

Remarks by

**Hilma Hitula, Acting-Chief Executive Officer of
the Communications Regulatory Authority of
Namibia (CRAN)**

**at the occasion of the signing of the
Memorandum of Understanding between
CRAN and the Namibia Statistics Agency**

Nice Restaurant, Windhoek

18 FEBRUARY 2015

Board Members:

Mr. Lazarus Jacobs (Chairperson); Dr. Tulimevava K. Mufeti (Member); Mr. Tylvas Shilongo (Member); Mr. Edwin Beukes (Member)

Acting Chief Executive Officer: Ms. Hilma Hitula

Company Secretary:

Emilia Nghikembua



Ms. Liinna Kafidi, Acting Statistician General of the Namibia Statistics Agency;
NSA management and staff present;
CRAN management and staff present;
Representatives of the media;
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all.

It is a privilege to represent CRAN at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between our entities, CRAN and the NSA.

CRAN and the NSA share a relation that stems from the mandates that our institutions have been tasked with. It certainly stands to reason that this relation be formalized with a view to strengthening the collaboration we have enjoyed thus far.

It is a known fact that that statistics are indispensable to planning. The NSA has established itself outstandingly as the collector, producer, analyser and disseminator of official statistics for Namibia. CRAN on the other hand regulates the ICT industry made up of telecommunications, broadcasting, postal and spectrum services. The sharing of statistics between CRAN and the NSA will thus ensure the planning and tackling of pertinent challenges raised by our increasing population and our growing economy.

CRAN currently contributes to the data collection of the NSA through the provision of the statistics linked to the ICT industry, which statistics the NSA utilizes for the National Accounts and the GDP calculations. The implementation of this MOU will address certain challenges that CRAN is experiencing in collecting ICT data from households across Namibia. As an example, some of the NSA's questionnaires will now incorporate questions on ICT information, allowing us to evaluate the economic status of the market

and forecast the growth of the ICT industry. CRAN will also be conducting an ICT GAP analysis which will highlight the geographic areas in Namibia that are underserved by ICT's and to address the needs through the Universal Access Service Fund which will be established shortly.

The statistics that will be collected through this collaborative effort will also be shared with agencies such as the International Telecommunications Union the ITU which uses this information to rank countries under the ICT Development Index. ICT statistics include data on broadband, Internet use, mobile-cellular and mobile-broadband networks amongst others. Namibia currently ranks 105 out of 148 ITU Members States.

We are of the concerted view that this MOU and its implementation will reinforce cooperation between CRAN and the NSA and lead to the achievement of a common goal to collect, store, analyse and disseminate data that is critical for our country.

I thank you!