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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

NCRST and NSA Sign Memorandum of Understanding

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday, detailing mutual areas of cooperation including commissioning the NSA to conduct Surveys on behalf of NCRST.

Both institutions recognise the importance of undertaking Research & Development and Innovation surveys to produce the data needed to compile indicators on the status of Science, Technology and Innovation in Namibia, and as such have established a formal basis for cooperation in areas of Research & Development and Innovation surveys. Which will encourage the application of the data of such cooperation to understand the state of the National Innovation System, to support the development of evidence-based policy, and the public policy debate which provides constructive feedback to government departments, and to other institutions of the society, such as policy research institutes, universities and industries.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed this morning at the opening ceremony of the National NCRST and NEPAD Training Workshop on African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII), held at the Polytechnic Hotel School.

Currently there are no official statistics to present the country's position on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation, and as the NCRST is the custodian for Research, Science, Technology and Innovation in Namibia, is expected to provide RSTI statistics and indicators as they are vital in the formulation of policy and decision-making, assessing performance, monitoring and evaluating progress, predicting future trends

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as well as identifying priorities in the RSTI sector. The NCRST has thus partnered with NSA, the custodian for statistics in Namibia through the collection, production, analysing and disseminating official and other statistics in Namibia, achieve common national goals.

“We are proud to partner with the Namibia Statistics Agency. This partnership would facilitate the establishment of a national Research, Science, Technology and Innovation information management system, which will serve as a source and repository of information that is relevant to science, technology and innovation related matters. It would also foster the application of the data to understand the state of the National Innovation System in order to support the development of evidence-based policy as well as constructive feedback to all stakeholders in research, science, technology and innovation”, said Dr Eino Mvula, Chief Executive Officer of the NCRST.

Ends:

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