



REMARKS BY

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**AT THE COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF
NAMIBIA'S (CRAN) NAMIBIA CYBER SECURITY INCIDENCE
RESPONSE TEAM (NAM-CSIRT) CONSTITUENT STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

Date: 14 November 2023

Venue: Mercure Hotel

Time: 08h00 to 13h00

- Dr Audrin Mathe, Executive Director, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
- Esteemed Stakeholders
- Esteemed Constituents,
- CRAN Executive Management and Team,
- Members of the Media,
- Invited Guests,
- Director of Ceremonies,

Good morning! A very warm welcome and thank you for accepting our invitation to this important constituent stakeholder engagement meeting pertaining to the Namibia Cyber Security Incidence Response Team (NAM-CSIRT).

In today's interconnected world, cyber threats are evolving at an alarming rate. The challenges we face require us to come together as a unified front, with shared goals and a coordinated approach. It is with this spirit that I emphasise the importance of this constituent stakeholder engagement. By bringing together various entities, such as government agencies, public & private businesses, academia, and civil society, we can pool our resources, expertise, and knowledge to tackle cyber threats more effectively.

Collaboration is not just a buzzword for us, but it is a fundamental principle that guides our actions. We firmly believe that by working

together, we can achieve far more than we could ever do alone. Thus, I am delighted to announce our appetite to establish collaboration with every stakeholder present here today. We invite you to join hands with Nam-CSIRT as we endeavour to create a safer cyber ecosystem for Namibia.

We understand that collaboration requires trust, transparency, and effective communication. Therefore, we are committed to fostering an environment of open dialogue, where ideas and concerns can be freely shared. We aim to build strong partnerships based on mutual respect and shared responsibility. Together, we can develop comprehensive strategies, share threat intelligence, and devise proactive measures to mitigate cyber risks.

Director of Ceremonies,

The implementation phases of Nam-CSIRT entailed Phase zero (0) based on a zero-based budget where all work was carried out by existing CRAN staff.

Currently at Phase one (1), CRAN will setup Nam-CSIRT offices, acquire hardware and software/tools, appoint human capital, and commence with incident handling services, and build a constituency database. We hope to launch by end of Q1 in 2024.

Director of Ceremonies,

The functions of Nam-CSIRT will be to ensure the security and stability of our cyber space and to mitigate the risk of offences. The CIRT will not be a “helpdesk” but will focus on its mandate, which will include announcements, warnings, technology watch, intrusion detection, and quality management. Evidently, implementation will commence at alert and response level, but its evolution will be driven by industry needs and incident management trends. Our long-term aspiration is for the CIRT to grow and include supervisory regulation, security and research and development, and risk advisory and control. Our focus for now, which is also the essence of this engagement, is to build trust, collaboration and understanding with key constituencies.

The role of the NAM-CSIRT is to protect citizens by managing cyber security. It is not a police or intelligence service, nor will it interfere with existing rights. We will not be investigating crimes but will render assistance with the investigation and prosecution of cyber-crimes. We will also take the necessary steps to detect money laundering, and the utilization of computer systems or information systems to hide the proceeds of crime. To this end, we will expand the scope of our understanding with law enforcement and other related entities.

With the establishment of Nam-CSIRT, Namibia will be in the forefront of safeguarding our nation's cyber infrastructure and protecting our

citizens from cyber threats. We want to establish ourselves as a trusted entity that provides timely and effective incident response services to both public and private sectors. Our team of dedicated professionals will work tirelessly to ensure that our cyber defenses and responses are strong and resilient.

In the meantime, CRAN will be guided by good corporate governance, international best practices, and collaborative engagements with stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the mandate.

Director of Ceremonies,

The activities of the CIRT must also respond to the level of digital transformation, which dictates the number of online activities. There is therefore a direct correlation between our digitization agenda and our cyber security management and response. This is why the government has acknowledged the urgent need to expedite implementation. We will also be actively monitoring geopolitical occurrences/decisions to anticipate incidences and proactively formulate responses.

To conclude, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all our constituent stakeholders. Your unwavering support, guidance, and cooperation have been instrumental in the progress success of

Nam-CSIRT. Your commitment to cyber security is truly commendable, and we are honored to have you as our stakeholders in this journey.

I urge all of you to actively participate in today's discussions, share your insights, and explore avenues for collaboration. Let us harness the power of collective action to safeguard our digital future. Together, we can achieve great things and ensure a safer cyber landscape for the people of Namibia.

Thank you once again for your presence and unwavering support.