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**STATEMENT BY MR. FESTUS K. MBANDEKA,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA
CRAN NCRST MOU SIGNING CEREMONY**

12 JANUARY 2016

- Dr. Eino Mvula, Chief Executive Officer, NCRST,
- Executive Management, CRAN and NCRST,
- Distinguished members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my distinct honor today to welcome you to the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) and the National Commission for Research, Science and Technology (NCRST).

Distintguished invited guests, Dr. Mvula stated the importance of the partnership between our two entities and elaborated on the role and responsibilities of the NCRST, allow me to elaborate on those of CRAN.

We at CRAN ensure that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) related services in our country are provided in a manner best suited to the economic and social development of Namibians. CRAN is additionally responsible for the protection of users of these services and equipment from any harm. Therefore by entering into this agreement, CRAN and NCRST will together promote applied research on and create awarness of cyber security threats and further seek to develop globally-relevant strategies that would assit to secure the safety of users of ICTs .

CRAN will contribute to and support the aims of the NCRST by targetting mutually beneficial areas in Research and Development and specifically those which place



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a special emphasis on empowering local talent and skills of enterprises, to innovate in order to meet global and national demands for Namibian ICT products and services.

CRAN shall additionally undertake to provide financial resources to the Research, Science and Technology Fund for the implementation of planned collaborative efforts. We will further provide topics and funding for research within the ICT sector that are in line with the objectives of the Research, Science and Technology Fund.

It was already stated by my counterpart, that CRAN and NCRST will undertake to establish a joint technical committee, with the responsibility to discuss and monitor implementation of Fund.

Director of Ceremonies,

Allow me to elaborate that the joint technical committee will formulate and implement robust approaches in order to promote the exchange of information to further the development of cooperation between CRAN and NCRST, in order to address challenges and optimise on the opportunities for improvement as may be encountered in terms of this agreement.

This MoU 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**. It is our common goal as strategic partners to achieve the socio-economic development of Namibia through research in the field of information and communication technologies.

In conclusion, thank you Dr Mvula for embracing our vision of transforming Namibia into an active knowledge-based society through the effective implementation of this MoU.

I Thank You!!!

