



WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS BY

**HEINRICH MIHE GAOMAB II, CHAIRPERSON
CRAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AT THE

**COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA
(CRAN) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EVENT: LAUNCH OF THE
INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLAN**

Date: Thursday, 23 March 2023

Venue: Windhoek Country Club Resort

Time: 08h00

- Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Information and Communication Technology,
- Members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT,
- MICT Executive Management and Representatives,
- Fellow CRAN Board of Directors,
- Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua, Chief Executive Officer CRAN,
- CRAN Executive Management and team,
- Esteemed Captains of Industry,
- Members of the Media,
- Distinguished delegates,
- Director of Ceremonies,

Good morning and a very warm welcome to this important stakeholder engagement launch event to of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) Integrated Strategic Business Plan (ISBP) for the period 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2026.

We are extremely grateful for the continued support we receive from key strategic stakeholders, which enables cooperation, as we collectively and in unison work towards achieving common goals for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry. The Authority places emphasis on meeting our statutory obligations consistently and timeously, and for that reason we are pleased today to present our Strategic Plan for the period 2023 to 2026 as the current Strategic Plan cycle ends on 31 March 2023.

The development of the Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026 was necessitated by the need to build on the third Strategic Plan for the period 2020 to 2023. The current strategy also puts more emphasis on the execution of the core mandate of CRAN through the added Strategic Themes of Digital Transformation, and Market Development and Consumer Protection.

To provide a brief background since the Authority's inception, from the period 2011 to 2012, CRAN focused on laying a foundation for a strong regulatory framework, operationalisation of the legislative framework, and drafting and finalising regulations pertaining to regulatory reform. CRAN's first Strategic Plan for the period 2012 to 2018 focused on creating an enabling ICT environment to encourage innovation and new technologies to empower stakeholders.

Additionally, CRAN's second Strategic Plan for the period 2018 to 2021 focused on the attainment of an environment where all consumers have access to quality services and products at just and reasonable prices. CRAN's third Strategic Plan for the period 2021 to 2023 focused on the attainment of an environment where all ICT consumers have access to affordable quality services and products.

Furthermore, CRAN's fourth and new Strategic Plan for the period 2023 to 2026 aims to improve service provision to customers and address the affordability of ICT services in the sector.

Director of Ceremonies,

As you are aware, CRAN's mandate entails the development and expansion of the ICT sector in Namibia so that all Namibians have access to a variety of services, products at high quality and affordable rates. It is our responsibility as a Regulator of this sector to ensure that service providers expand their products and services to underserved and un-served areas, in order to expand on universal access which in turn offers many benefits such as building a knowledge-based society as communities have access to information, employment, participation in national and international offerings which is crucial for the socio-economic development of our country.

The 2023 to 2024 financial period marks the first year in implementing CRAN's newly developed three-year Integrated Strategic Business Plan. CRAN's Strategic Plan is intended at strategically directing, monitoring, and evaluating the Authority's overall performance in line with the Government's strategic objectives for universal access to information, affordable communication, deployment of digital

infrastructure and postal services for economic benefits for all members of the Namibian society.

Moreover, we at CRAN are placing emphasis on our strategic priorities namely, Organisational Sustainability, Strategic Partnering and Collaborations, Digital Transformation, and Market Development and Consumer Protection in order to be consistent and in sync with the Ministerial and governmental objectives as outlined in the MICT strategic plan and various national policies and agenda's, such as the Harambee Prosperity Plan II (HHP II), Vision 2030, Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and subsequent Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

Distinguished delegates,

Moving into the new three-year (2023 to 2026) strategic planning cycle, the Board of Directors, Management team and the entire staff are excited about the prospects ahead. It gives each of us an immense sense of pride knowing that, collectively, we have a significant role to play in Namibia's sustainable socio-economic development by regulating the industry through robust, impactful frameworks that benefit the ICT consumers in respect of price, quality and access.

In implementing this Strategic Plan, CRAN will uphold its value propositions through accountability, innovation, respect, passion and teamwork. We remain committed to our mission and are therefore pleased to share this three-year strategy with our esteemed stakeholders as we march forward to ensure access, quality and affordability for all.

To conclude, I extend my gratitude and appreciation to all industry players and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for providing valuable input into developing this Strategic Plan. Together, we will harness the full potential of the ICT sector for the socio-economic benefit of all through executing this Plan.

I Thank You!