

CRAN HANDS OVER DONATION OF SANITARY ESSENTIALS FOR GIRLS WORTH N\$66 000 TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

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The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) today, 08 March 2021, donated sanitary essentials worth approximately N\$64,000.00 to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. CRAN employees generously donated N\$2,300.00 towards this project, whilst CRAN donated approximately N\$64,000.00 thus bringing the total donation amount to approximately N\$66,000 towards the purchase of disposable and reusable sanitary essentials. The donation of reusable and disposable sanitary essentials shall benefit and assist approximately 770 school girls to stay in school during the 2021 academic year.

Girls from the schools listed below are set to benefit from CRAN's corporate social investment project.

- Ondao Mobile Primary School in Okapembambu Unit, Kunene Region;
- Ndoro Memorial Secondary School in Simbanda Circuit, Zambezi Region;
- Kaisosi Primary School near Rundu, Kavango East Region; and
- Hanganeni Primary School in Swakopmund, Erongo Region.

The handover today coincided with the celebration of International Women's Day, is in line with CRAN's objective of ensuring that girls are empowered to become the future leaders.

Speaking at the handover event today, CRAN's Chief Executive Officer, Emilia Nghikembua, said "our strategic intent which is guided by our mandate, enables us to ensure that the Authority regulates the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry for the benefit of all Namibians, inclusive of our Namibian girl child."

"This means that the Authority through our regulatory framework is striving to shape a socio-economic environment for ICT users through building capacity in our industry. This capacity building takes place through ensuring access to affordable and quality ICT products and services for all which further ensures that all Namibian children should have access to ICT products and services, and this can only be achieved if no Namibian child is left behind," added Nghikembua.

As the Authority observes and remains abreast with emerging trends in the ICT sector, CRAN took note of the recent publication of the plight of the Namibian girl children who

were unable to attend school due to the lack of sanitary essentials. For this reason, and with the limited available sources, the Authority approached its employees to assist with donations towards keeping a Namibian girl child in school.

Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Honourable Faustina Caley, delivered the keynote address on behalf of the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Honourable Anna Nghipondoka, said “as we celebrate International Women’s Day today, we at the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture are extremely honoured to receive this generous donation (on behalf of our Namibian girl child), as we strive towards a gender equal world”. Honourable Caley added that gender equality in the schools’ systems remains a key priority for the Government of the Republic of Namibia, in as far as placement of the Namibian girl child, placement and hiring of educators inclusive of, and not limited to, the teaching and administrative staff members.

“We can only achieve gender equality if we have a system that enables our Namibian girl child to remain in school and receive education which is a fundamental right. Thus enabling our Namibian girls to learn, grow and develop our economy, through full participation in various sectors such as the ICT sector as is regulated by CRAN, said Honourable Caley.

The Minister further stated that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture’s constitutional obligation to ensure that all children have access to education and no child should be left out, in especially girl children. There are so many challenges that children in the third world face and the Namibian nation are no exempted to these challenges as it is an unfortunate reality. Issues such as access, affordability and other economic issues contribute to the Namibian girl children finding it difficult to stay in school due to the lack of access to sanitary essential products.

CRAN is mandated to regulate telecommunication services and networks, broadcasting services, postal services and the use and allocation of radio spectrum.

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