



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY**

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**STATEMENT BY HON. TJEKERO TWEYA, MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY,
DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2ND NATIONAL
ICT SUMMIT IN WINDHOEK.**

DATE: Tuesday, 6th October 2016

VENUE: Windhoek Country Club Resort & Casino

TIME: 09:00

**Director of Ceremonies
His Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Core,
Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers present,
Hon. Members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on
ICT,
Permanent Secretaries present,
Esteemed sponsors and exhibitors,
Employees of the Ministry of Information and
Communication Technology,
The Organising Committee of the 2nd National ICT
Summit,
Members of the Media,
All Protocol Observed.**

Good morning!

1.

It is my singular honour to address ICT players for the first time in my capacity as the Minister and political head of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology at this auspicious 2nd National ICT Summit 2015 in Windhoek.

2.

The Summit is hosted under the theme: "***Bridging the digital gap***" and this is without doubt, a laudable theme that speaks directly to my personal commitment, key performance indicators and declaration of intent.

3.

The ICT Ministry will strive to ensure that Namibia enjoys Nation-wide coverage of ICT services over the next 14 to 18 months. This will, without a doubt, require a robust approach of implementation of infrastructure development, commitment and a deliberate spirit of sharing of these resources among industry players for the benefit of all Namibians.

4.

My approach will be to focus on the optimization of the dark spots in the current 70% coverage, which the existing infrastructure guarantees and upon satisfaction, ensure that the existing 70% coverage is increased to 100%. By so doing, the achievement of this milestone will produce inclusive positive results in enhanced education, information sharing and entertainment for consumers.

Director of Ceremonies,

5.

As head of this Ministry, I commit to oversee the effective implementation of the Communications Legislation and Regulation to address accessibility, affordability and the quality of Information Communication Technology, with the aim of creating a knowledge-based society.

It is further expected that the ICT Ministry will continue to strengthen accessibility of public information by the Media in order to strengthen democracy and good governance; consolidating Government information systems to ensure cohesive and integrated media communications from all Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6.

It is of utmost importance that the ICT Ministry ensure that the objective of Inclusivity and the spirit “harambe” where no Namibian will or MUST feel excluded is realised without further delay. We all agree that ICT plays a pivotal role in any society, this sector can educate or experience the opposite disastrous impact, if not managed accordingly and may have detrimental impacts for a Nation.

The correct and optimal utilisation and application of ICT efforts such as this 2nd National ICT Summit will lead towards bridging the digital gap, as we attest in our theme. We must, therefore, as key players reach out to all corners of Namibia, including the Himba and San communities into the mainstream of ICT through various media channels such as mobile phones, internet access, radio and television connectivity.

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen,

7.

The younger generation are today in a fortunate position that they too have access to ICT through libraries, mobile devices, TV, Radio, Computers and related Technologies. However, we need to increase this footprint so that all learners even in remote villages can enjoy the same benefits. There must be concerted efforts to produce demand for e-learning for all Namibian children.

8.

I am also pleased to inform you that the **various entities** in our Government structures have implemented the E-governance system. In the near future, we will see a modern, electronic system for the validation of real-time border controls, speedy approval and issuing of passports and visa applications.

9.

The introduction of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) by the **Ministry of Finance**, aimed at managing spending and payments brought about improved service delivery timely and accurately. Through IFMS, financial reports are easily accessible and overspending by Ministries are something of the past. It integrates all sub-systems together and allows proper segregation of duties.

10

The ***Namibian Police***, through e-policing with support from Interpol, will easily and effectively trace stolen vehicles, deal with criminals and curb cross border crimes in an proficient and effective manner.

11.

The ***Ministry of Health and Social Services***¹ has made impressive breakthroughs in acquisition and utilization of medical equipment found in theatres. Today, Medical practitioners are able to use high tech equipment for brain scanning, heart surgery, caesareans etc. with minimal effort thus leading to an improved service delivery and bringing Government closer to the people.

Director of ceremonies,

12.

The Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration, with the ***Ministry of ICT***² are implementing the Scan- ICT Project in Namibia , to measure the status of ICT development in the country with the output of the Namibia Scan-ICT Database Website.

In addition, the launch of the West Africa Cable System (WACS) in 2012, our country's network was redesigned and is being upgraded to carry the increased bandwidth and capacity from WACS.

Regional Government network service hubs were established in all regions to ensure seamless Government service delivery. These infrastructures will enhance the implementation of the E-governance and decentralisation policies.

13.

It is imperative to note that Information security during this ICT era is also crucial both locally and globally. Regulation of this industry is critical to curb cybercrime and provide for safe electronic banking transactions, safe flow of personal data and the protection of children online. Our Government is at an advanced stage of finalising the Electronic Transactions and Cybercrime Bill to protect our citizens.

Director of Ceremonies,

14.

In **construction**³ for example, ICT in today's age, provides excellent software to determine the cost of capital projects which can easily determine the amount of building material, such as bricks, cement and sand needed for the construction of a particular building. Also an architect can produce a three-dimensional sketch that provides stakeholders with an excellent opportunity to visualise how the architecture will look upon completion.

15.

The **commercial sector**¹, especially the banking industry matured over the years with the directive of the Central Bank of Namibia. All Banks were required by the Banking Charter to develop local banking systems which resulted in the banking sectors developing products targeting the unbanked population of Namibia to make the sector inclusive for all Namibians.

Namibians today are users of E-wallet banking; E-Bank and related services. I am a living testimony of this. As a politician and part time farmer living in Windhoek it is no longer required of me to travel to my farm to pay employees, as E-wallet is at the click of a button. In addition, other banking products such as Online Banking, Cell phone banking and the purchase of pre-paid commodities such as airtime and electricity are classic examples of E-Commerce which is possible today because Government is committed to level and enhance the playing field of ICT Services

16.

Due to the rapid progression of this sector, **media** too derive great benefits. We have seen clips of the President's speech at the recent ended UNGA in the US in various print and electronic media, the Rugby World Cup 2015, the FIFA World Cup and the Olympic Games live TV and radio broadcast by merely picking up a remote control.

The convergence of new technologies such as Over the Top technologies (OTT) enable viewers to access television programmes on their smart phones, therefore viewers are not limited to watch their favourite programs from television sets only.

Considering all these innovations and the milestones, it is indeed possible to say the sky is the limit and it is up to us, the Government, the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia, Telecom, TN Mobile, Paratus, MTC, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation and all others including the private sector to continue doing the right things and build a greater industry.

Director of Ceremonies,

17.

Borrowing from the great and late Dr. Myles Munroe, who once said, and I quote: "One of the greatest tragedies in life is to watch potential die untapped" unquote.

Let us join hands and live up to the vision for ICT for all Namibians, led and managed by empowered ICT professionals able to unlock the full potential of technology and human capital and deliver value to our citizens, visitors and investors, so that Namibia becomes a leader in ICT development in Africa.

18.

Allow me to conclude by saying that I sincerely appreciate your presence at this 2nd National ICT Summit and, by the same token, express my sincere appreciation to all sponsors, exhibitors, organisers, participants and all those who made this ICT Summit a reality.

Thank you for bringing us altogether and it is my sincere hope that the outcome of this Summit will bring about the desired results which are "to bridge the digital gap through concerted ICT efforts."

This having said, I now have the distinct, singular honour and pleasure to declare the 2nd National ICT Summit officially open!

I thank you for your kind attention!