



CRAN

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

REMARKS BY

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AT THE

**THE COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF
NAMIBIA (CRAN) TECH HUBS & E-VILLAGES COMPUTERS
HANDOVER TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND
CULTURE (MOEAC)**

Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Venue: Resource Centre: Ministry of Education, Government
Office Park, Ground Floor

Time: 11h00 to 12h00

- Honourable Faustina Caley, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture,
- Mr. Paulus Nghikembua, Director of the Khomas Directorate of Education, Arts & 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 hosting us as the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) officially hands over seven (7) computers and internet services to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture for the benefit of Namibian youth.

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 the 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, high quality products and affordable rates.

As an organisation that is geared towards creating a knowledge-based society, CRAN is embarking on a project to assist the Government in the establishment of tech-hubs and e-villages. CRAN identified two (2) libraries in the Khomas Region, namely, the library on the National Training Authority (NTA) premises in Khomasdal and the library at the Councillor's Office in Khomasdal North for the donation of computers and internet services. This goal is, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, to bridge the digital divide, expand on universal access, and to encourage innovation and youth participation in ICTs.

Director of Ceremonies,

As we all know, technology plays a vital role in today's world. It has become an essential tool for education, communication, and economic empowerment. However, not everyone has equal access to this technology, which creates a digital divide that can hinder progress and growth. This is why CRAN has decided to donate these computers and internet services to the Ministry, so that they can be used to establish tech-hubs and e-villages that will provide access to technology for all Namibians.

Tech-hubs and e-villages are community centers where people come together to learn, collaborate, and innovate. They provide access to computers, internet, and other technology resources that will help

bridge the digital divide and empower individuals and communities to reach their full potential.

This initiative aligns perfectly with CRAN's mission "*To regulate the ICT and Postal sectors for the socio-economic benefit of all Namibians,*" and this translates to purposefully regulating electronic communications services and networks and postal services, and the spectrum, so that all Namibians derive the full socio-economic benefits of ICTs.

Furthermore, the Authority hopes to make a meaningful contribution to the development of our country and the well-being of our people. We believe that access to technology is a basic human right, and that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, connect, and succeed in the digital age. These computers and internet services will be a valuable resource for Namibian youth, entrepreneurs, and community members who wish to improve their digital literacy skills, further their education and harness the power of technology to create positive change in their lives and in their communities.

Distinguished Guests,

We are confident that the Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture will put these computers and internet services to good use and that they will have a lasting impact on the lives of those who benefit from them. I encourage the Ministry to ensure that these computers and internet

services are accessible to all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, or socio-economic status. I also urge the Ministry to provide the necessary training and support to help individuals make the most of these resources and to encourage creativity, collaboration, and innovation amongst Namibian youth.

CRAN's mandate and strategic goal of expanding coverage for ICT includes the improved 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.

To conclude and in brief, I would like to thank our strategic stakeholder, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture for embracing our noble Corporate Social Investment initiatives and we truly hope this donation will benefit Namibian youth to have access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through donations such as ours.

Together, we can empower Namibians to thrive in the digital age and to build a brighter future for themselves and for our country. I am excited to see the impact that the computers and internet services will have on our communities, and I look forward to hearing about the

success stories that will undoubtedly emerge from the tech-hubs and e-villages that will be established with their support.

Let us continue to work together to build a Namibia where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and succeed in the digital age.

I Thank You!