



CLOSING REMARKS BY

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

Date: Tuesday, 28 November 2023

Venue: Droombos

Time: 11h00

Good morning and thank you for gracing us with your presence at this momentous event. We have just witnessed insightful and forward-looking speeches from two distinguished individuals, Mr. Elvis Nashilongo, Vice-Chairperson of the CRAN Board of Directors, and our esteemed CRAN Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua. Their words have shed light on the exciting journey Namibia is about to embark upon as it transitions into the era of 5G technology.

Firstly, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Nashilongo for gracing this occasion with his presence. Your insights about the government's commitment to bridging the digital divide and fostering economic growth through the implementation of 5G technology are truly inspiring. Your articulation of the policies and legislations in place to protect stakeholders and propel Namibia into the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is commendable. We are confident that the development and implementation of the relevant legislations and policies will foster the rapid and efficient deployment of broadband infrastructure to create an environment that promotes responsible practices and the expansion of the digital communication network across Namibia. I trust the noted legislation is a mere glimpse of Government's commitment to ensuring Namibia is at the forefront of 4IR that creates further opportunities for the development of new and innovative strategies in the envisioned digital economy.

Director of Ceremonies,

A special thanks to the CRAN CEO for the comprehensive overview of the 5G consumer awareness campaign and the strategic rollout plan. Your elucidation on the technical aspects of 5G, dispelling myths and emphasising the commitment to safety standards, is not only informative but crucial in assuring the public. The detailed strategy, including the three (3) year budget, infrastructure sharing, and the establishment of Namibia Cyber Security Incidence Response Team (Nam-CSIRT), reflects CRAN's dedication to a secure and inclusive digital future for Namibia. The 5G strategy does include controls aimed at the prevention of fraud and improvement of security features, designed in accordance with international standards and security measures.

The commitment expressed by both speakers toward digital literacy, education, and the empowerment of Namibians through the introduction of coding into secondary school curricula is praiseworthy. The emphasis on innovation for the development of digital industries, coupled with the assurance of cooperation between the government, authorities, and industry stakeholders, is a testament to the collaborative spirit driving Namibia's digital transformation. I trust all stakeholders are ready for adherence to local and international regulations for Namibia to harness this potential and ensure that all

Namibians are digitally empowered to create and participate in the vast array of opportunities on the horizon of a 5G network.

As we stand on the cusp of a technological revolution, we must acknowledge the responsibility of disseminating accurate information to the public. Mr. Nashilongo's clarification on the government's stance regarding 5G-related concerns, and the CEO's reassurance on the safety and compliance measures taken by CRAN, provide a solid foundation for dispelling myths surrounding this ground-breaking technology. I stress, there is no cause of worry or alarm regarding 5G radiation that is the same as 3G and 4G or other radiation from a television, any bluetooth device or microwave. 5G also utilises the same frequencies as its predecessors but extends into higher frequencies that have been used in airport security systems and anti-collision technologies for vehicles.

Furthermore, the holistic rollout of a 5G network in Namibia does not mean the 3G and 4G network will be deactivated. This means there should be no worry about already-available devices such as smartphones and laptops, and their compatibility with a 5G network. The 5G network will be an extension of the existing networks, which means that more traffic could be directed to the 5G infrastructure when needed and more frequencies could be allocated to other functions, particularly in rural areas. Some technologies are better suited to certain frequencies and the rollout of 5G in Namibia is not a

threat to fibre or Wimax – all these technologies shall remain available. Yes, the affordability of devices for the public is of concern and once the deployment of 5G is established, the development of affordable infrastructure is inevitable to assist in closing the digital gap.

Director of Ceremonies,

In conclusion, let us express our collective appreciation for the vision, dedication, and collaborative efforts of both the government and CRAN in steering Namibia toward a digital future. The introduction of 5G is not merely a technological upgrade; it is a catalyst for economic development, digital inclusion, and the empowerment of every Namibian citizen. It is important to create a safe and trusted environment for Namibians to make use of the various services and applications provided in the promotion of a digital transformation.

Members of the media and public are hereby reminded that mechanisms are in place for the submission of queries to CRAN regarding Namibia's 5G strategy.

Thank you once again to our distinguished speakers for sharing their valuable insights. Let us move forward with confidence, embracing the opportunities that 5G brings and working together to build a prosperous and digitally connected Namibia.

Thank you.