



Regional Experience

Communications Regulators’ Association of Southern Africa

CRASA

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INTRODUCTION

- **CRASA**, formal **TRASA**, is a forum of Communications Regulators in Southern Africa.
- Established in 1997 under the SADC protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.
- **Pursues and deepens SADC integration agenda to:**
 - **Achieve economic growth;**
 - **Accelerate poverty reduction;**
 - **Achieve sustainable development; and**
 - **Attain regional integration and development goals.**

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INTRODUCTION (cont)



- At 9th CRASA AGM , held on 23rd – 24th February 2006, in Dar- es –Salaam - Tanzania, the Association adopted a **new Constitution** and a **change of the name** from **TRASA** to **CRASA**.
- **Impact of the new constitution:**
 - **Removal of bias from telecommunications to ICT.**
 - **Wideness and refocuses to deal with the convergence of telecommunications, media, and information services.**
 - *Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Postal*
 - **Alignment with the dynamic development pace of the Sector.**
 - **Accommodate technology and services convergence.**
 - **Establish a broad line of communication on the ICT sector allowing Members and Associates to interact.**
 - *Opportunity for all stakeholders on ICT Sector to be part of the Association (Telecomm Operators, broadcast operators, ISP's, Regulators, Individuals...).*

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Conducive Regulatory Environment



- Implementation of regulatory on conducive environment for:
 - **Promotion of investment,**
 - **Development of infrastructure and services.**
 - **Promotion of quality of service and services accessibility**
 - **Service Affordability**

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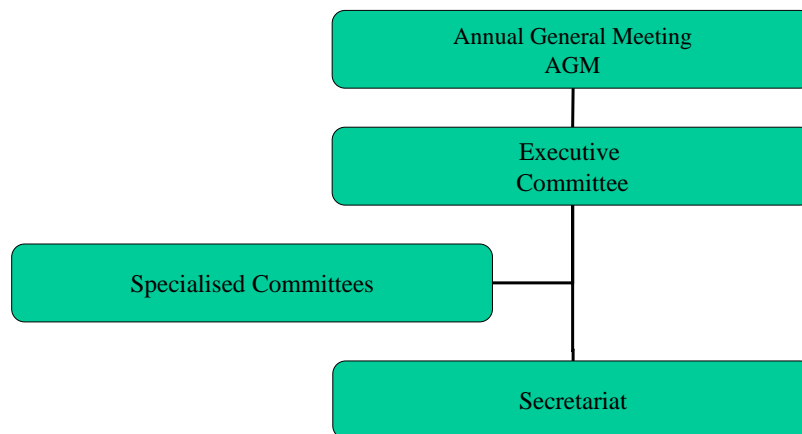
CRASA STRUCTURE



- Highest decision making organ – **AGM**.
- **Executive Committee** – Consists of a Chairperson and 3 Members States i.e. 2 Vice Chairpersons & Treasurer.
- **Specialized Committees** - Specific functional committees to develop guidelines and model regulations.
- **Secretariat**
 - ✓ Headed by an Executive Secretary and has the headquarter in Gaborone, Botswana.
 - ✓ Carries out the administrative and project management duties of CRASA

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CRASA Organization Chart



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CRASA Specialised Working Committees



- **Universal Services/Access and Licensing.**
- **Tariffs and Interconnection including Competition.**
- **Radio Frequency Planning, Technology and Advanced Services.**
- **Numbering and Standards.**
- **Human Resources Development and Empowerment.**
- **Consumer Issues.**
- **Finance and Audit.**
- **Legal**
- **Revenue Generation Project**

Task Teams

- Review strategic Business Plan.
- Legislative Review
- Special committee for Regulatory implications of the EASSy Project.
- Recommendations on ATRN Issues

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Immediate Actions for the new formed Task Teams



The New Task Teams were formed to address urgent matters such as:

- **Review Strategic Business Plan.**
 - Review of the Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Association.
 - Preparation of CRASA's Business Plan.
- **Legislative Review.**
 - Analyze the Legislative Changes/Trends in the Region and its respective implications.
- **Advice on Regulatory Implications of E-Nepad Africa Broadband ICT Infrastructure.**
 - Prepare a expeditiously a paper on regulatory implications of the Project to the Region and,
 - Advice Members accordingly.
- **ATRN**
 - Prepare a recommendations on ATRN CRASA positioning for the formation of Association of ICT African Regulators.

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Major Achievements



- Adopted Action Programme in April 1999.
- Adopted 5-year Strategic Business Plan in September 2000
 - New Strategic Business Plan 2007 – 2012 will be approved soon.
- Adopted and published model guidelines and regulation on interconnection, tariffs and a SADC Regional Frequency Band Plan.
- Launched the Network for Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange in the field of Policy and Regulation.
- The number of autonomous regulators increased from 9 in April 1999 to 13 to date.
- Development of SADC telecommunications policies.

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Major Achievements (cont)



- Completion of a series of study papers and guidelines e.g:
 - ✓ interconnection & tariffs
 - ✓ Universal service & licensing
 - ✓ SADC Frequency / Band Plan
 - ✓ Fair competition and wholesale Pricing.
- Published Five Annual Report, from 2001 to 2005.
 - *Annual Report 2006 to be published soon.*

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Major Achievements (cont)



- By conducting workshops and meetings, it has assisted members in the sharing of experiences and enhancing the capacity of members.
- Lobbying SADC Member States and other stakeholders on implementation of regional model policies and provision of support to CRASA and its members; and
- Coordination of members' views and positions in regional & international meetings.

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Challenges



- **Lack of enforcement mechanism because of the sovereignty of each regulator.**
- **Establishment of professional development programme and skills on the region to deal with the regulation of converged services i.e telecommunications and broadcasting.**
 - **Improvement of negotiation and mediation skills.**
 - **Dispute resolution (Industry and Policymakers).**
- **Establishment of an permanent line of communication between various bodies (stakeholders) .**
- **Promotion of the provision of universal access/ services.**
 - **Limited purchasing powers of consumers in the region.**
- **Lack of sufficient funding to support staffing level of the association.**
- **Self-Sustainability.**

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Future Plans



- Finalisation and launch of CRASA Strategic Plan 2007-2012.
- Modification and/or development of new regulations both in telecommunication sector, broadcast, media laws and competition laws.
- Development of interventions that will ensure sustainable dissemination and widespread use of ICTs.
- Development of guidelines for ICT through Wireless Broadband Technology.
- Development of regulatory/guidelines/policies for implementation of new services.

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Future Plans (Cont)



- Access to FDIs to finance network expansion.
- Implementation and monitoring of policies and regulation at regional level by respective countries.
- Consolidation and strengthening of regional blocks to feed to continental ideals on the ICT Sector.

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Conclusion



- CRASA should be seen as:
 - Catalyst for ICT development in the SADC region.
 - Provider of sound and harmonised model policy guidelines and regulations to foster sustainable economic development in the ICT sector.
 - **Voice of Members and Associates to develop and promote the region.**

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INVITATION



You are kindly invited to participate at
CRASA 10th AGM that will take place in
Windhoek, Namibia, from 12 – 16
March, 2007

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CRASA SECRETARIAT



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