



**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE SIM CARD REGISTRATION EXERCISE
BY HON. EMMA THEOFELUS
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PARLIAMENT**

**11 JUNE 2024
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

Honourable Speaker;

Honourable Members,

I rise to make a brief statement and update this August House on the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) registration exercise initiated in 2021. This exercise is in line with international practices and Part 6 of Chapter V of the Communications Act of 2009 as published under Government Notice No. 40 on 15 March 2021.

On 31 March 2024, the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) indicated that mobile operators temporarily suspended 567,298 SIM cards due to users failing to register their cards on time. During this suspension period, mobile users were unable to make calls or send text messages. We took this decision to ensure that the public heeded our call to register their SIM cards by the set deadline as outlined in the prescribed law.

Honourable Speaker;

Honourable Members,

As the Minister mandated with Information and Communication Technology, I am delighted to inform you, Honourable Members and the public that following the SIM card registration deadline on 31 March 2024, registration statistics increased from 70.6% in February 2024 to 91% as of 30 April 2024 as revealed by the CRAN. By the end of April 2024, 2,172,379 SIM users had registered their cards out of 2,387,230 active SIM cards.

To date, mobile operators such as Paratus Telecommunications and UCOM have registered 100% of their clients while Telecom Namibia and Mobile Telecommunications registered 70% and 94%, respectively.

As part of the regulations, SIM users were given a grace period to register their SIM cards despite the temporary disconnections between April and June 2024. Mobile users who have not yet registered have until 30 June 2024 to do so or they risk having their numbers permanently cancelled. If a number is cancelled, mobile operators will resell it, and the new user will be required to register their SIM card.

Therefore, I urge you, Honourable Members to help the Ministry of ICT by encouraging our communities to utilise the remaining time to register their SIM cards. The importance of registering SIM cards cannot be overemphasised. This process is crucial for preventing phone-

based fraud, identity theft and other criminal activities. Because no law is foolproof, when crimes are committed, having a SIM card registered aides in investigating crimes involving telecommunications devices and bolsters e-commerce and online trading.

Honourable Speaker;

Honourable Members,

I would also highlight the benefits of having a registered SIM card, such as the increased use of digital and online services as we currently live in a digital age. To this end, I urge the public not to wait until the last minute to register their SIM card but to make use of this time to play their part and register.

I thank you.