



CRAN

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

REMARKS BY

**HEINRICH MIHE GAOMAB II, CHAIRPERSON CRAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AT THE

**PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE AGREEMENTS
SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN THE
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF
NAMIBIA (CRAN) AND THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (MICT) OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

Date: 12 OCTOBER 2020

Venue: MUSCADAL ROOM, AM WEINBERIG HOTEL

Time: 18H30

- Director of Ceremonies,
- Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of MICT,
- Honourable Emma Theofelus, Deputy Minister of MICT,
- Mr. Mbeuta Ua-Ndjarakana, Executive Director of MICT,
- Ms. Vivienne Katjiuongua, Deputy Chairperson of the CRAN Board of Directors and Fellow CRAN Board Members,
- Mr. Jochen Traut, Acting Chief Executive Officer CRAN,
- CRAN Executive Management and team,
- MICT Representatives,
- Esteemed members of the media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and thank you for joining us at the Performance and Governance Agreements signing ceremony between the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) Board Members and the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga.

We humbled before you Honourable Minister on the sustained cooperation and assistance from your esteemed Officials to make this event a reality.

As Honourable Minister is aware, CRAN was established in terms of Section 4 of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009) to regulate the

telecommunications services and networks, broadcasting and postal services and the use and allocation of radio spectrum in Namibia.

Our mandate is thus the development and expansion of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in Namibia so that all Namibians have access to a variety of services, products at high quality and affordable rates. Furthermore, it is our responsibility as a Regulator of this sector to ensure that service providers expand their products and services to underserved and un-served areas, in order to expand on universal access which in turn offers many benefits such as building a knowledge based society as communities have access to information, employment, participation in national and international offerings which is crucial for the socio-economic development of our country.

Director of Ceremonies,

As we gather today for the signing of the Performance Agreements of the Board of Directors today, allow me to highlight some of the Authority's recent strategic achievements.

- 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;

- A critical framework/initiative developed in 2020 was the Frequency Channelling Plan for Digital Sound Broadcasting. This Plan would allow for the freeing up of more spectrum, which will result in the expansion of broadcasting services in accordance with the targets set out in the HPP and the ITU GEO6 to which Namibia is a signatory;
- The Authority successfully finalised the Radio Frequency Spectrum Auction to assign spectrum in the spectrum band 790 – 862 MHz.
- The recent amendments to the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009) was achieved with the support of the MICT and such amendment shall enable CRAN to impose regulatory levies to service providers. This has had an adverse negative impact on the sustainability and operation of the Authority.
- Section 23 of the Communications Amendment Act (No. 6 of 2020) which deals with Regulatory Levies has been promulgated and is ready for publication in the *Government Gazette* for industry consultation and input. We gratefully acknowledge the policy oversight of the Ministry to ensure this to happen as this not only broaden our regulatory ambit but ensure regulatory effectiveness in line with other countries in the region to get the culture of compliance for the realisation of regulatory levies without unduly burdening the cost of regulation.

- CRAN developed a database to determine the Universal Access Gap. This database mapped all demographic and technical information to be able to identify those populations in Namibia who have limited or no access to telecommunication services.
- CRAN submitted its audited financial statements within the prescribed statutory timeline as well as its strategic plan.

Director of Ceremonies,

As we continue to attain achievements as a team and since the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, all citizens and organisations both locally and globally have changed their operations in order to ensure sustainability and most importantly the safety and well-being of their employees, and CRAN is no exception in this regard. CRAN as early as and towards the beginning of March 2020 and well before the national lockdown, proactively ensured that it had in place numerous measures for the creation of a safe and conducive working environment for its employees and stakeholders alike. We are sensitively aware of the press coverage on this matter but assure you Honourable Minister that we care for our employees during this pressing time but without compromising internal procedures that governs the Authority.

Remaining on the topic of COVID-19, Honourable Minister CRAN has made a donation to the tune of N\$25,000 in the form of airtime and data,

to the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) through its Faculty of Computing and Informatics and in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), the World Health Organisation Africa Office (WHO AFRO) for the development of technological applications, solutions and conducting research that would assist the Government of the Republic of Namibia in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Director of Ceremonies,

Due to the change in how businesses and individuals now operate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, connectivity and information and communication services and products have become more important than ever, thus CRAN shall continue to assign rollout obligations linked to spectrum licences and shall continuously monitor the implementation of these obligations to ensure service and product availability to Namibian citizens across our country.

Furthermore, we at CRAN are placing emphasis on our strategic priorities namely, collaboration, operational excellence, innovation and sustainability in order to be consistent and in sync with governmental objectives as outlined in the various national policies and agenda's, such as the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HHP), Vision 2030, Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and subsequent Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

CRAN shall thus support MICT's strategic plan by enhancing existing regulatory framework and develop new interventions for the ICT and Postal sectors to contribute to the provisions of access to quality, reliable and affordable services and to enable a sector reform.

Honourable your Ministerial aspirations are factored into the agreements that we gratefully shall sign today and assure you that all is on board with regard to the Key Performance Indicators. We as CRAN consider our operational autonomy as given but in terms of policy we shall always adhere to the alignment of the Ministry's expectations so that we contribute our part as a developmental and effective regulator. There is therefore a need for prudent and sound governance of the Authority in accordance with the prescriptions and guidelines of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009) and the Public Enterprise Act (No. 1 of 2019).

Director of Ceremonies,

In conclusion reflecting on the oversight of regulation, allow me to thank our Former CEO for his dedicated and tireless devotion during your tenure as CEO. Attorney General Festus Mbandeka, we shall miss your matured disposition on resolving complex and daunting yet not impossible execution as CEO for CRAN. Equally, appreciation acknowledged to the Acting CEO Mr. Jochen Traut who has ensured a seamless transition management of the work at CRAN of which the Board is entirely grateful.

We have finalised strictly in line with our recruitment and selection policy of a substantive CEO position to be filled soon with your esteemed blessing Honourable Minister and such be soon communicated to your esteemed office in due considered time.

The CRAN Board of Directors, Acting Chief Executive Officer and the entire team are committed to achieving our mandate under your esteemed policy guidance.

We thank you Honourable Minister for entrusting and assigning the important national task, of regulating this robust industry for the benefit of all Namibians, which same we shall achieve with dedication, transparency and excellent corporate governance principles. Equally, the Board of Directors extends its gratitude to the team at CRAN that supports through the implementation of the Boards strategic intent. Equally esteemed acknowledgement to the Deputy Minister, ED and Senior Officials who provided consistent and appreciated support to the realisation of signing the individual and governance agreements.

Allow me to share what keeps as a collective at CRAN both as Board, Management and Staff.

WE ARE "TEAM WIFI" Honourable Minister which stands for

"TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE"

I Thank You!