



WELCOMING REMARKS BY

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

AT THE

**COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF
NAMIBIA'S (CRAN) PUBLIC HEARING ON SIM
REGISTRATION CONDITIONS, MADE IN TERMS OF
SECTION 72(4) OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT (NO. 8
OF 2009)**

Date: Tuesday, 19 October 2021

Venue: Virtually/Panellist join in CRAN Boardroom,
Unit 21

Time: 10h00

- Esteemed ICT Stakeholders,
- Invited guests,
- CRAN Executive Management and team,
- Director of Ceremonies,

Good morning, welcome and thank you for accepting our invitation to this important consultative meeting on **SIM Registration Conditions**, which shall be imposed on Telecommunications Service Providers. The purpose of the conditions is to ensure that all active SIM card owners in Namibia are verified and registered.

As many of you may be aware, Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), published Regulations in terms of Part 6 of Chapter V of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009) in the *Government Gazette* in March 2021.

The regulations provide that the Authority may, after consultation with the Minister of ICT, impose further conditions in terms of Section 72(4) on Services Providers, to regulate in more detail anything prescribed in the regulations.

Director of Ceremonies,

The proposed SIM Registration Conditions are therefore, derived from the Regulations and have expanded on the manner in which SIM registration should be carried out by the Service Providers. The Conditions have also specified the information to be stored by the Service Providers which will enable lawful interception.

It should be noted that Part 6 of the Communications Act has not yet been operationalised, and as a result, the Regulations have not yet commenced. Commencement of the Regulations shall be done on a date as determined by the Minister of ICT, once the conditions have been finalized.

Director of Ceremonies,

SIM registration is utilized to address antisocial behaviour, to provide age verification and to assist in addressing mobile fraud. It is also a tool that eases and enables digital surveillance and interception for instances such as investigations of offences. The SIM registration process will establish a central database of SIM card subscribers, as an enabler to the overall national SIM identification system.

Additionally, mandated requirements for SIM registration are designed to be practical and reasonable: balancing national security demands whilst maintaining and protecting citizens' rights as a key priority. While addressing security and criminal activity concerns is important, the overall policy consideration is to ensure that there are appropriate privacy safeguards and effective legal oversight to protect consumers' personal data and privacy.

Director of Ceremonies,

It should be noted that SIM registration of new customers, is compulsory from three (3) months from the date the Regulations commence and all existing customers must be registered within 12 months from the date of commencement of the regulations. However, the Minister may extend the period in respect of a specific service provider or in respect of all service providers, on good cause shown.

Additionally, a service provider must as soon as possible after the commencement of these regulations provide a warning to the customer by means of SMS, a voice mail message or in any other manner appropriate for the service in question indicating that the SIM card should be registered within 12 months and failure to do so, the

services will be cancelled. Such warning must be repeated at least every three (3) months.

The Authority will invoke the provisions of the Communications Act in instances of non-compliance by a service provider. In the event that a conflict arises between the SIM Registration Conditions and the Regulations, the provisions of the Regulations shall override the Conditions.

Director of Ceremonies,

In conclusion, please note that public comments commenced on 27 September, and closes on 29 October 2021. Therefore, kindly familiarize yourselves with the SIM Registration Conditions, actively participate in our discussion today and provide input that shall result in the SIM card registration conditions to be imposed on telecommunications service providers.

With those few words, I am certain that our strategic relationship with you, our esteemed stakeholders, will develop and continue to strengthen through this consultative meeting and other future engagements.

I thank you!