



**GUEST SPEAKER REMARKS BY**

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**AT THE**

**NAMIBIA REVENUE AGENCY (NamRA) TALKS EVENT**

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 March 2024

**Venue:** Namibia University of Science & Technology (NUST)

**Time:** 18h00

- Mr. Sam SHIVUTE, NamRA Commissioner,
- Mr. Yarukeekuro Steven Ndorokaze, NamRA Chief Strategic Communications and Support Engagements,
- Mr. Tonateni Shidhudhu, NamRA, Manager: Communications and Stakeholder Engagements,
- Invited Guest,
- Esteemed Stakeholders,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening!

Allow me to extend my profound gratitude to Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) for inviting the Communication Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) to this important information sharing session, the "*NamRA Talks Event.*"

To provide a brief background about the Authority, CRAN was established in terms of the Communication Act (No. 8 of 2009) on 18 May 2011, as an independent regulator that replaced the Namibia Communications Commission (NCC) which was operational from 1992 until 2008.

The role of CRAN is to regulate, supervise, and promote the provision of telecommunications services and networks, broadcasting, postal

services sectors, and the use and allocation of radio spectrum in Namibia.

Part of the role of regulating telecommunication services, CRAN is also mandated to regulate telecommunications equipment intended to be imported into Namibia and ensure that such equipment imported into the country complies with the Type Approval standards, as set out in Section 80 of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009), which states that CRAN must prescribe reasonable technical standards applicable to telecommunications equipment to ensure against harmful to electronic telecommunications networks or to public health and or safety.

The current Type Approval Regulation are dated 21 August 2023, published in Government Gazette No. 8180.

### **What is Type Approval**

*Type Approval means “a process by which Equipment, or a device or system is authorized by the Authority to be used in Namibia or imported into Namibia and involves verification of the Equipment's compliance with the applicable standards and other regulatory requirements.”*

Kindly note that these standards are based on the standards prepared by recognised international, regional, and national standards-making bodies, in terms of:

- Compliance international standards,
- Safety hazards,
- Incompatible with local networks; and
- Operating frequency

Furthermore, in Namibia, a Type Approval Certificate is required or needed by;

- Manufacturers,
- Importers,
- Distributors,
- Any Namibian registered company, and/or
- Individuals for personal use.

### **Equipment eligible for type approval**

Type Approval is issued to any telecommunications equipment that transmits and receive or uses radio frequencies which connected to any electronic communications network, for example, cellphones, radio communications equipment, digital set top box, etc.

The application turnaround time is forty (40) days. However, the Authority shall endeavor to issue within a reasonable time depending on the volume of applications received.

## **Exemptions**

The Type Approval process also consists of telecommunication equipment not eligible for Type Approval in which the regulation has made provision in publishing a list of all equipment exempted from Type Approval, for example laptops, servers, smart televisions, tablets without sim slots, etc.

## **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

CRAN and NamRA signed an MoU in February 2023. The MoU follows the signing and successful implementation of an agreement between CRAN and the Ministry of Finance: Directorate of Customs and Excise in 2016, to harmonise the implementation of laws governing the importation of telecommunications equipment into Namibia.

The MoU set out the framework for cooperation between the two (2) parties in areas of common interest for the effective and efficient performance of their respective mandates.

The objective of the MoU between the parties will seek to:

- Promote corporation and coordinate the importance of telecommunication equipment into the Republic of Namibia.
- Collaboration on capacity building initiatives. The Type Approval division is currently working on a project, where they will be going to the different entry points in Namibia to give training on Type

Approval to NamRA officials and clearing agents stationed at the different entry points.

- Establish a working committee to discuss and recommend solutions to challenges impacting the successful implementation of the Type Approval regulatory framework.

Moreover, the current challenge that the division is facing is the huge inflow on the importation of cellphone from different countries by individuals and where the individuals do not have knowledge of the different models/versions that belong to a certain phone and which model is allowed for our region, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Region one (1).

A monitoring committee was selected to oversee the implementation of the MoU and to make any recommendations on the challenges that might arise. This committee also share information to the extent permitted by law to enable the implementation of the MoU.

In conclusion, it is of the utmost importance that all parties that deals with the importation of telecommunication equipment familiarise themselves with the Type Approval Regulations or contact CRAN's Type Approval Team for further assistance.

I Thank You!