

3 September 2015

**Attention: The News Editor**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Official Launch - Research and Experimental Development (R&D) Census (2013/14 fiscal year) and the Innovation Census (2012/13 and 2013/14 fiscal years)*

The National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) is mandated to coordinate and facilitate the development of science and technology and as such will be conducting its first R&D and Innovation Census. It is expect to produce internationally comparable Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) indicators and look ahead to make policy intervention to encourage research and development efforts leading to increased domestic business growth

Dr. Eino Mvula, CEO of the NCSRT welcomed stakeholders noting that, *"We are proud to work closely with the NSA in line with the a memorandum of understanding which lays the foundation for collaborative and strategic partnership between our two institutions signed last year, as well as UNAM also in line with the agreement which was signed a month ago. We are confident that this team, will be able to pull all this smoothly and produce the final; deliverable well before the commencement of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP5) planning phase as well as that of the next National Programme on RSTI"*

Speaking at the official launch event, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Hon Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi stated that, *"This would be Namibia's first National Census on Research and Development and Innovation. I would like to use this opportunity to call upon all stakeholders from the private sector enterprises, government departments, government owned trading entities, and universities to cooperate with the enumerators and provide the information required for this exercise. The effort to transform our economy from a resources-based*

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*economy to a knowledge-based economy as envisaged in our Vision 2030 goals, depends upon the production and dissemination of quality and reliable Science, Technology and Innovation indicators.*

Considering that few African countries have actually institutionalized their STI data and related indicators and embedded these into their national statistics, and mindful that such STI data and indicators and their importance for socio-economic and human development, also at the regional level, are poorly understood, and considering that in many cases, the participation of the private sector in such R&D and Innovation Surveys, is fairly low, notwithstanding the above, Namibia has taken a small, but important step forward along the compelling and challenging journey towards a more integrated and sustainable human and socio-economic future.

**Ends:**

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