



**KEYNOTE REMARKS BY DR AUDRIN MATHE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, AT THE COMMUNICATIONS
REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF NAMIBIA'S STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
ON ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE REGULATIONS AND ACCREDITATION OF
SECURITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES REGULATIONS
Friday, 31 January 2025, Windhoek**

Dr. Tulimevava Mufeti, Chairperson: CRAN Board of Directors;
CRAN Board of Directors;
Mrs. Emilia Nghikembua, CRAN CEO;
Esteemed Stakeholders;
Distinguished Guests;

It is my great pleasure to join you today for this important stakeholder engagement hosted by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN). This gathering signifies our collective commitment to creating a secure, inclusive, and dynamic digital environment for all Namibians. The focus of today's discussions on the Electronic Signature Regulations and the Accreditation of Security Products and Services Regulations, highlights Namibia's ongoing efforts to position itself as a leader in digital transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Electronic Transactions Act (No. 4 of 2019) is the foundation of our digital economy. It provides legal recognition for electronic communications and transactions, ensuring they are as secure, trustworthy and valid as traditional methods. This Act was introduced to establish a legal framework that promotes confidence in the use of digital technology, ultimately facilitating commerce and public service delivery in an increasingly digital age.

One of the Act's most significant provisions is its recognition of

electronic signatures as equivalent to handwritten signatures also known as wet signatures. This enables electronic signatures to be used for a wide range of transactions - from everyday agreements to complex business contracts. The accompanying Electronic Signature Regulations were developed to ensure that these signatures are not only secure but also widely accepted and interoperable. By doing so, we are fostering an environment where businesses and consumers alike can engage in electronic transactions with ease and confidence.

An important aspect of these regulations is the accreditation of service providers. Accreditation ensures that the technologies and platforms used for creating electronic signatures meet national standards for security and reliability. This process enhances trust, protects users from potential risks, and ensures the integrity of electronic transactions. Moreover, the regulations address interoperability, ensuring that different systems can seamlessly work together to promote an inclusive digital economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Equally critical are the Regulations Regarding Accreditation of Security Products and Services. In today's world, where cyber threats are growing more sophisticated, cybersecurity is paramount. These regulations establish criteria for accrediting security products and service providers, ensuring that they meet the highest standards of

reliability and effectiveness. This not only protects citizens and businesses from fraud but also strengthens the overall security of Namibia's digital ecosystem.

The accreditation process goes beyond compliance. It encourages innovation in the cybersecurity sector, opening opportunities for local businesses to develop and provide trusted security solutions. By creating a robust ecosystem of accredited products and services, we are laying the foundation for a safer and more resilient digital economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These regulatory frameworks are not isolated initiatives. They align with the Government of the Republic of Namibia's broader policy goals, as outlined in the Harambee Prosperity Plan, National Development Plans and Vision 2030. Collectively, these policies aim to drive economic growth, enhance service delivery and foster innovation through digital transformation.

Through the Electronic Transactions Act and its associated regulations, we are simplifying electronic commerce, promoting interoperability of systems and providing clear accreditation processes for service providers. These efforts will position Namibia as a competitive player in the global digital economy, attract investment and enhance cross-border trade.

However, regulations alone are not enough. We must ensure public awareness and education around these frameworks. Citizens must understand their rights and responsibilities in the digital landscape, and businesses must be equipped with the tools and knowledge to thrive in a digital economy. As a government, we are committed to fostering a culture of digital literacy to empower all Namibians to engage in the digital world with confidence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, the Electronic Signature Regulations and the Accreditation of Security Products and Services Regulations are transformative tools that enable us to build a secure, transparent and inclusive digital future. They reflect Namibia's commitment to protecting its citizens, fostering innovation and driving socio-economic development through technology.

I urge all stakeholders here today to actively participate in the discussions, share your expertise and collaborate in implementing these regulations effectively. Together, we can create a resilient and prosperous digital economy that benefits all Namibians.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to engaging with you throughout this important session.