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GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON CYBERCRIME

Cybersecurity in Namibia: Balancing Risk and Reward in the Digital Age

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Introduction

- Introduction
- Cyberthreat landscape in Namibia
- Effects of cybercrimes on critical infrastructure
- Creation of a National Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Center
- Mitigating Risks

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Introduction

- Cybersecurity is the protection of computer systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction.
- It is essential for all organizations, including government agencies, to implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect their critical systems and data.
- Namibia is increasingly becoming reliant on digital technologies, which makes it important to address the growing cybersecurity risks.

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Types of Cybercrime

- Cyber-dependent crime - crimes committed through the use of a networked device, where the networked device is both the target and means of committing the crime: ransomware, hacking, etc
- Cyber-enabled crime - traditional crime facilitated using a networked device: identity theft, distribution of CSAM, drug trafficking on the dark web, etc.

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Namibia Digitization Efforts

- Namibia's rapid digitalization has led to a significant increase in internet penetration, reaching approximately 17% in 2021 (source: Internet World Stats).
- Alongside this growth, the e-commerce market in Namibia has flourished, estimated at USD 46 million in 2020 and showing steady growth (source: Statista).
- These digitization efforts will lead to new jobs and new businesses.

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Cyberthreat Landscape in Namibia

- Namibia has faced a number of high-profile cyberattacks in recent years, including ransomware attacks on government agencies and businesses.
- The country is also vulnerable to phishing attacks and other forms of social engineering.
- Namibia's cybersecurity capacity is still developing, and there is a shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals.

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Effects of Cyber Attacks on Critical Infrastructure

- Economic disruption: Cyber attacks can disrupt critical infrastructure systems, such as power grids, transportation networks, and communication systems.
- Public safety risks: Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure can also pose a risk to public safety.
- National security risks: Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure can also pose a risk to national security.

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Balancing Risk and Rewards

- Digital technologies offer many benefits, but they also introduce new cybersecurity risks.
- It is important to balance the risks and rewards when implementing new digital technologies.
- Greater use of digital technologies result in greater cybercrimes against unsuspecting users.
- There was a significant increase in online child sexual exploitation from 2020 onwards.

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Creation of Cybercrime and Cybersecurity Center

- Namibia should create a cybercrime and cybersecurity center, which may include divisions for investigations, digital forensics, CSIRT, Outreach, and legal affairs.
- Individual components can still report to respective ministries: CSIRT to CRAN, Prosecutors to Ministry of Justice, etc.
- Colocation of agencies will streamline investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes.

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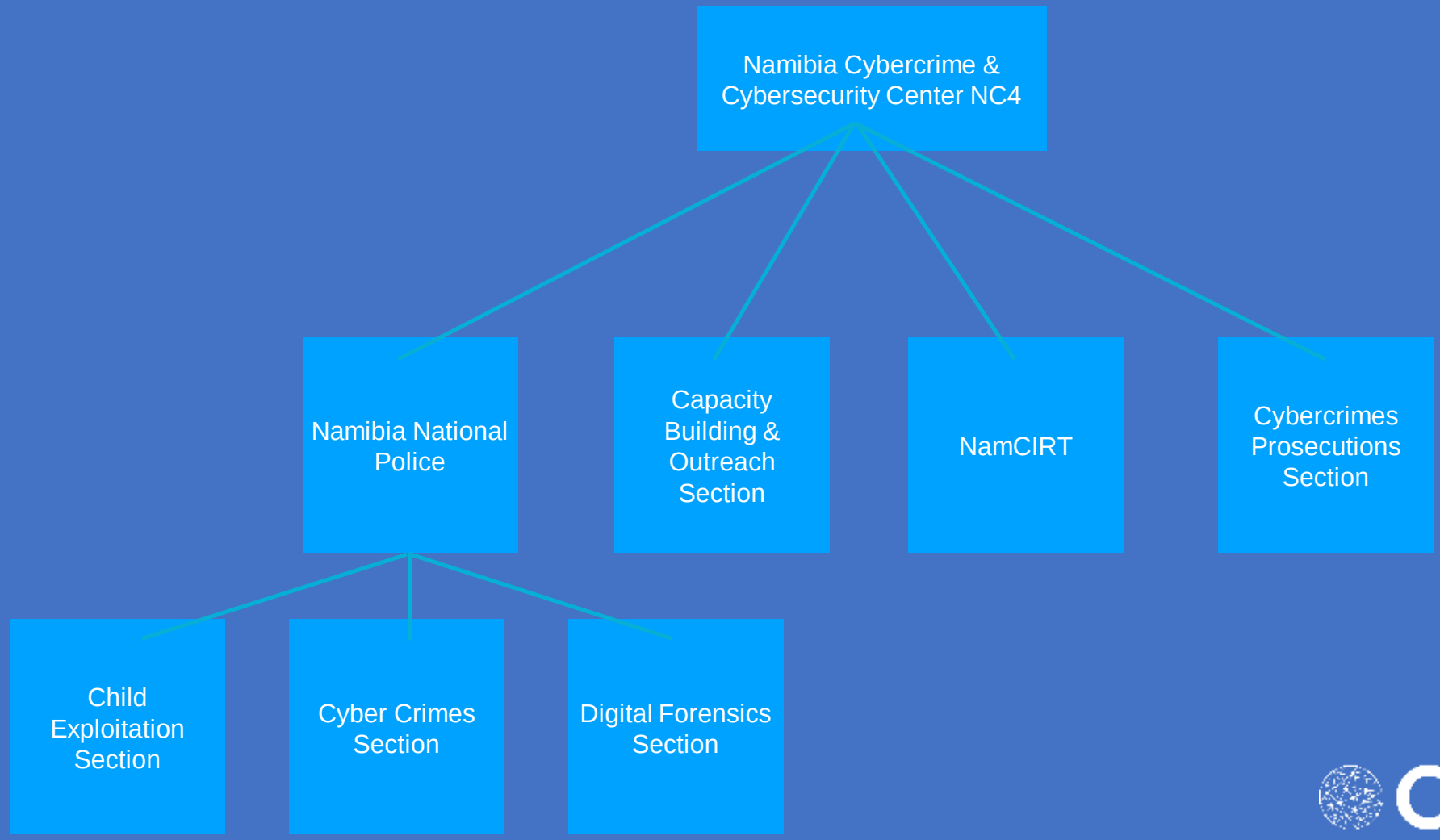
Creation of Cybercrime and Cybersecurity Center



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Mandatory Reporting of Cybercrimes

- Require the reporting of any cyber intrusion or breach that impacts critical infrastructure.
- Define critical infrastructure sectors and outline reporting obligations for entities operating within these sectors.
- Create an online reporting portal for reporting cybercrimes.
- Create singular portal for reporting cybercrimes.
- Victims should be able to report using the internet, short codes, and dedicated reporting apps

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Create Digital Evidence Handling SOPs

- The Namibian government should establish standard operating procedures on handling digital evidence.
- Law enforcement should collect, preserve, and analyze digital evidence using a forensically sound methodology.
- Digital forensics labs should be established at the CSIRT and law enforcement agencies.
- Because digital evidence is volatile, collecting it properly is important to help attribute cybercrimes.

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Cybersecurity Requirements

- Namibia should develop and implement a national cybersecurity strategy.
- Namibia should work with industry stakeholders to develop and maintain cybersecurity standards and best practices for critical infrastructure sectors.
- Critical infrastructure sectors and government agencies should implement cybersecurity measures in accordance with international standards.
- Regular cybersecurity audits and assessments shall be conducted to ensure compliance with the established standards.
- Compliance with these standards shall be encouraged through incentives and recognition.

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International Cooperation

- International cooperation allows law enforcement agencies to share information about cybercriminals and cyber attacks.
- International cooperation can help law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cybercrimes that cross borders.
- International cooperation is also important for developing and implementing international cybersecurity standards.
- In 2022, the disruption of the Emotet botnet was the result of a coordinated effort between law enforcement agencies in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

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Awareness Campaigns

- Namibia should launch national cybersecurity and cybercrime awareness programs aimed at educating citizens, businesses, and organizations.
- Cybersecurity and cybercrime education should be integrated into the national curriculum at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to promote cybersecurity awareness from an early age.

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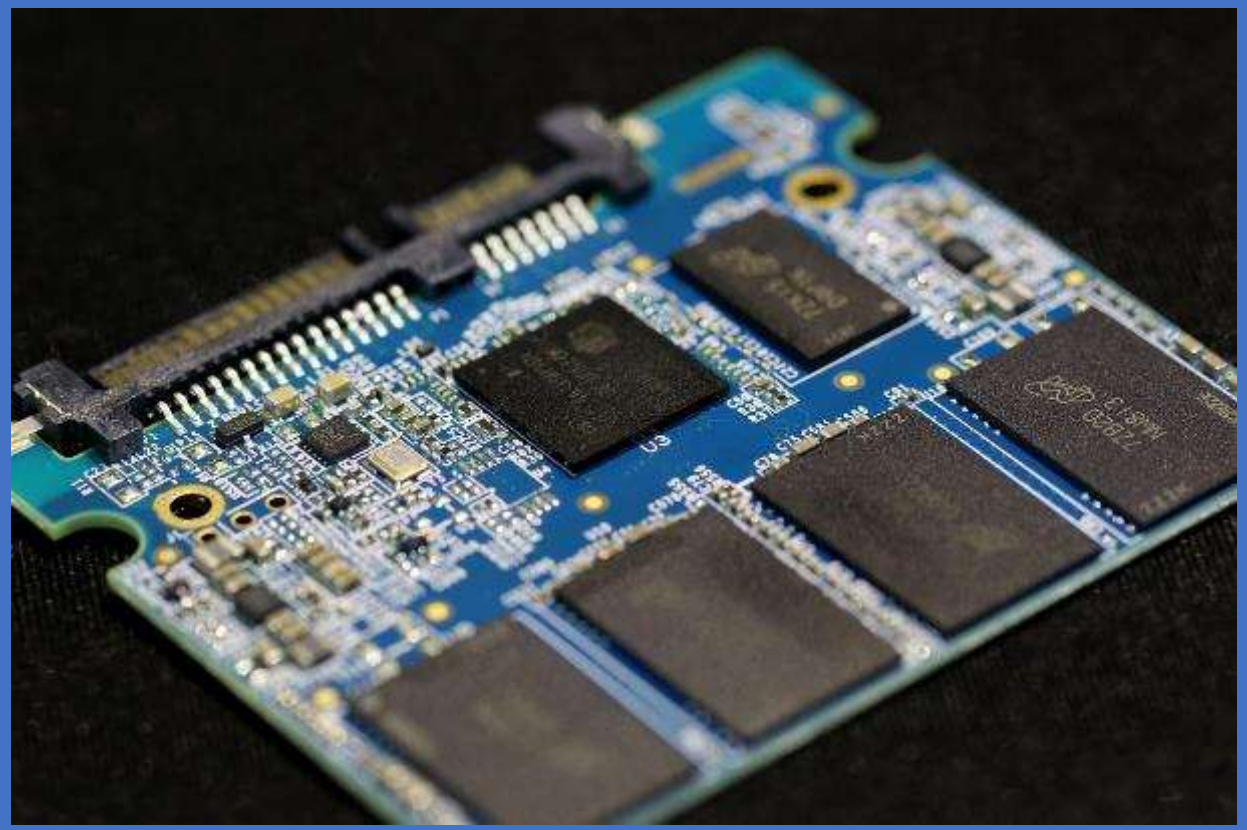
Budget and Resource Allocation

Funding cybersecurity and cybercrime will ensure :

- Developing and implementing cybersecurity policies and standards.
- Attract and retain skilled cybersecurity professionals.
- Reduce the risk of cyber attacks.
- By investing in cybersecurity, Namibia can make it more difficult for cybercriminals to launch successful attacks.
- Funding should be provided to establish and maintain digital forensics labs.



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Mandatory Data Retention

- Specify the types of data that electronic service providers are required to retain.
- Mandate a minimum data retention period of at least one year for the specified data types.
- Mandate stringent data protection requirements to prevent abuse.
- Mandate a data preservation process for electronic service providers.

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Legal Processes for Requesting Data

- Namibia should create a streamlined process for requesting digital evidence from ESPs.
- Subpoena - A subpoena is an administrative request that compels a person or organization to produce evidence in a legal proceeding.
- Search Warrant - A search warrant is a court order that authorizes law enforcement to search a particular place or seize specific items.Court Order - A court order is a general term for any order issued by a judge

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QUESTIONS?

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