



CRAN

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

REMARKS BY

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

AT THE

**COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA
(CRAN) NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTRODUCTION
BREAKFAST**

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2023

Venue: Avani Hotel: Sossusvlei Room

Time: 08h00

- Director of Ceremonies,
- Fellow outgoing CRAN Board of Directors,
- Dr. Tulimevava Mufeti, Chairperson of the Board of Directors,
- Mr. Elvis Nashilongo, Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors,
- Newly appointed Board Members,
- Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua, Chief Executive Officer,
- Executive Management and team,

Good morning!

Thank you, Madam CEO and team, for hosting this special event in our honour.

Allow me to reflect on our term. We were appointed by the former Minister of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), Honourable Stanley Simataa on 01 July 2019 for a period of 3 years.

My fellow Directors and I were welcomed wholeheartedly by the then Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Festus K. Mbandeka and his team, providing us with the much-needed support and assurance that we were going to achieve great things for CRAN, and the ICT industry and our country.

We were tasked with an objective, to lead CRAN with integrity, passion and through adhering to and promoting good governance.

I am pleased to note that our term achieved this and more with the strategic leadership of the CEO and her team. CRAN is a fully-fledged and functional Regulator that is well-respected by her peers in the region and beyond, CRAN is visible, CRAN has a team of well skilled and professional team members, and albeit the litigation challenges, CRAN remains adequately resourced. CRAN is a national institution of repute which is 100% Namibian staffed and is called upon by her colleagues in the region for benchmarking opportunities.

Director of Ceremonies,

During our first year, the Authority was implementing its Strategic Plan for the period 2018 to 2020. The Plan was premised on the attainment of a conducive regulatory environment enabling consumers to have access to quality services and products, at just and reasonable prices, whilst enabling operators and investors maximum opportunity for full, fair and transparent participation.

A harmonious relation is pertinent for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector as Licensees operate in an extremely unique sphere. It is one of the foremost evolving, high-paced and robust sectors in any economy. Stakeholder and customer satisfaction is therefore a key strategic focus area for CRAN as the organisation strives towards fairness, transparency and consumer protection and advocacy. Effective engagement with

Licenseses and consumers, required that we have a place various agreement with stakeholders, which led to the implementation on various Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) resulting in a response for the benefit of ICT consumers.

In October 2020, the Board signed a Performance and Governance agreement with the MICT. This agreement served as a tool through which the Government of the Republic of Namibia holds public office bearers accountable for terms as listed under the agreement and allows for monitoring and evaluating the performance and affairs of a public entity. With the signing of this agreement, the Board collectively undertook to proactively account to robust, timely and transparent delivery of its mandate in the best interest of all Namibians.

Director of Ceremonies,

During the 2020/2021 financial year, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that the ICT sector, through the provision of e-services, ensures that all other sectors continue their business operations efficiently and effectively despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic. This prompted a re-evaluation of the perspective of the ICT sector, and an appreciation for the direct contribution it makes to the socio-economic development of the country.

It has been encouraging to note the proactive and swift measures taken by CRAN in response to the increased demand for data and digital services, whilst ensuring the wellbeing of the employees, ensuring the stability of the ICT network, ensuring that the needs of ICT consumers were met, working with the Government of the Republic of Namibia in supporting COVID-19 response measures, and providing additional Spectrum to Licensees.

Allow me to address the outgoing Board of Directors. Thank you for sharing your skills, experience, counsel, and leadership, during my tenure as Chairperson of the Board. I shall forever cherish the good memories. Even, where we differed, we cultivated a healthy and stable relationship with the CRAN CEO, EXCO and Staff. I trust that our paths shall cross again in the near future.

A message to the incoming Board of Directors, the CRAN CEO, EXCO and staff are a great team to work with. I can assure you out of experience that they shall provide their full support and cooperation as you take over the reins of this great organisation. We have executed our task and have built on the solid foundation laid by our predecessors, it is now your turn to continue building the future of the ICT sector.

In concluding and on behalf of the outgoing Board, thank you madam Nghikembua, and her EXCO team and the entire staff who

provided support to the realisation of CRAN's mission, "to regulate the ICT and Postal sectors for the socio-economic benefit of all Namibians." May God continue to bless your work and CRAN!

I Thank You!