

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
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**REMARKS BY HON. STANLEY SIMATAA, DEPUTY MINISTER OF
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AT THE
MULTICHOICE NAMIBIA 25th CELEBRATION**

DATE: Thursday, 27th July 2017
VENUE: MultiChoice Namibia HQ
TIME: 20H50

- Your Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia
- Madame Monica Geingos, The First Lady of the Republic of Namibia
- Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present
- Members of Parliament present
- Ms Milka Mungunda – Chairperson of MultiChoice Namibia Board of Directors and other Board Members present
- Mr. Brand de Villiers, CEO of MultiChoice Africa
- The Management of MultiChoice Namibia
- Captains of Industry
- Esteemed Guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this auspicious occasion to celebrate the remarkable milestones recorded by MultiChoice Namibia in the last 25 years. Over the years to date, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and MultiChoice Namibia, have enjoyed and continue to enjoy long-standing and sound relations.

Our Ministry is mandated to lay the foundation for the accelerated use and development of ICT in our country. Indeed, modest progress has been made in seeking innovative ways of making information accessible to our citizens. This entails bridging the digital gap and making ICT accessible to our people in order to improve their lives and livelihoods. For us to achieve this and more, we need the involvement and support of our stakeholders both in the public and private sectors, so as to make ICT truly an enabler for socioeconomic development.

As a Ministry, we are grateful that we have been able to make these vital strides with the support and co-operation of companies like, MultiChoice Namibia, and many other entities occupying the digital space. Such entities have been instrumental in driving this process, providing valuable insights and paving the way for us to successfully navigate the digital migration process.

It is with pride that I reflect on the year 2005 when Namibia became the first country to launch digital services in Southern Africa. The launch of GOtv on DVB-T2 in 2012 was yet another milestone we can flag as an achievement. The launch of GOtv has positively contributed towards employment creation, by empowering retailers, agents and small and medium businesses through the sales and take-ups of payments for GOtv subscribers.

Namibia has embarked on an exciting journey towards a bright ICT future. As our country progresses on its development path, demand for services and entertainment keeps increasing. It is therefore imperative for us to make better use of this spectrum. Through continuous innovation, digital television has now opened new doors, allowing viewers greater variety in their viewing options.

Our Ministry will continuously strive to ensure that Namibia enjoys nationwide coverage of ICT services. This will, without doubt, require a robust approach of implementation of infrastructure development, commitment and a cooperative culture of sharing these resources among industry players and across sectors in order to set Namibians up for success.

It is against this background that I congratulate MultiChoice Namibia for their concerted efforts and wish them the very best in their ongoing commitment to expand and enrich the bouquet of services available to their viewers thereby making entertainment more appetising and accessible to the Namibian nation.

I now have the distinct honour to introduce His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia. I doing so as the saying goes, 'a picture speaks a thousand words', I suppose a video clip speaks even louder than that! To this end, the most appropriate medium for tonight's introduction to our Head of State is by way of a documentary that was broadcast on Zambezi Magic. Please join me in tuning in to 'Man of the Hour'. (clip plays).

Ladies and Gentlemen, please rise as we welcome His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia to the stage.