



STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE SPONSORSHIP BREAKFAST MEETING: NATIONAL ICT SUMMIT

26 JUNE 2019

KUBATA RESTAURANT

WINDHOEK

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Hon Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT and Innovation;**
- **Captains of industry and businesses in ICT;**
- **Distinguished 2018 sponsors and potential (2019) sponsors;**
- **Management and Staff of MICT;**
- **Members of the Organizing Committee;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It gives me a great pleasure to once again be with you this Wednesday morning 26 June 2019, at this hour, to trigger a series of steps that will culminate in the forthcoming 6th National ICT Summit. It is only prudent and appropriate that, on behalf of the progressive ICT sector, I extend our unreserved gratitude to all of you present here today, in particular, those who continue to have faith in the soundness of our ICT sector as a key driver for all our nation's developmental initiatives. Indeed your presence here this morning bears testimony to the ever imposing vibrancy of the ICT sector - a strategic sector we have the distinct privilege to lead and work in.

It is therefore proper that I advance my sincerest thanks to the 5th National ICT Summit sponsors. These are in no order of precedence:

Platinum: MultiChoice Namibia; MTN Namibia; Schoemans Technologies; Telecom Namibia; Green Enterprise Solutions; MTC; Huawei; Standard Bank Namibia and AXIZ & Forcepoint.

Gold: AVM; CRAN and Syntex Technologies

Diamond: PowerCom and New Era Publication Corporation

Silver: Paratus Telecommunication; First National Bank Namibia; Proef Namibia; Headway Consulting; Shine Technologies Solutions and Business Connexion.

Dear comrades in ICT Development, with your consistent assistance, valuable support and contributions, National ICT Summit, has morphed into a premier event on the national ICT calendar as evidenced by the steady growth and rich offerings of the 5th National ICT Summit, which I hasten to add, was a huge success!

Am sure many of you are silently pondering over the date for the next Summit. Well, let me spare you from further guess work by indicating that having had regard to key national activities planned for this year, more so this year being the year of elections, the 6th National ICT Summit under the theme "Accelerating Digital Transformation in Namibia", will be held from **07-09 October 2019** in Windhoek. So I implore you all to set these dates aside for this premier ICT engagement. However, for the event to continue to excell not only in terms of organization but also quality outcomes, we need your continued support and indulgence as we reflect on how best to guarantee quality Summit deliverables! We must consistently guard against complacency in our organisation and programing thereby mitigating the likely mediocrity!

I have no doubt that the Summit will amongst other things continue to :

- Present a unique opportunities for interactions between policy makers, ICT experts, Academicians, entrepreneurs and ICTs innovators to reflect, understand and share knowledge on advancements and trends in the ICT sector,
- Serve as a platform for enriched interactions and cement existing partnerships whilst moulding new ones;
- Provide networking opportunities, raise awareness on key ICT matters, projects and initiatives,
- Discuss trends and challenges in ICT industry and advance possible solutions.

- Serve as the platform where young ICT innovators showcase their ICT innovation projects, Network and form partnerships. However, I hasten to say that it's not enough for us to only provide a platform for young innovators to showcase their innovations. We need to ensure that industries and sectors where these innovations are advanced, embrace such innovations and provide the requisite support that will ensure that such modest innovations are properly midwifed subsequently morphing into thriving product offerings and industries for that. When that happens, then there will truly be utility in blending young innovators in our Summits. Otherwise, our Summit will be turned into a public relations exercise for young people - a trend I pledge, should not be allowed under our watch as leaders in this key industry. Why should we condemn this great to consumers of innovations birthed elsewhere? Why should we stifle innovations by failing to build an ecosystem that will challenge and support our innovators? How can we build emerging industries in the ICT sector when we continue to nurse a set up that triggers the abortion of excellent ideas? The questions are endless! The naked truth is that the status quo must change to enable Namibia to join the league of innovative nations!

We therefore rely on your continued support in making the Summit the success it has come to be. The theme for this year's Summit has been strategically chosen to illuminate the urgency for Namibia to accelerate current efforts to fully migrate to digital products and services however mindful of increased vulnerabilities given the emergence of ubiquitous connectivity.

Dear Valued stakeholders, *let me conclude by reminding all of us that* the expectations and desires of the Namibian public in the ICT sector to deliver, is very high and will continue to be high given the pivotal role our sector plays. I have no doubt that collectively, we will continue to rise to these and other emerging challenges!

I thank you