CRAN
Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

CRANICLES

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ACCESS, QUALITY & AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL

SCAN ME

IN THIS Issue

CONNECTING THE DOTS: CRAN'S SPECTRUM OF SUCCESS IN NAMIBIA'S ICT SECTOR

Dear Esteemed Stakeholders,

01 April 2024 marked the beginning of a new financial year for 2024/2025 and the second year to implement the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia's (CRAN) Integrated Strategic Business Plan for the period 2023 to 2026. The Strategic Plan guides the Authority in setting priorities, focusing energy and resources toward agreed-upon goals, and assessing and adjusting its direction in response to the fast pace of technological change in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

Since our last publication in March 2024, I am pleased to inform you that CRAN attended the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) Capacity Workshop on Spectrum Pricing, Spectrum Engineering and Audit in early April 2024 at the Hilton Hotel, Windhoek. The workshop provided a platform for policymakers and regulators from various African countries to convene and share insights on spectrum management.

Additionally, CRAN was well represented at the Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Pre-AGM events held in Eswatini. The AGM and pre-events brought together regulators from across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region to discuss matters pertaining to the harmonisation of the postal and ICT regulatory environment; and strategise on ways to promote digital connectivity and innovation.

Furthermore, CRAN participated in the Namibia Financial Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) FinTech Square Event held at the Windhoek Country Club. The event aimed to engage with innovators and various stakeholders within the Non-Bank Financial Institutions sector. CRAN also sponsored N$50,000 to support NAMFISA's initiative in promoting innovation and technological advancements in the financial sector.

Moreover, CRAN attended the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) Administrative Council in mid-June 2024, which brought together member countries and stakeholders from the postal sector in Africa to discuss and make decisions on matters related to postal services and operations on the continent. This meeting served as a platform for members to review the progress and challenges facing the postal sector, share best practices, and develop strategies to enhance collaboration and cooperation among African countries in the postal sector. It also provided an opportunity for members to exchange ideas, promote innovation, and strengthen partnerships to improve the quality and efficiency of postal services in Africa.

In conclusion, CRAN has excelled in the ICT sector and has made a meaningful impact on the world around us. Although CRAN is a young organisation, CRAN has become a well-established regulator and will continue to work diligently and collaboratively to ensure the sustained growth, innovation, and inclusivity of Namibia's ICT Sector.

Let us continue to push ICT forward for the benefit of all Namibians.

FROM THE CEO'S Desk

Emilia Nghikembua

CRAN
Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

Representing CRAN: Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua - CEO, Ms. Ronel Le Grange - Executive: Engineering & Technical Services, Ms. Sheleen Kavikairiua - Manager: Licensing Standards & Regulatory Compliance, Mr. Titus Eliakim - RF Specialist: Broadcasting Spectrum

ITU AND PRIDA TRAINING

Jairus Kapenda
Manager: Communication
& International Relations

CRAN attended the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) Capacity Workshop on Spectrum Pricing, Spectrum Engineering and Audit from 02 to 05 April 2024 at the Hilton Hotel, Windhoek.

The workshop provided a platform for policymakers and regulators from various African countries to convene and share insights on spectrum management. As we all know, spectrum is a finite and valuable resource that is vital for the provision of telecommunication and broadcasting services.

One of the key topics that were discussed during the workshop was spectrum pricing. Spectrum pricing plays a critical role in promoting efficient spectrum utilisation, encouraging investment in network infrastructure, and promoting healthy competition in the ICT sector.

Another important aspect of spectrum management that was addressed at the workshop was spectrum engineering. Spectrum engineering involves the technical planning and optimisation of spectrum use to minimise interference and maximise spectrum efficiency.

Finally, the workshop also focused on spectrum audit. Spectrum audit is a crucial tool for regulators to verify compliance with spectrum licence conditions, assess spectrum utilisation, and identify any instances of spectrum hoarding or misuse.

Overall, the workshop was a valuable platform for regulators to exchange knowledge, insights, and best practices in spectrum management. By collaborating and learning from each other, regulators can strengthen their regulatory frameworks and contribute to the growth and development of the ICT sector in Africa.

From Left to Right: Mr. Kristof Itana, Ms. Magano Katoole, Mrs. Ella-Betty Chapoto, Mr. Donelly Nell

13th CRASA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND PRE-AGM CONFERENCE

Ella-Betty Chapoto
Practitioner: Consumer Relations & Advocacy

The Communications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Ezuluwini, Kingdom of Eswatini at the Royal Villas Hotel from 11 to 12 April 2024. The AGM was preceded by a workshop under the theme *"Innovation for Better Regulation"* held from 08 to 10 April 2024. The AGM was hosted by the Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM).

The Pre-AGM conference led by CRASA members and industry experts considered issues affecting the communications regulatory sector. The topical issues discussed include identifying current regulatory challenges; implementation of innovation in regulation which provided in-depth information on the importance of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA) and innovation in regulation for cross-border interoperability.

The conference also focused on understanding the ethical dimension of innovation with an emphasis on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, regulatory strategies, and best practices for responsible innovation. The workshop was interactive and allowed members to pose questions to presenters both virtually and in person.

During the AGM, the various CRASA Standing Committees provided feedback on the implementation of the CRASA Operational Plan for the period 2023/24. The AGM also considered the consolidated operational plan for 2024/25 and the CRASA calendar of events for 2024/25.

The 13th AGM elected the following members as the Executive Committee for the 2024/2025 period, Eswatini as Chairperson; Democratic Republic of Congo as 1st Vice-Chairperson; Lesotho as 2nd Vice-Chairperson and Botswana as Treasurer.

CRAN was represented by Mr. Kristof Itana, Manager: Technology & Standards who served as the Head of Delegation; Ms. Magano Katoole, Legal Advisor: Legislative Drafting; Mr. Donelly Nell, Financial Accountant, and Mrs. Ella-Betty Chapoto, Practitioner: Consumer Relations & Advocacy.

The 14th Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place in March 2025.

CRAN JOINS MICT EXHIBITION AT PARLIAMENT

Jennifer Pogisho
Manager: Access to Information

From Left to Right: Mrs. Hilya Mhani - Manager: Consumer Relations & Advocacy, Ms. Jennifer Pogisho - Manager: Access to Information

On 09 April 2024, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) hosted an exhibition at the Namibia Parliament Precinct in Windhoek. The exhibition coincided with the Minister of ICT, Hon. Emma Theofelus' budget motivation in Parliament on the same day.

The exhibition was a strategic move aimed at providing parliamentarians and others with insight on the responsibilities and offerings of the MICT and its affiliated enterprises. CRAN used this platform to drive understanding of the Authority's mandate, as well as the services it provides to stakeholders and the country at large.

Other ICT sector state owned enterprises namely the Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA), Namibia Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), Namibia Film Commission (NFC) and New Era Corporation formed part of the exhibition.

Overall, the exhibition served as a platform for dialogue and discussion on how ICT can be used to enhance efficiency, improve service delivery, and promote economic growth in the country, and in ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to support a vibrant and inclusive digital economy.

EMPOWERING GIRLS IN ICT THROUGH LEADERSHIP

Hilya Mhani
Manager: Consumer Relations & Advocacy

On 25 April 2024, the world came together to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day, an occasion dedicated to recognising the invaluable contributions of women in the ICT sector. This year's theme, *"Leadership"*, emphasised the importance of empowering girls to take on leadership roles in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, marking a significant step forward in promoting gender diversity in the tech industry.

The theme of *"Leadership"* underscored the need for girls to not only excel in technical skills but also to develop strong leadership qualities. Through a variety of initiatives such as mentorship programs, leadership workshops, and networking opportunities, girls were inspired to dream big and break barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields. By providing them with the support and mentorship they need, they can unlock their full potential and be empowered to become the future leaders of the tech world.

As we look back, let us reaffirm our commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable future for all. By championing girls' participation in ICT and fostering their leadership skills, we can drive innovation, promote diversity, and build a brighter tomorrow for generations to come. Together, let us continue to empower girls to lead the way in shaping the future of technology and harnessing its power for the betterment of society.

CRAN celebrated the day by circulating a inspiring poster.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIVE AND TELCOS ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Jairus Kapenda
Manager: Communication
& International Relations

On 26 April 2024, CRAN hosted a Public Consultative Meeting on the Draft Dominance Determination in terms of Section 78 of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009), and Telecommunications Licensee Engagement Meeting at Mercure Hotel.

Market dominance is a concept that has far-reaching implications for competition, innovation, and consumer choice. The Communications Act provides the legal framework for regulating the ICT sector and ensuring that it operates in a fair and transparent manner. Section 78 of the Act empowers the Authority to make determinations on market dominance and take appropriate measures to promote competition and protect consumers.

Furthermore, draft dominance determination sets out a framework for identifying and regulating dominant players in the telecommunications sector. It includes criteria for assessing market power, such as market share, barriers to entry, and ability to set prices. It also outlines measures that the regulator can take to address dominance, such as imposing price controls, regulating access to essential facilities, or requiring the dominant player to divest certain assets.

Moreover, the Telecommunications Service Licensees engagement meeting provided an update on Universal Access Service Levy and Regulatory Levy; Telecommunications Spectrum Audit and Utilisation Report; Emergency Telecommunications Plan; World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-27) Outcomes and Outlook of New Spectrum Assignment Strategy; and Exemption of Affordable Telecommunications Devices from Tax Implications.

CRAN 13TH ANNIVERSARY

Hilya Mhani
Manager: Consumer Relations & Advocacy

On 17 May 2024, CRAN celebrated its 13th anniversary, and brought together staff members to reflect on the Authority's achievements and core values.

In her remarks, Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) highlighted CRAN's significant accomplishments over the past 13 years, reaffirming the Authority's commitment to regulate the ICT and Postal sector for the socio-economic benefit of all Namibians.

The event also featured an engaging and creative activity, where the Values Champions teams were challenged to create a painting that represented CRAN's core values and incorporated the CRAN 13th anniversary. This activity was not only fun but also a powerful way to visually express the values that define CRAN.

CRAN MEDIA DAY

Rackel Shikongo
Practitioner: Access to Information

On 31 May 2024, CRAN hosted its Media Day Event at the Action Arena Paintballing facility in Windhoek. The event served as a platform for the Authority to engage with the media and the public to promote transparency, accountability, and effective communication in the ICT industry in Namibia. The event was designed to provide the media with insights into the Authority's activities, policies, and initiatives, as well as to create awareness around the regulatory framework that governs the sector.

Furthermore, media engagement remains a key focus area for the organisation. Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua, CEO outlined the organisation's mandate, mission, vision, and values. She emphasised CRAN's strategic objectives for the year, which include promoting competition in the ICT sector, ensuring consumer protection, fostering innovation and investment, and enhancing stakeholder engagement.

The event concluded with an engaging paintball activity, where participants were divided into teams. The day was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and refreshments, making it a memorable and successful event.

NAMFISA FINTECH EVENT

Jairus Kapenda
Manager: Communication
& International Relations

CRAN attended and participated at the NAMFISA FinTech Square Event from 30 to 31 May 2024 at the Windhoek Country Club.

The purpose of the NAMFISA FinTech Square 2024 event was to engage with innovators and various stakeholders within the Non-Bank Financial Institutions sector. Additionally, the engagement aimed to understand the latest FinTech solutions within the sector and to ensure that NAMFISA can provide a conducive environment for these solutions to thrive.

Additionally, CRAN sponsored N$50,000 to support NAMFISA's initiatives in promoting innovation and technological advancements in the financial sector. CRAN believes that the sponsorship will drive collaboration and foster growth in the industry, ultimately benefiting the Namibian economy.

Furthermore, stakeholder engagement is crucial for the success of any industry, especially in the rapidly evolving world of financial technology. Regulators, industry players, and policymakers must work together to create an environment that supports innovation while ensuring consumer protection and market stability. By engaging with all stakeholders, CRAN can better address the challenges and opportunities that arise in the FinTech space.

Moreover, CRAN is committed to promoting a conducive regulatory environment for the development of FinTech in Namibia. The Authority recognises the importance of collaboration between regulatory bodies such as CRAN and NAMFISA to support the industry's growth.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POWERED ATTACKS

Cornelia Shipindo
Manager: Cybersecurity

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology advances, Namibia stands at the threshold of unprecedented opportunities to reshape industries and elevate the quality of life for its citizens. From expanding productivity in agriculture and manufacturing to revolutionising healthcare delivery and transportation systems, the potential applications of AI appear boundless.

However, amidst this wave of excitement and optimism, concerns about the security implications of AI cast a shadow. While AI holds the promise of driving progress and innovation, it also introduces new risks and challenges. The very characteristics that make AI so powerful, its ability to analyse vast amounts of data, identify patterns, and make autonomous decisions, also render it vulnerable to exploitation by malicious actors.

In this multifaceted landscape, Namibia must develop a comprehensive strategy to navigate the risks associated with AI deployment. This entails not only understanding the technical vulnerabilities of AI systems but also addressing broader issues such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the potential for AI-driven cyberattacks.

As AI technologies evolve, Namibia's approach to safeguarding them must also evolve. This involves implementing robust cybersecurity measures to protect against data breaches and other security threats. Additionally, it necessitates careful consideration of the ethical implications of AI deployment, ensuring that AI systems are developed and used in a manner that is fair, transparent, and accountable.

Furthermore, Namibia must establish clear regulatory frameworks to govern the development and deployment of AI technologies, striking a balance between fostering innovation and protecting against potential harms.

Finally, ongoing research into AI safety and governance is crucial to staying ahead of emerging threats and challenges. By investing in research and collaboration, Namibia can

position itself as a leader in the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies, driving positive outcomes for its citizens and society.

Now, let us explore how social engineers could potentially exploit AI to perpetrate their attacks. Here are a few scenarios to consider:

Reconnaissance: AI is especially effective at mining social media and other online platforms to gather detailed information on potential targets. In the past, it could take weeks or months for a social engineer to perform that task. AI can do it in seconds.

Impersonation: given that AI can create realistic video or audio recordings, attackers can use it to generate content that appears to come from a trusted individual saying or doing something they are not doing. This is known as a deepfake, a dangerous tool used to deceive the public.

Voice Phishing: Another form of impersonation is voice phishing, where attackers attempt to scam people over the phone. With AI, this becomes even easier. A small sample of someone's voice can be used to generate speech that sounds like a real person, which can trick people into believing they are talking with someone they know.

Automation: Time is money. Through AI automation, social engineers can cast a wide net and increase the volume of their attacks. This process requires less effort on the attacker's part and means they can target a greater number of people, increasing the chances of successfully scamming someone.

Moreover, those examples of AI powered attacks barely cover the scope of how social engineers use modern technology to leverage classic scams. Avoiding those scams requires everyone to maintain a heightened sense of awareness, especially when prompted to provide confidential information or money. If something is too good to be true then, it probably is. Whenever you encounter anything suspicious, trust your instincts and remain skeptical.

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From left to right: Ms. Maria Moses, Executive: Finance and Administration; Mrs. Helene Vosloo, Executive: Economics & Market Development, and Ms. Emilia Eino: Manager: Postal and E-commerce.

42nd ORDINARY SESSION OF PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Jairus Kapenda
Manager: Communication
& International Relations

CRAN attended the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) Administrative Council, which took place from 11 to 12 June 2024 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

Leading up to the Administrative Council meeting, the Administrative and Technical Committee meetings were held from 03 to 07 June 2024, kicking off a series of gatherings aimed at improving and sustaining postal services across Africa. Dr. Mzee Suleiman Mndewa, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communication, and Transport in Zanzibar, officially inaugurated the meetings, stressing the importance of unity and collaboration among PAPU member states. This event marked a significant milestone in the effort to enhance African postal services, foster collaboration, and leverage technology and innovation for the continent's advancement.

The meetings also highlighted the significance of financial inclusion and environmental sustainability in Africa's development. They underscored the need for government and postal stakeholders to work together to achieve these objectives and contribute to Africa's long-term progress and prosperity. The discussions also delved into the importance of investing in training postal sector staff, who play a crucial role in improving service delivery, operational efficiency, and adaptation to technological advancements.

STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES SPORTS GAMES

Jairus Kapenda
Manager: Communication
& International Relations

CRAN attended and participated at the State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) Sports Games held from 06 to 08 June 2024 in Oshakati. The annual SOE sports games themed *"Unity of Purpose: Enhancing Service Delivery to Exceed Citizens' Expectations Through Public Enterprises"* brought together employees from various public enterprises to participate in various friendly sports codes and promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

Additionally, CRAN recognises the importance of promoting health and wellness among its employees and supporting events that bring public enterprises together. The CRAN team participated in several sports disciplines, including soccer, volleyball, pool table and 100mx4 relay for male and female, showcasing their skills, determination, and team spirit.

Furthermore, participating at the SOE Sports Games not only allowed CRAN employees to showcase their sporting talents, but also provided an opportunity for networking and building working relationships with colleagues from other public enterprises. The event fostered a sense of camaraderie and unity among participants, as they came together to celebrate their love for sports and fitness.

Overall, the team's dedication and hard work paid off, as they demonstrated their commitment to excellence both on and off the field. CRAN's participation was a resounding success, with the team achieving impressive results in the pool table, volleyball and soccer by promoting the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, passion, and healthy living.

SALT ESSENTIAL TECH-HUDDLE EXHIBITION EVENT

Hilya Mhani
Manager: Consumer Relations & Advocacy

The Salt Essential TechHuddle event, themed *"Top Technology Changing Namibia"*, took place on 12 June 2024 at the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM). The event marked the launch of Salt Essential IT's new application, Apprada, and highlighted significant innovations and achievements in the ICT industry that are beneficial for Namibia.

The discussions at this year's event focused on topics such as Accelerate AI, Strengthening Cyber Resilience, Patching Systems and People, The Employee Experience, Fortify your Networks, and Securing Businesses from Email Rejection & Impersonation with Domain-based Message Authentication Reporting & Conformance (DMARC).

Leading experts from around the world shared insights into the latest technological advancements and their impact on various sectors.

CRAN used the event as a platform to raise awareness about its role and functions. Attending the event allowed CRAN to stay updated on the latest developments in the ICT industry and gain valuable insights into new technologies. The event also provided a valuable opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and showcasing CRAN's dedication to promoting a secure and consumer-friendly ICT environment.

CRAN AND INCM FORGE PATH TO REGULATORY EXCELLENCE DURING BENCHMARK VISIT IN WINDHOEK

Mufaro Nesongano
Executive: Communication & Consumer Relations

On 25 June 2024, CRAN hosted Ms. Maria Mónica Samo Gudo, Head of Human Resources, and Ms. Nádia Mulungo, Head of Personnel Management and Training from the National Communications Institute of Mozambique (INCM). Their visit aimed to foster mutual growth and knowledge sharing in human capital development.

Mrs. Lucrezia Henckert-Louw, CRAN's Executive of Human Capital, delivered an insightful presentation on workforce development and talent management, emphasising the critical role of nurturing human capital in driving organisational success.

Equally impactful was Mrs. Lovisa Shilongo, Manager of Business Strategy and Transformation, who discussed the importance of staff recognition. She provided practical criteria for distinguishing and rewarding excellence, inspiring participants to consider new ways to foster a culture of appreciation within their own organisations.

The final session was presented by Mr. Petrus Amupadhi, Manager of Projects and Business Intelligence and Chairperson of the Value Champions Initiative, who spoke about the Value Champions concept. He underscored the significance of recognising and nurturing talent to enhance organisational performance, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

This visit highlighted the need for regulators to continuously benchmark against each other on best practices.

The event concluded with an engaging paintball activity, where participants were divided into teams. The day was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and refreshments, making it a memorable and successful event.

EMBRACING THE DIGITAL FUTURE: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF DIGITAL LITERACY IN NAMIBIA

Hilya Mhani
Manager: Consumer Relations & Advocacy

In today's interconnected world, digital literacy is a fundamental skill required in all areas of life. As an Authority, we recognise the transformative power of digital literacy. It extends beyond basic technology use to include critical navigation, evaluation, and creation of information on digital platforms.

Digital literacy encompasses various competencies: using digital devices like computers, smartphones, and tablets; navigating the internet; utilising software applications; and engaging with social media platforms. It also involves critical thinking to assess online information, understand privacy and security concerns, and use digital tools ethically and responsibly.

Digital literacy empowers individuals by providing tools to access information, communicate effectively, and participate in the digital economy. In Namibia, enhancing digital literacy can bridge gaps in education, employment, and social inclusion. For students, it opens doors to educational resources and online learning. For job seekers, it means access to job portals, online applications, and remote work opportunities.

The global economy is increasingly digital, and Namibia must keep pace to remain competitive. Digital literacy is crucial for entrepreneurs and small business owners to market products online, manage e-commerce platforms, and leverage digital tools for growth. For the broader workforce, digital skills are now a prerequisite for many jobs, from basic computer literacy to advanced technical skills in fields like cybersecurity, data analysis, and digital marketing.

Digital literacy also plays a vital role in governance and civic participation. With the rise of e-government services, digitally literate citizens can access public services more efficiently, participate in online consultations, and engage with government initiatives. This improves transparency, accountability, and fosters a more inclusive and participatory democracy.

In healthcare, digital literacy can significantly enhance patient care and health outcomes. Telemedicine, electronic health records, and online health resources require both healthcare providers and patients to be digitally literate. During the COVID-19 pandemic, digital tools enabled remote consultations, online health monitoring, and the dissemination of crucial health information, underscoring the need for digital literacy in managing public health crises.

Despite its importance, several challenges hinder the widespread adoption of digital literacy in Namibia:

Limited Access to Technology
Many Namibians, particularly in rural areas, lack access to digital devices and reliable internet connections. This digital divide exacerbates existing inequalities and limits opportunities for those without access to technology.

Lack of Training and Education
Many schools and communities lack the resources or qualified instructors to teach digital literacy effectively, leaving individuals without the skills needed to navigate the digital world.

Cultural and Language Barriers

Cultural and language differences can also pose barriers. Digital content is often available in dominant languages, excluding those who speak indigenous languages. Additionally, cultural attitudes towards technology can influence how individuals perceive and use digital tools.

To address these challenges and enhance digital literacy in Namibia, a multi-faceted approach is needed:

Infrastructure Development

Expanding digital infrastructure is fundamental. Efforts must be made to provide affordable and reliable internet access across the country, particularly in underserved rural areas. Public-private partnerships can play a significant role in this endeavour.

Education Integration

Integrating digital literacy into the national education curriculum from primary school through to higher education is crucial. Schools should be equipped with the necessary technology, and teachers should receive training to teach digital skills effectively. Community centres and libraries can also serve as hubs for digital literacy training.

Support for Vulnerable Groups

Special attention should be given to vulnerable and marginalised groups to ensure inclusivity in digital literacy initiatives. This includes designing tailored programmes for older adults, providing assistive technologies and support for people with disabilities, and addressing gender disparities in digital access and literacy.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

Enhancing digital literacy requires collaboration between various stakeholders, including government, private sector, civil society, and international partners. By working together, these stakeholders can pool resources, share expertise, and develop comprehensive programmes that address various aspects of digital literacy.

Digital literacy is a cornerstone of modern society, and its importance cannot be overstated. For Namibia to thrive in the digital age, we must prioritise developing digital literacy skills across all sectors of society. By addressing the challenges and implementing strategic initiatives, we can empower our citizens, enhance economic opportunities, improve governance, and advance healthcare. As we move forward, let us commit to creating an inclusive digital future where every Namibian has the skills and knowledge to participate fully in the digital world.

As an Authority, we are dedicated to promoting digital literacy and bridging the digital divide. Together, we can embrace the digital future and ensure that every Namibian is equipped to navigate and thrive in the digital age.

UNDERSTANDING TYPE APPROVAL AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN NAMIBIA

Loide Nutuushi
Officer: Type Approval

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) defines Type Approval as a technical evaluation process to ensure that telecommunications equipment meets specific regulatory standards. In Namibia, this process is overseen by CRAN. The authority is mandated to regulate telecommunications equipment intended for import into Namibia and ensure such equipment complies with Type Approval standards. Section 80 of the Communications Act (No. 8 of 2009) states that CRAN must prescribe reasonable technical standards for telecommunications equipment to prevent harm to electronic telecommunications networks, public health, and safety.

The current Type Approval Regulation, dated 21 August 2023, and published in Government *Gazette No. 8180*, requires the following entities to seek Type Approval Certificates:

- Manufacturers
- Importers
- Distributors
- Individuals

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The purpose of Type Approval is to ensure that telecommunications equipment complies with Namibian and international standards to prevent radio interference and avoid health and safety hazards. Type Approval is issued for any telecommunications equipment that transmits, receives, or uses radio frequencies and is connected to any electronic communications network, such as cell phones, laptops, computers, radio communications equipment, and digital set-top boxes.

The processing time for Type Approval certification is 40 days as per the Type Approval Regulation. However, the Authority endeavors to issue the certificates within a reasonable time, depending on the volume of applications received.

In February 2023, CRAN and the Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This followed an agreement between CRAN and the Ministry of Finance: Directorate of Customs and Excise in 2016, aimed at harmonising the implementation of laws governing the importation of telecommunications equipment into Namibia. The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation between the two parties in areas of common interest for effective and efficient performance of their respective mandates.

The MoU aims to:

- Promote cooperation and coordination regarding the importation of telecommunications equipment into Namibia.
- Collaborate on capacity-building initiatives.
- Establish a working committee to discuss and recommend solutions to challenges impacting the successful implementation of the Type Approval regulatory framework.

Anyone seeking Type Approval must submit a complete application, including all supporting documentation and payment of applicable fees, before importing the telecommunications equipment. Equipment will not be cleared by Customs without a Type Approval certificate. It is best to apply for type approval before importation to avoid delays and that the Authority will not carry any storage costs due to delays in obtaining necessary certifications.

The Type Approval process consists of the following methods:

- Standard Application process
- Simplified method
- Renewal method
- Temporary Importation method
- Reconsideration method

The regulations also specify telecommunications equipment exempt from Type Approval, such as laptops, servers, smart televisions, and tablets without SIM slots. A list of approved devices is available on the CRAN website.

Telecommunications equipment temporarily imported into Namibia for prototypes, testing, and trials, as described in Regulation 5(3) (a, b) of the Regulations, does not require a Type Approval certificate. However, clients must apply for temporary importation.

It is crucial for all parties involved in the importation of telecommunications equipment to familiarise themselves with the Type Approval Regulations, obtain the necessary Type Approval documentation, or contact CRAN's Type Approval Team for further assistance at TA@cran.na or 061 222 666.

Namibia's Type Approval regulations align with international practices followed by ITU Region 1 regulators and standardisation processes prescribed by the ITU. Besides Namibia, South Africa and Botswana also implement Type Approval, and vendors and suppliers generally operate in these markets without issues.

Quiz Time!

Crack the Code with this Cybersecurity Challenge

visit our Instagram page for clues: www.instagram.com/cranamibia/

Question 1:

What aspect of cybersecurity does AI excel at, allowing cybercriminals to gather detailed information on potential targets quickly?

A. Reconnaissance

B. Encryption

C. Firewall protection

D. Data backup

Question 2:

What is the term used to describe the creation of realistic video or audio content by AI to deceive individuals?

A. Phishing

B. Malware

C. Impersonation

D. Encryption

Question 3:

Which type of attack involves scammers using AI to generate speech that sounds like a real person to deceive individuals over the phone?

A. Spear-phishing

B. Ransomware

C. Voice Phishing

D. DDoS attack

Question 4:

How does AI automation benefit cybercriminals in conducting social engineering attacks?

A. It enhances encryption methods

B. It improves firewall protection

C. It increases the volume of attacks

D. It prevents data breaches

Question 5:

What dangerous tool is used by attackers to create deceptive content that appears to come from trusted individuals but is actually fabricated by AI?

A. Deepfake

B. Encryption

C. Firewall

D. Malware

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