



# CRAN

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**MRS. EMILIA NGHIKEMBUA**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**AT THE**

**COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA (CRAN)**

**MEDIA DAY EVENT**

**DATE:** Friday, 31 May 2024

**VENUE:** Windhoek Action Arena-Paintballing

**TIME:** 10h00

- Esteemed Members of the Media,
- CRAN Executive Management and Team,
- Invited Guests,

## **Good morning!**

I am deeply honoured to stand before you today on this significant occasion of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia's (CRAN) Media Day event.

Though this platform is not formal, it is vital for engaging with you, the media, on our mandate, core purpose, vision, mission, and strategic goals based on our Integrated Financial & Business Plan. It also serves as a platform to network and strengthen our relationship with stakeholders in the media industry, whom we believe are critical to the execution of our mandate.

Additionally, this event intends to provide members of the media with an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Communication and Consumer Relations department, that are responsible to provide timely, accurate, and objective information to enable stakeholders to meet their operational objectives as well as enable them to receive the full benefits of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

CRAN is responsible for regulating, supervising, and promoting telecommunications services and networks, broadcasting, postal services, and spectrum allocation. As the telecommunications, broadcasting and postal industry continues to evolve, CRAN may need to consider new regulatory measures and possible expansion of CRAN's mandate, to address emerging challenges and opportunities. By exploring ways to broaden the scope of the Authority, CRAN can better serve the needs of consumers, promote innovation, and support economic growth in Namibia.

The Universal Access Service (UAS) Fund and spectrum management are interrelated in that UAS may be used to help expand access to telecommunication services in remote or underserved areas by subsidising the cost of infrastructure development, while spectrum management ensures that these services can be provided without interference from other users of the spectrum. By coordinating efforts between the UAS and spectrum management, the Authority can ensure that telecommunication services are accessible to all citizens, regardless of their geographic location.

Moreover, CRAN published the RFC2350 to announce the establishment of the Namibia Cyber Security Incident Response Team (NAM-CSIRT). The primary responsibility of the NAM-CSIRT will be to monitor, collect, and disseminate relevant information relating to the security and stability of computer systems and information systems in Namibia, coordinate with relevant local and

international authorities to diminish the risk of offences involving the use of computer or information systems in Namibia, and mitigate the risk of cyber offences. The NAM-CSIRT will be the official national coordinating point for cybersecurity matters, threats, incidents, and information.

Our core purpose is to regulate the ICT industry, thereby supporting the Namibian Government in providing for its citizens and sustaining socio-economic development.

Our vision is to ensure access, quality, and affordability for all. We aim to be a dynamic regulator of the ICT sector, transforming Namibia into a knowledge-based society that leverages the full socio-economic benefits of ICTs. Our mission is to regulate the ICT sector for the socio-economic benefit of all Namibians.

Looking ahead, the future of CRAN is closely tied to the broader economic landscape of Namibia. As a key player in the ICT sector, CRAN plays a critical role in facilitating connectivity, promoting investment, and driving digital transformation. By aligning its strategic priorities with the national development agenda, CRAN can contribute to the overall prosperity and competitiveness of Namibia.

Additionally, the Authority will look into the process of transforming into a digital regulator to better meet the demands of the ever-evolving telecommunications and broadcasting industries. This

metamorphosis will involve a shift towards a more technology-focused approach to regulation, with an increased emphasis on overseeing digital services and platforms. This entails the development of guidelines and regulations regarding the use of electronic signatures in Namibia, as a secure and efficient way to sign documents, while also ensuring the legal validity and enforceability of electronic signatures.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The future of CRAN is closely linked to Namibia's broader economic landscape. As a key player in the ICT sector, CRAN facilitates connectivity, promotes investment, and drives digital transformation. The Authority's Integrated Strategic Business Plan (ISBP) for the period of 2023 to 2026 provides a comprehensive roadmap for the organisation to achieve its goals and fulfill its mandate. The ISBP outlines key strategic objectives, priority areas, and activities that CRAN will focus on over the next three (3) years. Currently in year two (2), the ISBP include promoting competition in the ICT sector, ensuring consumer protection, fostering innovation and investment, and enhancing stakeholder engagement. This engagement is crucial as it aligns with one of our key objectives: enhancing stakeholder engagement, but also critical in enhancing the work done around other objectives.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for honouring our invitation. CRAN's commitment to innovation, effective regulation,

and consumer-oriented policies, along with the dedication of its team and stakeholders, instils confidence in our ability to drive progress and positive change in the communications sector.

Thank you.