

Namibia's Public Key Infrastructure and DigiNam

Mufaro Nesongano

Executive: Communication and
Consumer Relations

12 October 2026



TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- **What PKI means and why it matters**
- **The law and electronic signatures**
- **Who is responsible for digital trust**
- **Progress and the next phase**
- **Video and key takeaways**





WHAT IS PKI?

- **Trust in online transactions**

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

- **Confirm identity**

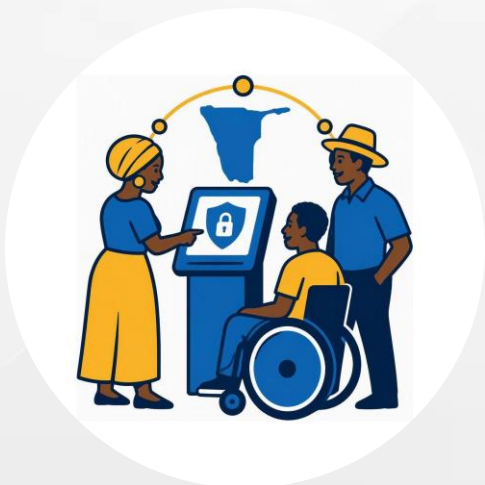
Know who is signing or using a service.

- **Protect information**

Check whether a signed document has changed.

EXPECTED BENEFITS FOR NAMIBIA

Area	Expected benefit
Government services	Secure online services with less reliance on paper
Online security	Confirm identity, protect information and show who signed
Business and banking	More trusted online trade, banking and business transactions
Digital identity	Secure access to public and private services
Connected services	A shared basis for trust between organisations
Essential services	Safer digital services in health, education, finance and other sectors
Cross-border services	Support trusted regional and international transactions



THE LEGAL AND POLICY FOUNDATION

- **The law**

The Communications Act, 2009 and the Electronic Transactions Act, 2019 provide the legal foundation.

- **The rules**

Regulations cover electronic signatures and the approval of digital trust providers.

- **The policy direction**

Namibia's digital strategy and the regional SADC plan guide wider digital development.



WHAT THE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT MEANS

Electronic agreements

- Electronic agreements can be valid and enforceable, like paper contracts.

Important exceptions

- Exceptions include laws on wills, land sales, stamp duties and bills of exchange, plus certain signed credit documents.

Legal requirements

- Email and online contracts can have legal effect. Any specific formalities required by law still apply.

BASIC AND RECOGNISED ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

BASIC SIGNATURE

- Can include a digitised signature or a one-time password, if legal requirements are met.
- Must identify the signer and show their approval.
- The method must be reliable enough for the transaction.
- Validity depends on the relevant legal and evidence requirements.

RECOGNISED SIGNATURE

- An advanced electronic signature backed by a digital certificate from an accredited provider.
- Used when the law or transaction specifically requires a recognised signature.
- The provider and certificate must have the required approval.
- A provider cannot claim recognised or approved status without the Authority's approval.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SIGNATURE: SECTION 20

SECTION 20

A legal reference to signing generally includes a recognised electronic signature, subject to the Act's exceptions.

Other electronic signatures may be used where parties agree or the law allows.

1

CHECK THE REQUIREMENT

What requires a signature?

- Law
- Contract
- Organisation's rules



2

CHOOSE THE SIGNATURE

What level of trust is needed?

- Basic electronic
- Advanced
- Recognised



3

KEEP THE EVIDENCE

Can you show who signed?

- Signer's identity and authority
- Valid provider and certificate
- Signed document and records

WHAT ORGANISATIONS NEED TO DO

Update signing procedures, train staff and keep evidence of each transaction.

WHO SUPPORTS NAMIBIA'S DIGITAL TRUST?

CRAN

- National trust foundation – Root CA

Certificate authorities

- Issue certificates to verify people and systems

Service providers

- Use PKI in secure digital services



PROGRESS AND WORK STILL UNDER WAY

Completed

- Policy and governance
- Legislation and regulation
- Core national trust infrastructure
- Initial adoption and integration
- National PKI launch

Ongoing

- Accrediting certification service providers
- Monitoring compliance and improving services
- Expanding digital trust services



THREE EVERYDAY USE CASES FOR NAMIBIA



Filing a tax return

A taxpayer submits a return through NamRA's ITAS.

PKI could confirm who submitted it and protect the signed record.



Starting a small business

A shop owner prepares a BIPA registration application.

PKI could support remote signing and help verify the applicant.



Applying for a job

A graduate shares a digital qualification with an employer.

PKI could help the employer check who issued it and whether it changed.

PHASE 2: MORE SERVICES PEOPLE CAN USE



- **Signing and identity**

Identify yourself and sign documents online.

- **Public services**

Applications, payments and procurement

- **Wider services**

Trusted information across business and essential services

- **What must happen**

More government services online, with staff and users ready.

VIDEO: ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Trust in digital transactions

CRAN and approved providers support secure signing and identity.

Next: wider use

More government services online.

Q & A

Phone Number

+264 61 222 666

Email Address

ets@cran.na



Website

www.cran.na

