

18 May 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA (CRAN) IS OPERATIONAL

The new Communications Act is brought into operation by the Minister of ICT, Joel Kaapanda, today, 18 May 2011. The Act comes into operation with the exception of Parts 4 (universal Service) and 6 (interception) of Chapter V (telecommunications services), and Chapter IX (establishment and incorporation .na domain name association).

The Act establishes CRAN, to provide for the regulation of telecommunications services and networks, broadcasting, postal services and the use and allocation of radio spectrum.

CRAN will drive a vibrant ICT sector contributing effectively to national development and drawing in direct foreign investment. The ICT sector has regionally become one of the largest contributors to government tax revenue.

Licence transition process

The Act provides for a licence transition period to commence when the Act commences. During the transition period, CRAN will focus on stakeholders' engagement with the purpose of achieving its transition objectives.

In preparation of the commencement of the Act and the licence transition period, CRAN made, inter alia, the following regulations:

- Broadcasting and Telecommunications Service Licence Categories
- Transitional Procedures for Telecommunications and Broadcasting Service Licences and Spectrum Use Licences

In addition, a practice manual has been developed, which outlines the licence transition process, and which can be accessed from CRAN website www.cran.na

The licence transition to be carried out by CRAN will apply to the following licensees and other entities -

- Existing telecommunications and broadcasting service and network licensees
- Persons lawfully providing a telecommunications or broadcasting service or network without a licence (including the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation)
- Telecom Namibia Limited (in respect of its deemed licence)
- Persons with pending licence applications before the Namibian Communications Commission at immediately prior to the commencement of the Act

Directors:

Mr. Lazarus N Jacobs, (Chairperson)
Ms. Hilma T Hitula (Vice-Chairperson)
Ms Tulimevava K Mufeti, Mr. Edwin D Beukes, Mr. Tylvas N Shilongo

- Persons with authority to use spectrum
- The Namibian Defence Force or any other organ of State using spectrum for defence purposes

In order to begin carrying out the required licence transitions, CRAN must be fully aware of the identity and details regarding licensed entities, the services they are providing and the spectrum they are using. Accordingly, CRAN has requested all entities to provide copies of licences and if certain information is not contained in licences, to also provide the requested information. CRAN has developed information forms for use by licensees for this purpose.

CRAN also has called for applications for those entities required by the Act to submit applications or amendments to applications. CRAN has developed application forms for use by licensees for this purpose.

Procedures and Decisions by CRAN

After receiving copies of existing licences and information forms as well as application forms, CRAN will conduct a licence review process for existing licences and licence application proceedings for licence applications.

All decisions made by CRAN in the licence transition process will be communicated to licensees, applicants and other relevant parties.

Enquires:

No one may communicate with members of the Board or any staff member or consultant to CRAN about the subject matter of any licence review or application proceeding except as provided for in the regulations.

If a party has any questions about the licence transition regulations, forms or processes, they may contact the person listed in the practice manual, ie, Mr Stanley Shanapinda: E-mail: cran@cran.na.

For all general communications, they may contact Ms Alisa Amupolo: E-mail: info@cran.na.

Information can also be obtained at CRAN website www.cran.na, where documents may be downloaded free of charge.

ISSUED BY:

LAZARUS JACOBS
CHAIRPERSON
CRAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS