



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

**LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL BROADBAND POLICY AND ITS  
IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN**

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*Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT and Innovation*

*Members of the National Broadband Steering Committee (NBSC);  
Captains of ICT industries*

*Media of the media;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen; and*

A very good morning to you all!

It is often said that broadband is the fourth utility alongside water, heating and electricity. In 2009, the World Bank asserted that "Broadband is not just an infrastructure. It is a general - purpose technology that can fundamentally restructure an economy". Accordingly, NDP5 locates infrastructure development of which ICT is central, as a priority. Equally, the Harambee Prosperity Plan stipulates concrete strategies and actions to be taken to realize the desired progress in developing the needed ICT infrastructure. Amongst several such actions, is the Development of Broadband Infrastructure and the attendant intervention of ensuring that such infrastructure is Accessible and Affordable!

The benefits of broadband are enormous and have been well documented. These range from economic benefits such as growth in GDP, growth in jobs, trade creation, access to markets both domestic and foreign to social benefits such as marked reduction in urbanisation. A cursory look at the phalanx of challenges facing Namibia today, places depressed economic growth, joblessness, increased urbanization and inefficient service delivery to the fore.

It is with this in mind that this Policy, which was articulated with the indulgence of various stakeholders in the public and private sector, must deliver the expected results. Now that we have succeeded in developing the Policy, the arduous task of framing our interventions strictly in accordance with the set policy framework, has just begun! I however hasten to caution that many sound policies have failed to deliver mainly owing to the inherent failure to implement alternatively because of defective implementation. In order to mitigate such likelihood, a comprehensive **Implementation Plan** has been developed to avoid any miscarriage during implementation. Given the immense benefits of broadband to the economic, social and political well-being of our country, there is certainly no margin for failure in respect of this Policy! In essence, failure must be discarded from the implementation spectrum of this Policy. I must also state that the success of this Policy hinges on the creation and sustainance of durable partnerships between public and private sector players.

Those of you who have the privilege to serve as founding members of the National Broadband Steering Committee, have a tough however not insurmountable task of setting the sails for the development of a comprehensive, integrated and organic broadband ecosystem - an ecosystem that best advances Namibia's economic, social and developmental aspirations! That said, let me now invite the pioneering members of the NBSC to join me. They are:

1. Mr. Jorn Schnoor – Chairperson
2. Monica Nehemia – Vice Chairperson
3. Mr. Girma Tadesse
4. Mr. Collin Mwatile Hangula
5. Mr. Fillemon Johannes

6. Ms. Ronel Le Grange
7. Mr. Milton Louw
8. Daniel Zaire
9. Lukas Shuuya
10. Johan Van Wyk
11. Edward Gwathetwapo Nepolo

With a well-developed and integrated broadband infrastructure, Namibia's path to prosperity in all facets, is well illuminated! Let's not dim our nation's bright future! It's now my pleasure, in the presence of the Policy midwives (members of the NBSC), to declare the National Broadband Policy and its Implementation Plan as officially launched.

**I THANK YOU!**