



**12 January 2016**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**CRAN AND NCRST SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) and the National Commission for Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) intended to promote applied research and capacity development on the socio-economic impact (and assess capacity) of the usage of information and communication technology in Namibia.

“The MOU will promote applied research on and create awareness of cyber security threats and further seek to develop globally-relevant strategies that would assist to secure the safety of users of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)”, stated Festus K. Mbandeka Chief Executive Officer of CRAN.

Mbandeka further added that CRAN shall undertake to provide resources to the Research, Science and Technology Fund for joint funding of planned collaborative efforts; and provide topics of research within the ICT sector that are in line with the objectives of the Research, Science and Technology Fund for possible funding.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr. Eino Mvula, Chief Executive Officer of NCRST said “the partnership between CRAN and NCRST would further stimulate the growth and development of applied research and application on sectoral information systems and promote green ICT practices with specific focus on e-waste”.

Dr. Mvula added “the NCRST shall undertake to provide resources through the Research, Science and Technology Fund for joint funding of planned collaborative efforts; manage the research and development grant in line with Grant Management rules and guidelines of the Research, Science and Technology Fund; and provide technical and financial reports to CRAN”.

The two entities will undertake to establish a joint technical committee to discuss and monitor implementation of the MOU which will remain in force for a period of **three (3) years** after which it shall be automatically extended for further periods of **three (3) years**.

The MOU is available on [www.cran.na](http://www.cran.na) and [www.ncrst.na](http://www.ncrst.na)

**“Ends”**

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### **The responsibilities of CRAN under the MoU are to:**

- Ensure compliance with legislation and regulations
- Grant, renew, amend, transfer, suspend and revoke licences
- Implement a transparent and fair pricing regime
- Respond to consumer complaints
- Protect consumers in respect of prices, quality, variety of services and user equipment supplied
- Promote competition amongst service providers
- Manage spectrum planning and allocation
- Ensure telecommunications services are operated in a manner best suited to the economic and social development of Namibia
- Establish procedures for ensuring safety and quality of services
- Regulate interconnection
- Facilitate the negotiation of rights of way
- Manage numbering planning and allocation
- Facilitate universal service, and Attract foreign direct investment

### **The responsibilities of NCRST under the MoU are:**

Government has long recognized the importance of Research, Science and Technology as an engine of economic growth and development, hence the enactment of the [Research Science and Technology Act, 2004 \(Act no 23 of 2004\)](#). The objectives as outlined in section 2 of the Act are:

- to ensure the co-ordination, monitoring and supervision of research, science and technology in Namibia;
- to promote and develop research, science and technology in Namibia;
- to promote common ground in research, scientific and technological thinking across all disciplines, including the physical, mathematical and life sciences, as well as human, social and economic sciences;
- to encourage and promote innovative and independent thinking and the optimum development of intellectual capacity of people in research, science and technology;
- to ensure dedicated, prioritised and systematic funding for research, science and technology application and development in Namibia;
- To promote linkages between Namibia and international institutions and bodies on the development of research, science and technology.