



OPENING REMARKS

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OFFICER

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE DRAFT BROADCASTING CODE

05 SEPTEMBER 2016

- **Distinguished representatives of political parties and other interest groups,**
- **Representatives from the broadcasting industry,**
- **Participants and stakeholders,**
- **CRAN colleagues,**
- **Members of the media,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good afternoon and thank you for accepting our invitation to this important public hearing.

This process commenced in April 2015 when the first public hearing in this regard was held. During the intervening period, we undertook a process of considering all inputs we received from relevant stakeholders. Simultaneously, we also initiated a process of extensive research and consultation with other stakeholders.

After careful consideration of all inputs received and as per the rule making procedure regulations, we are gathered here today to host a follow up public hearing in order to afford stakeholders another opportunity to study the revised document and to

provide further comments. All these efforts were necessary due to the nature of this set of regulations.

Ladies and gentlemen

The Communications Act does not automatically impose a Broadcasting Code. It requires CRAN to regulate only if it finds that the current self-regulation efforts by industry associations do not meet the requirements as set out in Section 89 of the Act.

After careful consideration, we found that the current self-regulation efforts are not sufficient in scope and applicability to satisfy the objects of Section 89. CRAN conducted further internal consultation and research on various related aspects of the Code and deemed it prudent to formulate a broadcasting code for all media houses that will produce and air audio and/or visual media for broadcast to the general Namibian public.

Director of ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to conclude by appealing to all our broadcast licensees and all present today that it is your responsibility to ensure that all relevant employees, including your external suppliers of content, understand and comply with the code. Furthermore, I implore you

to instil procedures in place to ensure that all content that is aired on your respective broadcasting stations is in conformity with the provisions of the Communications Act and the envisaged Broadcasting Code. We look forward to your usual constructive contribution and inputs for purposes of crafting a well-balanced and robust Broadcasting Code what will address needs and interests of all

With these few words, I thank you and look forward to your meaningful contributions.