

## COMMENCEMENT OF MANDATORY SIM CARD REGISTRATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) herewith notifies stakeholders that the mandatory registration of SIM cards commenced on 01 January 2023 in line with the provisions of Section 77 of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009).

The Conditions imposed in terms of SIM card registration obligates users to register their SIM card/s at the mobile service provider/s they subscribe to. CRAN Head Corporate Communication, Katrina Sikeneni states that *“as of 01 January 2023, it is mandatory for mobile service providers to register all their customers’ SIM cards and obtain all relevant information before the sale and activation of SIM cards. It is further mandatory that any newly purchased SIM card must be subjected to mandatory registration before use.”*

*“Mobile service providers will have a period of 12 months to conclude the registration of all existing customers until 31 December 2023. The information of new customers must be registered within three (3) months (from the date of sale) as unregistered SIM cards will be deactivated after 31 December 2023”* says Sikeneni.

Mandatory SIM card registration is in line with international best practice and Namibia now joins 157 other countries from across the world that have already implemented mandatory SIM card registration.

SIM Card Registration is aimed at facilitating the investigation of crimes committed with the aid of mobile devices. There are other benefits derived by consumers that are a direct result of having a digital identity. Moreover, there has been an increase in the use of digital and/or online services, providing opportunities for Namibians to embrace virtual teaching and learning, mobile banking, and online shopping.

Customers can register their SIM cards at the service provider they subscribe to, by providing their full name, proof of residential address, and identity number in the form of a copy of their Identity Document or passport. The SIM Registration Conditions apply to Namibian nationals and foreigners for the duration of their stay in Namibia,” states Mrs. Sikeneni.

Sikeneni urges ICT consumers to register their SIM cards before 31 December 2023 to enjoy the full benefit of ICT products and services.

**“ENDS”**

**Issued by:**

Mrs. Katrina Sikeneni

Head: Corporate Communication

Tel: +264 61 222 666

[communications@cran.na](mailto:communications@cran.na)