



OPENING REMARKS

FOR

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AT THE

**PUBLIC CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON SPECTRUM
ASSIGNMENT STRATEGY**

05 JUNE 2018

- **Esteemed ICT stakeholders,**
- **CRAN Management,**
- **CRAN Colleagues,**
- **Members of the media,**
- **Invited guests,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good morning and a very warm welcome! Thank you for accepting our invitation to this important consultative meeting on Spectrum Assignment and Regulatory Framework.

In order to fulfil the Authority's mandate, the Authority is continuously dedicated to study and analyse regulatory trends, as well as benchmark with other regulators on a regional and global level. This is done in order to learn from other regulators expertise and experience in various regulatory environments and the ICT industry, as well as sharing the Namibian experience with other regulatory counterparts. Insights gained through the process provides the Authority with a basis to assess the Namibian ICT industry and develop regulatory frameworks suitable for the purpose to allow the continuous expansion of the industry at all levels and creating regulatory certainty to foster investment in the ICT sector.

Ladies and gentlemen

One such area is to maintain a Spectrum Regulatory Framework aimed to provide stakeholders with equitable access to spectrum resources and to ensure that a wide array of services is made available to the public offering the latest technologies to promote socio-economic growth. Up to date, the Authority has developed a spectrum assignment strategy that charts the way forward for planning of spectrum resources, determination of spectrum fees and assignment of spectrum to new and existing stakeholders.

Endeavouring to provide insight into the thinking process of the Authority, the strategy document has been developed in two parts consisting of:

- (i) A research study highlighting the mandate of the Authority, the compilation of the Frequency Band Plan of Namibia and regulatory trends in relation to spectrum management, spectrum assignment methods, spectrum pricing and incorporating spectrum allocations for new technologies and meeting the demand for spectrum to provide specific services; and
- (ii) Set out the assignment strategy of the Authority going forward, incorporating the various concepts and regulatory approaches contained in the strategy document.

The Authority deems it prudent to keep abreast of the latest trends and technology developments to ensure the efficient use of and regulation of spectrum in Namibia. The Authority therefore developed a spectrum assignment strategy that will set out objectives for spectrum management and provide clarity in respect of the Authority's approach to efficiently control, plan, administer and license radio spectrum.

Ladies and gentlemen

Radio Frequency Spectrum is a limited national resource that is the backbone for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector that offers communities and commercial entities with various communication offerings. It therefore requires prudent management and robust regulation to ensure equitable access and efficient utilisation to meet the communication needs of all stakeholders. Regulation and management of this scarce resource is achieved through a regulatory framework that is driven by the development and

implementation of national strategic direction, legislation, regulations and procedures.

The Authority will fulfil its role in spectrum management with the following objectives in mind:

- i) To facilitate the availability of spectrum to be used as a tool to develop communications services and access to ICT infrastructure as a basis for social and economic development;
- ii) To promote competition through minimisation of constraints on spectrum use within a service and technology neutral license regime allowing similar services to be offered on different technology platforms;
- iii) To promote the effective and efficient use of spectrum within the digital dividend to address gaps in communications services and access to ICT infrastructure;
- iv) To set conditions for spectrum use to ensure efficient use of a scarce resources and prevent anti-competitive practices such as hoarding of spectrum;
- v) To promote, and if necessary enforce, freeing up spectrum space for assignment to emerging technologies and service by phasing out ageing technologies;
- vi) To ensure fair distribution of spectrum between market players to provide services in conjunction with the category of service licence awarded;
- vii) To set fees for spectrum use through an appropriate fee system that support the activities of the Authority in a sustainable manner and ensure efficient use of spectrum; and

- viii) To monitor, investigate and enforce adherence to the regulatory framework as pertaining to spectrum management as set out by the Authority.

Ladies and gentlemen

To conclude, in controlling, planning, administering, managing and licensing the use of the radio frequency spectrum, the Authority must comply with the applicable standards and requirements of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and its Radio regulations, as agreed to or adopted by Namibia.

The Authority must honour present and future commitments of Namibia in terms of international agreements and standards in respect of radio communication and telecommunication matters.

I trust that today's deliberations will be fruitful and that all invited stakeholders will take part in this consultative process.

I thank you!