



**WELCOME AND OVERVIEW REMARKS BY**

**MRS. EMILIA NGHIKEMBUA,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**AT THE COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF  
NAMIBIA (CRAN) 5G CONSUMER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN  
MEDIA LAUNCH EVENT**

**Date:** Tuesday, 28 November 2023

**Venue:** Droombos

**Time:** 11h00

- Mr. Elvis Nashilongo, VICE Chairperson: CRAN Board of Directors,
- Ms. Linda Aipinge Director ICT4D
- Captains of Industry,
- CRAN Executive Management and Team,
- Esteemed Members of the Media,
- Invited Guests,
- Director of Ceremonies,

Good morning and welcome to the launch of our consumer awareness campaign.

In 2022, Cabinet approved the 5G strategy for Namibia. In line with that strategy CRAN in September 2023 issued spectrum for the deployment of 5G to Telecom Namibia, MTC and Loc 8 in JV with the NBC. As part of the strategy, one of the preparatory steps for deployment is an awareness campaign. The primary objective of the campaign is to create an understanding of 5G as a technology, the benefits to both consumers and industry, and to debunk myths and misinformation pertaining to 5G. The essence of this launch is therefore part of our bigger change management plan to sell technology as an enabler for social economic development in Namibia.

## **Director of Ceremonies**

Namibia launched its first 2G network in 1995 and over the years progressed to 3G and 4G that have enabled users to make phone calls, send short messages and share data over the internet. 5G technology is no different to 3G and 4G, in that data is transmitted through a spectrum of radio waves. 5G, is however different in that more base stations will be installed within the desired areas to transmit high volumes of data at shorter waves. 5G has been applied in many African countries, including Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mauritius, Madagascar, and Togo – South Africa was the first.

## **Director of Ceremonies,**

Overall, 5G enables higher traffic volumes, connection of more devices with diverse service requirements; provision of person-to-person; person-to-machine and machine-to-machine communication; and improved quality of user experience. Such developments also provide the opportunity to reduce costs and ensure affordability to bridge the digital divide.

The question remains, what does this mean to the digitization of Namibia and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)? 5G will allow the development of technological advances in the areas of tourism, environment, motor vehicle accident response, health and

emergency services, education, energy and mining, technological innovation, and technology entrepreneurship opportunities. The application of person to person, machine to person and vice versa communication will enable software development that empowers users through the access to information in real-time and the ability to control other devices critical to the safety of workers and the workplace.

The inherent significance of 5G is that it enables most of the emerging technologies that are critical to digital transformation such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, and 3D printing. Therefore, some benefits for Namibia will include IoT devices with sensors that could prevent the collapse of a mine shaft or wildlife poaching, notify doctors of a patient's poor health, enhance tourism through VISA applications and enable online tertiary education in remote areas. Namibia's future Green Hydrogen industry and the availability of 5G could enable experts to monitor operations, control machinery and ensure safety from a remote location.

### **Director of Ceremonies,**

This implies maintenance of the existing and 4G core networks to support 5G network rollout and highlights the importance of the existing fibre and satellite networks to accommodate unprecedented

disruptions in communication at any time throughout the process. Central to our digitisation agenda, is also the phasing out of the 2G.

Service providers are also aware of the requirement to obtain the necessary environmental clearance certificates from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) prior to commencing with network deployment. CRAN will impose specific licence conditions, in respect of technical requirements in accordance with existing frameworks.

Let me take this opportunity and address one of the most misleading myths of 5G, in that due to the installation of more base stations, humans should be worried about the level of radiation coming from these devices. That is false. Firstly, CRAN is committed to ensure that all infrastructure adheres to regulations set by the ITU, as per guidelines stipulated by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection.

Studies by the World Health Organization (WHO) have confirmed that approved 5G transmitters are designed to operate within limitations that avoid adverse health effects, and the short-wave radiation dissipates one meter from the base station. The non-ionizing radiation from 5G base stations have the effect of heating a body in direct sight but only over a long period of exposure and if closer than one meter. Simply put, going for multiple X-rays, or tanning in the sun for hours this

coming festive season is more damaging than a 5G base station. The public are hereby requested to during the coming festive season monitor local media and social media for more information on 5G myths.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

It is with this reassuring note that I wish to inform the public that the rollout of 5G in Namibia encompasses many changes on personal and national levels that aim to empower the people and enable the youth to pursue innovation for the development of digital industries.

The 4IR and the digitisation of Namibia is about more than just technology-driven change; it is an opportunity to help everyone, including leaders, policymakers and people from all income groups and nations, to harness converging technologies to create an inclusive, human-centered future. The enhanced formulation of our vision is to be a dynamic regulator that transforms Namibia and her people into a knowledge-based society. Our firm belief is therefore, that the deployment of 5G networks will bring us a step closer to achieving that vision, as it will enable technological innovation and the deployment of advanced facilities which will respond to the diverse needs of commerce and industry.

With these remarks, I would like to welcome you all and we look forward stakeholders' cooperation and compliance in the roll-out of this strategy.

Thank you.