



KEYNOTE REMARKS BY

**MR. ELVIS NASHILONGO,
VICE-CHAIRPERSON, CRAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**AT THE COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OF NAMIBIA (CRAN) 5G CONSUMER AWARENESS
CAMPAIGN MEDIA LAUNCH EVENT**

Date: Tuesday, 28 November 2023

Venue: Droombos

Time: 11h00

- Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua, Chief Executive Officer CRAN,
- CRAN Executive Management and Team,
- MICT Executive Management and Team,
- Captains of Industry,
- Invited Guests,
- Esteemed Members of the Media,
- Director of Ceremonies,

Thank you for having me at the official launch of the 5G consumer awareness campaign. The campaign is a pivotal preparatory step, towards the ultimate implementation of a 5G network in Namibia, which is critical to the evolution of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the digitisation agenda.

In September 2018, SADC ICT Ministers approved a set of targets for broadband connectivity in our region; primarily that 80 per cent of the population should be covered by broadband services. To achieve these milestones, it is important to ensure that Namibia has the appropriate legislative framework that enables fair competition, consumer protection and the deployment of high quality, reliable and efficient telecommunication services.

Consequently, Namibia adopted a wide array of policy directives, which are testimony of the Government's commitment to adopt ICT as an enabler for the social and economic development of our

country. Government also continues with numerous policy and legislative reform initiatives to enhance the digital agenda, which includes digital literacy, emerging technologies, cybersecurity, e-governance, and data-driven decision-making.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Therefore, the introduction of 5G in Namibia is integral to our digitisation aspirations, through ultra-fast internet speeds and low latency at a massive scale, that will revolutionise various industries. In approving the 5G Strategy, Cabinet took cognisance of the fact that Government should prioritise bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas, reduce the cost of communication, and empower citizens while providing industries with the desired room to innovate by utilising emerging technologies such as 5G.

Additionally, 5G is complementary to the achievement of Vision 2030 and numerous United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, primarily those focusing on equitable quality education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, gender equality through education for all; sustained and inclusive economic growth; and industry innovation and infrastructure.

5G technology can, amongst others, enhance operational effectiveness, improve the safety of workers and the workplace,

enable faster and effective assembly of products, and facilitate the use of artificial intelligence.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

While technological advancements such as the deployment of 5G presents many opportunities to uplift the livelihoods of Namibians, we are mindful that it also presents opportunities for cybercrime, invasion of privacy, infringement on constitutional rights and attacks on sectors of the economy.

In order to adequately deal with these eventualities, Government is working on initiatives such as Implementation of the National Cyber Security Strategy, SIM Registration, establishment of the NAM-CSIRT, and finalisation of the Cyber Crime Bill and Data Protection Bill.

Namibia's progress towards a 5G network will have the country join the ranks of Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria, and Botswana that have already introduced 5G technology. I am glad that the campaign will focus on dispelling myths and misinformation around 5G. Primarily that 5G causes COVID-19 and is harmful to human health.

I thus urge all Namibians to embrace 5G as a step in the right direction towards the attainment of our digitisation agenda and fulfilment of our national digital agenda.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, telecommunication services have expanded and grown beyond voice, broadband and data services to the mass market. Broadband connectivity will soon have the same level of importance as access to electricity and water.

Electronic communications networks provide people with a critical tool and facilitate the development of other industry sectors, critical to citizens' inclusion in the development of Namibia and her 4IR. 5G is a crucial step in fostering digital inclusion, empowering communities, and driving economic development across diverse regions.

Thank you.