

## **COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO) OPERATIONS IN NAMIBIA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**08 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) wishes to set the record straight on a social media post dated Monday, 06 November 2023, regarding devices installed at AS67 station in Tsumeb.

CRAN amongst others is mandated to regulate the use and allocation of radio spectrum as set out in Section 101 of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009).

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is an international treaty joining some 177 nations, with Namibia being a founding member, having signed the treaty on 24 September 1996. The treaty bans the carrying out of any nuclear weapons test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

In October 2002, CTBTO was issued with a Spectrum Licence by the then Namibia Communications Commission (NCC) for the operation of a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) earth station in Windhoek. The licence was subsequently transitioned to CRAN in 2014, with an amendment to add a second station in Tsumeb. This decision was published in the *Government Gazette* of 17 March 2014.

A VSAT earth station was established for the transmission and receiving of data, voice, and video signals through a satellite communication network, in this case for the monitoring of nuclear activity. The expansion of CTBTO's activities in Namibia included the establishment of monitoring stations, equipped with state-of-the-art technology in Windhoek and Tsumeb, to detect and analyse signs of nuclear explosions. The facilities contributed to the organisation's global monitoring network, ensuring the timely and accurate detection of any potential nuclear tests or explosions.

The station in Tsumeb records data for seismic, infrasound, hydroacoustic and radionuclide data worldwide, and transmits the information to the CTBTO headquarters in Vienna, Austria, with no connection to any public network nor supply of service to any third party. The IMS system operates *via* satellite and interconnects with other center's located in over 100 countries around the world for this purpose.

CRAN therefore assures the public that the operations in Tsumeb comply with the licence conditions and regulatory framework set out in the Communications Act.

CRAN prides itself as a transparent and effective regulator, that implements the regulatory framework with due regard to the sovereignty and integrity of Namibia and her people. Therefore, while we encourage citizens to actively report any illegal activities pertaining to telecommunications services and networks, and the use of radio spectrum to the relevant authorities. We also strongly caution the public to desist from spreading misinformation and disinformation that may cause panic and harm to the nation, and that are devoid of truth.

**“ENDS”**

**Issued by:**

Mrs. Katrina Siken

Executive: Communication and Consumer Relations

Tel: +264 61 222 666

Email: [Stakeholdercomms@cran.na](mailto:Stakeholdercomms@cran.na)