

OPENING AND WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

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AT THE

**STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON THE PROPOSED
BROADBAND SPEED**

DATE: 21 MAY 2025

VENUE: WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB AND RESORT

Good morning, distinguished stakeholders, partners, industry leaders and esteemed guests.

It is both an honour and a privilege to welcome you all to this crucial working breakfast meeting on the proposed increase to our national minimum broadband speed. As per the decision of the SADC Ministers responsible for ICT, we are considering raising the minimum download speed to 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) and upload speed to 3 Mbps, a significant improvement from the current 2 Mbps standard defined in our National Broadband Policy.

Our ICT sector serves as the fundamental enabler of operational efficiency and economic growth across all industries. Today's engagement marks a significant milestone in our collective journey toward building a more inclusive, digitally empowered and globally competitive society. In this rapidly evolving digital landscape, reliable and high-speed internet connectivity is no longer a luxury—it has become the essential foundation of information and entertainment, education, healthcare, innovation, commerce, governance and virtually every aspect of modern life.

We have convened as stakeholders because we recognise that broadband access and speed are critical catalysts for economic development and social equity. Whilst considerable progress has been made in expanding our digital infrastructure, there remains a substantial gap between the broadband speeds currently available and the growing demands of businesses, educational institutions, government services, and ordinary citizens across Namibia.

This engagement represents more than a mere meeting—it is a decisive call to action. It provides a platform for us to align our strategic objectives, share valuable insights, and explore practical, cost-effective strategies to redefine the standards of connectivity in our country without increasing the financial burden on consumers. Whether you represent the public sector, private industry, regulatory agencies, or civil society organisations, your perspective is invaluable—because the digital future of our nation depends on the collaborative decisions we make today.

I am fully cognisant of the challenges posed by legacy technologies such as 2G, 3G and WiMAX, and acknowledge the technical and geographical limitations they present. However, I remain confident that we can leverage more capable technologies such as 4G, 5G, WiFi 6, fibre optics and high-throughput satellites that can not only meet but exceed the 25 Mbps policy directive. The question before us is not whether these technologies can deliver the required performance, but rather how we can deploy them efficiently, equitably and affordably across our diverse national landscape.

Let us approach this dialogue with open minds, shared responsibility and a common commitment to ensuring that no Namibian is left behind in the digital revolution. Let us be guided by empirical data, technological innovation and the collective will to build infrastructure and policies that serve not just our present needs, but those of generations to come. The decisions we make in this room will shape the digital experiences of students in remote classrooms, entrepreneurs launching new ventures, healthcare providers serving rural communities, and families connecting with loved ones across distances.

Once again, I warmly welcome you all. Thank you for your presence, your valuable contributions and your unwavering commitment to advancing Namibia's digital agenda. Together, we can transform our nation into a regional leader in digital connectivity and innovation.

Thank you.