

POSTIVE PROGRESS IN SIM CARD REGISTRATION PROCESS

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Mandatory Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) Card Registration is a policy adopted by several governments around the world as part of efforts to mitigate security concerns, address crime and enable the application of digital services.

The SIM Regulations were issued by the Minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), in terms of Part 6 of Chapter V of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009), on 15 March 2021. Therefore, the Minister of ICT may extend the SIM registration deadline in accordance with the Communications Act.

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) herewith provides progress on the SIM card registration by mobile operators.

SIM Card Registration Statistics

15 June 2023:

Approximately 2,760,804 active SIM cards across all licensed networks in Namibia, of which 795,991 SIM cards were registered, signifying a 29% registration rate.

30 September 2023:

Approximately 2,789,580 active SIM cards across all licensed networks in Namibia, of which 924,453 were registered, signifying a 33% registration rate.

30 November 2023:

Approximately 2,436,367 active SIM cards across all licensed networks in Namibia, of which 1,043,144 were registered, signifying a 43% registration rate.

22 December 2023:

Approximately 2,383,920 active SIM cards across all licensed networks in Namibia, of which 1,374,723 were registered, signifying a 57.6% registration rate.

“There has been a substantial increase in registrations since the last update on 30 November 2023, rising from 43% to the current 57.6%. This indicates a positive trend in registration,” stated Emilia Nghikembua, Chief Executive Officer, CRAN.

Unregistered SIM cards will be suspended for three (3) months after 31 December 2023. If a customer attempts to use the service during suspension period, they will not be able to use the service and will simply receive a warning message.

“When a SIM card is not registered by the deadline of 31 December 2023, it will be deactivated. However, consumers will have a grace period of three months from the deactivation date to register their SIM card and retain their mobile number. During this three-month suspension period, the number remains associated with the consumer's account, allowing them an opportunity to complete the registration process,” added Mrs. Nghikembua.

After the lapse of the three-month suspension period, if the SIM card remains unregistered, the number will no longer be attributed to any consumer. At this stage, the operators hold the right to reallocate the number to another consumer. Therefore, the purpose of the 3-month suspension period is to afford consumers the chance to retain their mobile number by completing the registration within the 3 months.

“CRAN thus urge all consumers to register their SIM cards before 31 December 2023, in order to enjoy the availability of a wide range of high quality, reliable and efficient telecommunications services as provided by our licensees,” concluded Mrs. Nghikembua.

“ENDS”

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