



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE STANLEY MUTUMBA SIMATAA,
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
DURING THE BREAKFAST MEETING OF THE 5TH NATIONAL ICT SUMMIT
ON 27 JUNE 2018,**

TIME 07:30 - 10:00

VENUE: SAFARI HOTEL, WINDHOEK

- **Director of Ceremonies,**
- **Hon. Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT and Innovation,**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Mr Mbeuta Ua-Ndjarakana – Permanent Secretary,**
- **Captains of industry and businesses in ICT,**
- **Distinguished Sponsors and Exhibitors,**
- **Esteemed stakeholders,**
- **Management and Staff of MICT,**
- **Members of the Organizing Committee,**
- **Members of the Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A very Good morning to you all.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you all to the 5th National ICT Summit breakfast meeting - an event that has grown in leaps and bounds during the past four years. As stakeholders, we have every reason to jointly celebrate this milestone!

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the National ICT Summit under the theme “**Digital Transformation for an ICT Smart Nation**”. The Government of the Republic of Namibia developed a set of strategies and plans to transform Namibia into a digitized country that uses, promotes, innovates and benefits from the numerous digital offerings this industry can offer. Anchoring this transformation will require and

bring about new efforts to develop the plethora of public service's technical skills and capabilities, and to re-think the way digital infrastructure is designed.

A country that embraces digital e-government places its citizens at the heart of the experience to ensure that everyone benefits from the provision of digitally smart services.

The annual National ICT Summit aims to bring together industry stakeholders and provide an ICT platform for networking, create awareness of ICT usage, projects, initiatives and to appreciate challenges facing the industry and its consumers in Namibia and globally. It also aims to strengthen and foster long term relationships between all ICT stakeholders.

The 4th National ICT Summit in particular was a huge success - success that we owe to you the sponsors for dedicating your scarce resources to this noble event. Allow me at this juncture, to wholeheartedly thank the sponsors in various categories and exhibitors of the 4th National ICT Summit. Without your support, past Summits could not have been the success they turned out to be.

Director of Ceremonies,

Given limited resources at our disposal, strategic partnerships with the ICT industry, are and will continue to be absolute imperatives for the

successful hosting of the 5th anniversary of the National ICT Summit and subsequent summits. The Ministry therefore invites new and existing potential sponsors to come on board to ensure that this event continues to be a success. Your sustained investment demonstrates the enduring spirit of Ubuntunes!

I therefore urge all those assembled here today to use this platform to galvanize national efforts to improve and expand existing ICT network infrastructure in Namibia, particularly in under serviced and unserved areas.

During my engagements with the youths through the Open & Big Data Hackathon in Namibia, I have been fortunate enough to hear first-hand what their expectations are from the ICT sector. As a sector, we must rise to their expectations for as digital natives, they form the bedrock of our client base. The youths yearn to be accorded the opportunity to unleash their innovativeness. The fathom for the creation of an ICT ecosystem that will provide the requisite environment where the fruits of their innovations will be harvested. An environment that will not hijack their innovations but one that will not frustrate but facilitate the uptake of their innovations! We must therefore leverage this platform to unleash the educational, social and economic capital of our people. Through ICT, we can unearth the hidden entrepreneurial potential of our citizens.

The National ICT Summit 5th anniversary celebrations is envisioned to take place from 15 – 17 October 2018. At this year's Summit, the youth will be exposed to the latest ICT trends and accorded the opportunity to also present and showcase their latest innovations and inventions. This year's Summit will further define the roadmap for the development and effective integration of technology, as well as the agenda for growing ICT for an inclusive society. We must position ICT as a vital cog for achieving greater operational efficiency and efficacy for service delivery, for achieving the full spectrum of the sustainable development goals, subsequently for addressing poverty thereby ensuring social justice and equity.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentleman,

In concluding, this eminent gathering of industry experts, trend-makers and influencers from the Namibian ICT family, will undoubtedly be to the benefit of the people of this great country! I would like thank you all for having joined us this morning. I am looking forward to seeing you again in October as we continue with our crusade to transform our country into a digital smart nation!

Luitumezi

Okuhepa

I thank you!