



OPENING REMARKS BY

**EMILIA NGHIKEMBUA,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

AT THE

**COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF
NAMIBIA'S (CRAN) SPECTRUM ASSIGNMENT STRATEGY
WORKSHOP**

Date: Thursday, 07 October 2021

Venue: Droombos Estate

Time: 08h00

- Director of Ceremonies,
- Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of MICT,
- ICT Parliamentary Standing Committee,
- Fourth Industrial Revolution Task Force Team,
- CRAN Executive Management and team,
- MICT Representatives,
- Esteemed ICT Stakeholders,
- Invited guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and a very warm welcome! Thank you for accepting our invitation to this important workshop pertaining to the Review of Namibia's Spectrum Assignment Strategy.

As you may all recall, the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) published its Spectrum Assignment Strategy in November 2018.

Given the advent of various new emerging technologies such as WiGiG, HAPS, HTS and IMT-2020 and the slow discontinuance of legacy technologies such as Rurtel and WiMax, CRAN is embarking on the review of its Spectrum Assignment Strategy with a purpose to utilise spectrum to support sustainable development goals in Namibia.

Taking a technology and service neutrality approach to spectrum licencing allows licensees, namely telecommunications network operators, to use the spectrum they hold in a manner that is driven by socio-economic and market factors as opposed to technological preferences. The competition that emerges between technologies as a result of this neutrality spurs innovation thereby delivering greater social economic value.

Director of Ceremonies,

Electronic communications networks provides people with communications tools and facilitate the development of other industry sectors such as education, health, agriculture, manufacturing and transport to support the industrialisation of the Namibian economy. Spectrum availability to support the implementation of emerging technologies and expansion of services in rural and urban areas is a key component to support the attainment of sustainable development goals.

This workshop aims to facilitate the availability of spectrum to be used as a tool to develop communications services and access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure as a basis for social and economic development, and promote competition through providing equitable access to spectrum for licensees.

Furthermore, the objectives of the workshop are to consider possible actions to:

- i. Promote the effective and efficient use of spectrum within the digital dividend to address gaps in communications services and access to ICT infrastructure;
- ii. Set conditions for spectrum use to ensure efficient use of a scarce resources and prevent anti-competitive practices such as hoarding of spectrum;
- iii. Promote and if necessary enforce freeing up spectrum space for assignment to emerging technologies and service by phasing out ageing technologies; and
- iv. Ensure fair distribution of spectrum between market players to provide services in conjunction with the category of service licence awarded.

Director of Ceremonies,

Moreover, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) model spectrum policy framework coordinates spectrum management and allocation through the common Radio Frequency Spectrum Allocation Plan (RFSAP). CRAN has incorporated this plan together with ITU radio regulations in the national frequency plan as gazetted on 31 August 2021. This approach to management and allocation of radio frequency spectrum is to encourage innovation in the electronic communications and other sectors, as well as to support the mobile and wireless service provision in the SADC region.

Harmonisation of spectrum access allows for efficient and effective use of spectrum, as well as assuring the interoperability of equipment and communications services.

Director of Ceremonies,

Today's discussions will be based on ensuring efficient use of spectrum as a scarce resource; making sufficient spectrum available to support implementation of emerging technologies; and building a roadmap for timeous release of spectrum for assignment.

Additionally, the workshop will also deliberate on co-existence of services in the same spectrum band; spectrum as a critical component in attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and fair distribution of spectrum between market players (small and large) to ensure spectrum availability for new players.

Director of Ceremonies,

In conclusion, spectrum is a scarce resource and from a technical perspective, the overriding objective in using spectrum is to achieve the best possible spectral efficiency and support socio-economic development

Harmonisation of national radio frequency spectrum policies and regulatory frameworks will allow for efficient and effective use of radio

frequency spectrum, the interoperability of equipment and communications services and creation of economies of scale.

Consequently, an aligned regional approach to radio frequency spectrum management will promote innovation and timeous release of radio frequency spectrum resources for building and enhancing digital services to support socio-economic development in SADC.

In the future, broadband connectivity will have the same level of importance than access to electricity to improve the lives of all Namibians

With those few words, I herewith pronounce the Review of Namibia's Spectrum Assignment Strategy officially open.

I thank you!