed it necessary to inspire, motivate and extend a helping hand to our Namibian girl child.

To conclude and in brief, CRAN's mandate and strategic goal of expanding coverage for ICT include to improve performance and service delivery through various efforts, one of which is digitalisation; and to promote infrastructure development as a catalyst for economic growth, social progression, and a contributor to global competitiveness and investment attraction.

Therefore, today we are very pleased that our strategic stakeholder the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture embraces our noble Corporate Social Investment initiatives and that we truly hope this donation will benefit the Namibian child to have access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through donations such as ours.

With these few words, I encourage the teachers and learners that shall receive this donation, to fully utilise these tools for their benefit.

I Thank You!