



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY: HON. STEPHANUS MATHIAS BEZUIDENHOUT,  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
ICT AND INNOVATION, 5<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL ICT SUMMIT**

**DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2018**

**VENUE: SAFARI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE, WINDHOEK**

**TIME: 08:00**

- **Director of Ceremonies,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Members of the Media,**
- **All Protocol Observed.**

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final day of what was and will remain an inspiring, forward thinking and highly interactive 5<sup>th</sup> National ICT Summit that was hosted with great success and benefit for all delegates, visitors, exhibitors, sponsors and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

I am pleased to note that this year's theme "***Digital Transformation for an ICT Smart Namibia***" provided for numerous productive, educational and meaningful conversations, discussions and presentations from various ICT stakeholders during this week. It is equally impressive to note the valuable contribution, participation and presence of you, our distinguished Namibian youth during the preceding and most importantly today, our youth day, which is dedicated in honour of Namibian Youth in ICT for a brighter future for our industry and country alike.

#### **Director of Ceremonies,**

This robust industry has and will continue to change the world by transforming societies and economies and therefore it is our right and responsibility to ensure that we take full advantage of the advancements and applications. We therefore felt the need and called on the participation of our youth to showcase new ICT developments which will steer Namibia into a new digital era and become part of the digital world.

The degree to which ICT can be leveraged in national development strategies and programmes depends not only on the state of ICT infrastructure and connectivity, but also on the human and institutional capacities to effectively use such technologies, and it is the youth's responsibility to engage in all areas of this industry through theory, practical implementation and offer solutions to Namibian and global challenges. The world is looking to our youth to innovate, to employ, to develop and make available keys for the growth of our citizens through ICT. What better time than now during what many term as a global economic downturn to present these innovations.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

Allow me to recognise all ICT institutions that play a critical role in the growth of ICT in Namibia, their services that contribute to the socio-economic growth of the country; the ICT regulator in Namibia and all ICT consumers and in particular a warm welcome our youth to this ICT youth day.

We are excited to see what you have on offer for us, for Namibia and the globe, ladies and Gentlemen, with these few words, I would like to thank you for joining us today and I look forward to fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.