

CRAN IMPOSES TEMPORARY STAND STILL PERIOD ON THE AWARD OF CLASS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING SERVICE LICENCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) subsequent to various stakeholder consultations in 2021, was implored to conduct a market study for the telecommunication and broadcasting sectors. The aim of the research is to determine the current market level of competition, market saturation, and any existing barriers to entry.

“CRAN conducted a preliminary research by studying the preceding Sector Review Reports and international best practice. Through this investigation, it was determined that the envisaged market study on the telecommunication and broadcasting markets must be based on a fixed data set, particularly the number of Telecommunications and Broadcasting Service Licensees currently in the market. Therefore, it is apposite that CRAN maintain a still market, in terms of market players, while conducting the study,” states Emilia Nghikembua, Chief Executive Officer, CRAN.

CRAN therefore resolved, to temporarily suspend the award of new telecommunication and Broadcasting Service Licences for the period 01 October 2022 until 30 September 2023. In order to mitigate the potential impact of the temporary postponement, and cognizant of the provisions of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009), from 01 April 2022, CRAN will accept new applications for Telecommunications and Broadcasting Service Licences, and consider such applications before 30 September 2022. These applications must be submitted to the Authority before 30 June 2022.

“CRAN will not accept or consider new applications for Telecommunications and Broadcasting Service Licences from 01 October 2022 until 30 September 2023. CRAN will, however, consider applications for amendment, withdrawal, transfer, and cession of existing Telecommunications or Broadcasting Service Licences when practically possible, and if such shall not result in a change of the data-set,” added Nghikembua.

During the duration of the market study, CRAN will accept and consider applications for Spectrum Licences from existing service licensees only, and will also accept Spectrum applications for bands that are service licence exempt.

The market study research will include public stakeholder consultations, and the final report and recommendations will be submitted to the Minister of Information and Communications Technology (MICT) Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga as per the provisions of the Communications Act. In consultation with the Honourable Minister CRAN will adopt and implement the conclusions of the Market Study in order to achieve a competitive market and eliminate barriers to market entry.

“While the temporary postponement of the award of new Telecommunication and Broadcasting Service Licenses will impact the business plans of prospective providers or Telecommunication and Broadcasting services, it is paramount that CRAN continuously intervene in the market dynamics to ensure fair competition, and remove barriers to market entry for the benefit of consumers,” concluded Nghikembua.

“ENDS”

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