

**OPENING STATEMENT**

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**COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA**

**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON INFRASTRUCTURE  
SHARING**

**27 JUNE 2016**

- **Director of Ceremony**
- **Esteemed licensees and industry participants,**
- **Colleagues from various utilities such Local authorities, water, electricity and similar entities**
- **Distinguished consumers and interest groups,**
- **Members of the media,**
- **CRAN colleagues,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Good day and thanks for joining us in this important consultative meeting.**

**CRAN commenced** with the infrastructure sharing regulatory formulation process as early as **July 2014 and was followed amongst other a Public Hearing in Jan 2016** in order to obtain public inputs. We are therefore eager to finalise these regulations, as you will agree, that these Regulations are of high importance to both the industry and ICT consumers.

**This hearing** is intended to be the **final opportunity to stakeholders** from the industry, local authorities, utilities and other concerned parties to make submissions and give further inputs on the content of the draft regulations.

I am pleased to note the **generous turn out by you esteemed stakeholders** today, as we strive to meet our mandate as set out in the Communications Act No. 8, 2009. **It is required by law that CRAN shall widely consult stakeholders in the process of regulation formulation.** This process has and will always remain consultative, interactive and it is greatly encouraging to see stakeholders remain committed to engaging CRAN through this consultative.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**The Communications Act** further requires telecommunications and broadcasting service licensees and utilities to share infrastructure in order to promote competition. **All carriers or holders of service technology neutral service licences and or utilities must therefore share infrastructure** with other licensees or allow the latter to install and or utilise telecommunications and broadcasting infrastructure in line with the provisions of the Communications Act and regulations as published by CRAN from time to time.

Furthermore, **Section 48 and 50 of the Communications Act** sets out that conditions and charges pertaining to the sharing of infrastructure must be **reasonable, non-discriminatory and fairly apportioned among licensees and utilities.**

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen,

As you may be aware, **various forms of sharing** of tangible and intangible network facilities **already exist within the sector.** CRAN has the responsibility to set the rules for licensees and other stakeholders to engage one another on the optimal sharing of their respective network facilities for the benefit of the industry and the end users.

Some of the **key advantages of infrastructure** sharing, are amongst others , **the reduction in capital and operational investment requirements, lowering of environmental impact and energy requirements and the creation of new revenue streams.** This frees up capital for more strategic investments, provides for new services offerings and decreases barriers to market entry for new players fostering the promotion of competition.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

It is critical to mention, that CRAN **has no jurisdiction over the strategic business decisions of licensees**, however what **we wish to see through these and other regulations is that business decisions by licensees should at all times be lawful, in order to safeguard our environment and to ensure fair competition, for all the players and protection of the industry and consumers alike.**

It is worth noting that CRAN has been active in introducing many forward looking Regulations since its inception in May 2011, in order to **continue to develop a regulatory regime which is flexible and robust to accommodate, competition/new players, future technological innovations** and other changes to meet the current industry standards and demands.

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, thank you for your continued participation, support and input into this process. Together, we can produce a balanced and vibrant legal framework that will serve the interests of licensees, the consumers and the industry as a whole. We want to assure you once more that **your submissions and inputs (oral and written) received today and or before shall be taken into consideration in crafting the final Regulations** in this regard.

I look forward to a fruitful engagement

I thank you!