



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY HON. MODESTUS AMUTSE
DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY**

AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 8TH NATIONAL ICT SUMMIT 2024

16 JULY 2024,

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable Emma Theofelus, ICT Minister;**
- **Hon Maria Elago, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on ICT and Innovation**
- **Distinguished Members of the Parliament;**
- **Captains of industry and businesses in ICT;**
- **Management and Staff of MICT;**
- **ICT players, stakeholders and experts;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good afternoon to you all!

It is an honour for me, to welcome you all to the launch of the 2024 National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Summit. The 8th National ICT Summit will be hosted under the theme "***Building resilience to 'adapt or die' in the Era of Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence.***" from 9-11 September 2024 in Windhoek.

This theme will allow us to learn and embrace the digital transformation brought about by AI. We ought to work together and deliberate on how we can ensure that Namibia is one of the leading countries in digital evolution in Africa and that it is not left behind in artificial intelligence advancements.

Director of Proceedings,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National ICT Summit allows for robust discussions on innovations and trials throughout the industry. Bringing together industry role players to exhibit and deliberate on the latest trends and create a platform where humans can coexist with Artificial Intelligence while propagating social and industrial progression. We should take **Research and development funding very seriously, in order to claim a fair share in the production of knowledge so that we don't end up embracing a situation where we are only consumers of AI technologies, while others are producing it for us.**

I would like to extend a special appreciation to all esteemed guests, partners, organisers and participants including the media, whose contributions continue to act as the support system of the summit foundations leading to the tangible success we see today.

Director of Proceedings;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

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As I conclude, it is our hope that this summit will empower citizens, young and old, allowing them an opportunity to learn and contribute to sustainable economic growth and the development of ICT in Namibia.

Once again, thank you for your continued commitment and shared vision towards bridging the digital divide and championing digital innovation and while unearthing new paths in the ICT industry.

Thank you.